

BLOOD DRIVE HONORS KATY BOY SCOUT

WHAT: Katy resident and Boy Scout Jacob Ballard was working toward attaining the rank of Eagle Scout when cancer put his progress on hold. He is currently undergoing treatment at Texas Children's Hospital and has received multiple blood transfusions.

Jacob's Scout troop rallied behind their brother and made it their service project to host a blood drive in Jacob's honor. The drive will be held in conjunction with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Katy Chapel LDS's gym.

The summer months are particularly challenging for blood collections because many individuals are on vacation and students are off school. However, patients do not have the option of taking vacations from needing blood.

The donation process is simple and every donation can help save as many as three lives. All donations will go into the community blood supply to help patients like Jacob. For more information, visit giveblood.org.

WHEN: Saturday, Aug. 22, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Katy Chapel LDS — gym
1928 Drexel Drive
Katy, TX 77493

HOW: To schedule your donation, call 1(888) 482-5663 or login to [Digital Donor](http://DigitalDonor.org). For more information, contact Michael Turner at (713) 435-9476 or Aaron Lauritzen at (281) 768-9189 or lauritzenaaron@gmail.com.

ABOUT US: Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is asking its donors to *Commit for Life*. It takes three simple steps: 1) Donate once per quarter; 2) allow The Blood Center to contact you; and 3) spread the word, encouraging others to *Commit for Life*. The Blood Center is the primary supplier of blood components to more than 170 hospitals and health care facilities in a 26-county Texas Gulf Coast region. Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good general health. Individuals who are 16 years old, at least 122 pounds, in good general health and have parental consent also may be eligible to donate. The donation process is simple, taking only about one hour. Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is an independent, non-profit blood center that is not affiliated with the American Red Cross.

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MEDIA

CONTACT: Cortney Martin, Communications Manager — cmartin@giveblood.org, (713) 791-6682