



The Umbrella of Training

Many parents and volunteers have approached us with the question, “what do I have to do to be a trained leader?” The answer is a little different for everyone. A trained leader is one who has taken all the necessary trainings for their current position in scouting and is able to wear the trained patch on their sleeve.


There are several steps to being a trained leader, but they all start at the same place:

(Note: This icon  denotes a training that is available online through www.myscouting.org)




Fast Start Training: This is the first step for any new leader and should be taken before your first meeting with the youth or committee. These focused courses give you an overview of your role in the scouting program and what your specific duties entail. Each position has its own fast start training so be sure to choose the one that fits you the best. *Estimated time to complete: 45 minutes* 



Youth Protection: No matter what your position is in scouting, within 90 days of joining, every adult needs to take Youth Protection training. Youth Protection training is designed to help you keep our youth safe from abuse. You will learn the Boy Scouts of America’s Youth Protection Guidelines, signs of abuse, and how to report suspected abuse. After each section of material, you will answer questions about that section’s topic. This course must be completed to earn the “Trained” emblem. Completion is noted automatically in the BSA training records database if the module is experienced online. *Estimated time to complete: 40 minutes.* 



This Is Scouting: After youth protection, it is time to get a crash course in all things scouting. “This Is Scouting” provides an overview of the Scouting organization, including history, values, programs, Youth Protection, community involvement, and training. The module consists of six video sections, each followed by a brief quiz. Completion is noted automatically in the BSA training records database if the module is experienced online. *Estimated time to complete: 50 minutes.* 



Position-Specific Training: Much like fast start training, The different course offerings include:

Cub Scout Leaders:

- Tiger Cub Den Leaders
- Wolf and Bear den leaders and assistants

- Webelos den leaders and assistants
- Cubmasters and assistants
- Pack Committee
- Pack Trainers

Estimated time to complete: 2 Hours

Boy Scout Leaders

- Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster
- Troop Committee Challenge

Estimated time to complete: 6 Hours

Varsity Scout Leaders

- Varsity Scout Coach Leader Specific

Estimated time to complete: 4 Hours

Venturing Crew Leaders

- Venturing Leader Specific

Estimated time to complete: 4 Hours



Outdoor Training: For a lot of leaders, your training is complete at step 4 with your leader specific, but for those directly involved in the outdoor program, there is one more step. This can come in two forms:

BALOO: Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation. While this is not strictly required of any cub leader, *you cannot hold a pack campout without a leader with BALOO training.* This is a one-day event that introduces parents and leaders and parents to the specific skills necessary for planning and carrying out pack outdoor activities.

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills: This is a required part of training for Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, Varsity Coaches, Assistant Varsity Coaches, and Venturing Advisors and assistants. In addition to learning basic camping skills, participants will learn a lot about planning campouts and where to find the resources necessary for a great experience. This class lasts a day and a half with an overnight camping element. This course is focused on learning the skill rather than attendance, and can be accelerated depending on mastery of the materials.



That's it! Remember, to maintain your trained status, you must get trained in your new position when you change positions. Also, be sure to retake youth protection as it expires every two years.