



What Makes a Trained Leader – 2009-2010

A direct contact Scout leader is considered fully trained and entitled to wear the “Trained” leader emblem when he or she has completed the following courses and the specific training for the position.

Fast Start Training

Fast Start training is the first step for all new leaders and should be taken immediately after they register and before they meet with any youth members. New leaders choose the Fast Start they need to take: Cub Scout Leader, Boy Scout Leader, Varsity Scout Leader, or Venturing Crew Leader. All Fast Start courses are available on DVD, or they can be completed through the Online Learning Center. (If you are new to Scouting, you will be asked to create an account.)

Youth Protection Training

Youth Protection training is required for all leaders who have direct contact with youth. At all times, youth safety is the number one priority. At the same time, adults need to know the rules for keeping themselves safe, too. Comprehensive Youth Protection training teaches all the do’s and don’ts of working with youth. The training is offered through the Online Learning Center, or it may be taken as part of a district or council training course.

This is Scouting

This Is Scouting is a new online training session that replaces New Leader Essentials. It picks up when Fast Start leaves off with six modules of training: The Mission of Scouting, Programs for All ages, Scouting Is Fun, Scouting in the Community, Keeping Our Youth Safe, and Scouting’s Legacy. The training takes about an hour to complete and can be found on Online Learning Center. (If you are new to Scouting, you will be asked to create an account.)

Position Specific Training

Leader position specific training is based on the leader’s position. These courses are taught by informed trainers who know how to engage groups and make learning fun. These courses are offered by the district or council as group training, or may be done as small groups or by personal coaching.

Cub Scout Leaders

Cub Scout Leader Specific training has been developed for the following positions:

- * Tiger Cub den leaders
- * Cubmasters and assistants
- * Wolf and Bear Den leaders and assistants
- * Pack Committee
- * Webelos den leaders and assistants
- * Pack trainers

Boy Scout Leaders

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training is for all Scoutmasters and their assistants. Boy Scout leaders also must complete Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills training to be considered fully trained.

Venturing Crew Leaders

Venturing Crew leaders and assistants must complete Venturing Leader Specific Training, which is a five-session training course.

Mandatory Training within the BSA

This program will be phased in over the next 4 years. Next year about 20+ councils in the country will test mandatory Top Leader Training requirements.

In 2011 these same councils will test mandatory training for all who deal directly with youth – Den Leaders, Assistant Scoutmaster, etc. 2011 will be the roll-out year for all councils to implement mandatory Top Leader Training and in 2012 the plan is for all council to roll out the mandatory positions with direct youth contact.

Future years will be testing and implementing other positions as deemed appropriate by the BSA and based on feedback from the field.

The plan will be mandatory. Therefore at the end of the charter year or a 12+ month cycle since taking on a leadership role, if a person in the designated positions have not been trained then they not be allowed to register in that position in the BSA. This would be after many contact, communications, and availability of appropriate training course opportunities and will also require the council to have direct discussions with the “offending” charter partners to encourage their participation in the decision and recommendations to the leader on the importance of the training requirement. Test councils so far have achieved a record of almost 85% of the positions in the council being trained at any one snapshot. Of course with changing personnel in these positions, we will probably never have a snapshot of 100%.

The councils so far that have piloted this program have been able to track an increase in program quality, and therefore an increase in retaining youth. After the first year of implementation they have received little resistance as we find that most of our new volunteers expect some type of required training and orientation and are often surprised that our training is not mandatory.

Currently our training courses are being revised to assist us in this process as well as making more of them available online, although there is a recognition that attendance at training course with other learners, and experience trainers still remains our preference.

In the meantime, every council should be doing two things: (1) continue to offer appropriate training courses with enthusiastic marketing and promotion to insure that as many as possible unit and den leaders receive our basic training, and (2) have a concerted effort to update the training records of all of your Scouters. In 2011 when the council will be required to begin mandatory training having as many leaders trained and working with accurate training records by person will enable the council to implement the program with fewer blips.