

Training

Overview

Common sense tells us training is important, and research shows the importance of trained leaders. A trained leader is knowledgeable and more confident in the role being performed. Trained leaders exhibit a knowledge and confidence that is picked up by people around them. Trained leaders impact the quality of programs, leader tenure, youth tenure, safety, and a whole lot more. Everything we do in Scouting has a purpose and training is the key to recognizing, understanding, and achieving the purpose behind every activity.

Training Requirements

The Boy Scouts of America has developed a thorough training program for all adult leaders. It starts with Youth Protection and basic training for your position. Once you've taken the basic courses, you're considered trained for your position and you get to wear the "Trained" patch on your sleeve. But it doesn't stop there. After basic training, there's Wood Badge, which is the premier leadership course of the BSA, plus dozens of other supplemental courses to help develop your knowledge and skills. Altogether, it means there are plenty of opportunities for even the most experienced scout leader to continue learning.

Youth Protection Training

Youth Protection Training is **REQUIRED** for all adult leaders.

There is only one youth protection course for all programs and is required to be re-taken every two years. For more information, please visit the Council Youth Protection page or the National BSA Youth Protection page.

Youth Protection training is available as an online session, which you can watch on your own at your convenience. It's also offered periodically as an in-person training course. To start the online Youth Protection training, please visit [My.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org)

Quick-start Training Guides & Training Finder

Training requirements differ based on your role as a volunteer and/or which program you are supporting. To learn which courses are required for your position, please look at our quick start guides below.

- Quick guide for Cub leaders (pdf)
- Quick guide for Scouts BSA leaders (pdf)
- Quick guide for Venturing leaders (pdf)
- Quick guide for youth training (pdf)

In Person Training We Offer

The success of every Scouting program depends on having well-trained leaders. They not only bring a quality program to their units, but they also have more fun doing it. Everything we do in Scouting has a purpose. Training is the key to recognizing, understanding, and achieving the purpose behind every activity. If you're a registered leader, there is a training course for you!

Click on the picture to download

Course	What it is	Who it's for	Time	When and where
Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BLOO)	A hands-on intro to outdoor skills for the Cub program, taught on an overnight campout. If your pack goes camping, at least one BLOO-trained adult must be there.	Cub Scout adults	1.5 days	2-3 times/year, spring and fall, various camps
Cub Leader Position-Specific Training (PLST)	Orientation overview of the Cub Scout program, leadership advancement, leader roles, and resources to help you run a strong program. (Also available online.)	Cub Scout adults	4 hours	at least 4 times a year, mostly fall (availability varies)
CPR/First Aid	American Red Cross certification in CPR and First Aid (Red Cross's req. valid for two years).	Adults and eligible youth	3.5 hours	On-line/years after Red Cross or Cub Scouts
Den Chief Training	Skills and responsibilities of a Den Chief. Includes the game, songs, and other fun activities for working with Cub Scouts. (Also available online.)	Scouts (BSA and non-BSA youth)	2-3 hours	4-8 times/year, mostly fall (availability varies)
Introduction to Outdoor Leader Training (IOLT)	Overnight intro to skills like map/compass, knots, knots, camping, and outdoor skills, often in small groups, with a focus on building confidence to learn.	Scouts (BSA and non-BSA youth)	1.5 days	2-3 times/year, spring and fall, various camps
Learn to Train Trainer Training	Hands-on training in the seven principles of Scout's Training and various training methods.	Adults and youth 14+	1 full day	Spring and maybe fall at BSA camps
Patrol Skills Leadership Training (PSLT)	Advanced leadership development course for youth. Used for youth who aspire to become Patrol Leaders. BSA, or other BSA leadership positions.	Scouts (BSA and non-BSA youth)	1 week	2 times each summer, Scouts and Scouts
Patrol Skills First Aid	Overview of Red Cross certification in basic first aid skills, valid for two years.	Adults and eligible youth	1.5 hours	On-line/years after Red Cross or Cub Scouts
Scoutmaster's Key (SMK)	Fundamentals of running a successful patrol, patrol method, and more. (Also available online.)	Scouts (BSA and non-BSA youth)	4-6 hours	On-line/years (availability varies)
Scoutmaster's Key (SMK)	Techniques for effective troop committees can support a successful youth program. (Also available online.)	Scouts (BSA and non-BSA youth)	2-3 hours	4-6 times/year, Scouts and Scouts
Unit Committee and Scoutmaster's Key	Hands-on training in unit committee leadership. American Red Cross certification valid for two years.	Adults and youth 14+	1 full day	On-line/years (availability varies)
Wood Badge	Two-day intensive training with Scouts. Covers the basics, such as leadership concepts and methods, and gives experience to deliver the program of Scouting.	All adults	2 weeks, with	1-2 times/year, BSA camps

Our in-person courses are organized throughout by trained volunteers who have been "for your area." Line training is a great way to meet fellow leaders, share ideas, get answers to questions, and get a chance to practice key skills. We try to offer these courses at a variety of times and locations, but we can't offer every course on demand. If requested, we offer other courses periodically. See <https://www.scouts.org> for more Scouting positions, training courses and the requirements to be considered "trained" for your position and see the <https://www.scouts.org> for more information. See the requirements for your position in our Scout Guide at www.scouts.org.

Upcoming Training

Recent Training News



BSA Systems Maintenance Update

November 3rd, 2022|

System Maintenance – Saturday, November 5, 2022 – from 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM The My.Scouting and Scoutbook systems will be down this Saturday beginning at 9:00 AM for a system upgrade. All features [...]



Updated Safe Swim Defense Training

March 23rd, 2022|

In collaboration with the BSA National Aquatics Subcommittee, ScoutingU has released an updated version of “Safe Swim Defense” online training that is also mobile compatible. Since the inception of Scouting, learning to swim and [...]



Changes to Den Leader Training Award Devices

March 23rd, 2022|

As part of the National Council's ongoing mission to streamline and simplify the Scouting program, Scouting U, in collaboration with National Supply Group, has identified three Cub Scout device pins that will be discontinued [...]

12Next