

TRAINING FOR TRANSATLANTIC SCOUTS AND SCOUTERS

Why do we need training? Training affords us the opportunity to grow, to keep current, improve retention and grow the program. There are many, many training opportunities that help us grow, keep current, retain members, and grow the program.

A Scouter's start

Opportunities for training span the gamut of individual online courses to attending training at national levels. For Scouters, we all start out with youth protection via the SAFE Youth Training (formerly Youth Protection Training). There are a plethora of other courses available in the online catalog. Included here are position specific courses. Check here for the current position specific courses: [Position-Trained-Requirements-Jun2025.pdf](#).

Augmenting your position-specific training you should consider participating in Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (**BALOO**) and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (**IOLS**).

BALOO is a one-and-a-half day course designed as an introduction to the Cub Scout outdoor program for leaders interested in adding a camping component to their Pack activities. The training consists of an online prerequisite component in addition to an overnight hands on practical. [Click here](#) to access the prerequisite training. The overnight portion is available through your District or Council.

Scouting America's Cub Scout level camping policies will be taught along with the discovery of the necessary tools to help units carry out a successful camping experience. Completion of this course is mandatory for a **MINIMUM OF ONE** adult on a Pack overnighter.

IOLS provides a hands-on course providing Scouts BSA adult leaders the practical outdoor skills they need to lead Scouts in the out-of-doors. Upon completion, leaders should feel comfortable teaching Scouts the basic skills required to obtain the First Class rank. Along with Scoutmaster specifics this course is required of all direct contact leaders registered in Scouts BSA Troops in order to be considered "trained".

Both BALOO and IOLS are conducted under the guise of District Training teams.

Scouts start at the unit

Scouts start their training at the unit level. Introduction to Leadership Skills Troops (ILST), Introduction to Leadership Skills Crews (ILSC), and Introduction to Leadership Skills for Ships (ILSS) encourage development that enhances what Scouts learn in their patrols. Moving on from the introduction courses, Scouts can take part in the National Youth Leadership Training

(NYLT). TAC offers this opportunity once a year. After NYLT, a Scout can consider continuing with National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE). NAYLE is an exciting program that enhances leadership skills and expands upon the team-building and ethical decision-making skills learned in NYLT. NAYLE emphasizes leadership, teamwork, and selfless service, and uses the core elements of NYLT to help youth internalize and strengthen these skills. The National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience course is available at Philmont and The Summit. The NYLT Academy is another opportunity for Scouts to be top-notch presenters, evaluators, and leaders of their councils' National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) courses. This intensive one-week course will improve (NYLT) course knowledge and problem-solving skills, which will help them run world-class NYLT programs.

As a Scout progresses, they may be called to enter into the Order of the Arrow (OA). In TAC, the OA is represented by the Black Eagle Lodge. The lodge typically offers a Lodge Leadership Develop session providing a training opportunity for lodge members. There is also the National Leadership Seminar to consider as well as attending the National Order of the Arrow Conference that is chalk full of training opportunities.

Scouters grow

Scouters, you too have the opportunity to participate in some tremendous supplemental training that enhances leadership skills and helps you to help other Scouters and be there for the Scouts. One great opportunity here in TAC is to participate in a Wood Badge Course. Offered annually, Wood Badge is an advanced, national leadership course open only to Scouting volunteers and professionals. *The purpose of Wood Badge is to develop skilled leaders who can strengthen Scouting units in achieving the mission of Scouting America.* The material coverage in Wood Badge is generic across each and every program, allows an introduction to the various programs and provides a forum to share ideas. You may want to consider continuing this enrichment by attending the Philmont Leadership Challenge. This leadership continuum is conducted both at Philmont and The Summit. Daily classroom and field activities build on each other and provide engagement in realistic scenarios that expand understanding of leadership concepts and practices.

Member of the OA? You may want to attend a National Leadership Seminar.

What else?

The Scouting Leaders Conference is an annual event that offers up fellowship and supplemental training. Check the [TAC Calendar](#) and [TAC Connection](#) for time and location and the current offering.

Line in the water! Yes! Angling Educator and Certified Angling Instructor courses are offered various times throughout the year to help further fishing activities into the programs.

Like to shoot? Shooting and Target activities are scheduled throughout the year. Coordination can be achieved to bring the training to you. Check the TAC website out for opportunities.

Supplemental training is offered throughout the year from the National program. The high Adventure Bases of Philmont, The Summit and Northern Tier have seminars frequently.

A great place to start your training search is to check out the Training page on the National website at: [Training | Scouting America](#).

We learn while we train. Learning is continual. Stay current. Help retain membership. Personally grow. And be there for the Scouts.