

YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN TROOPS

Time Available

10 minutes

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the Youth Leadership Training Continuum.
2. Explain the different trainings available for the youth in a troop.

Suggested Presenter(s)

The district training chair, or a Scoutmaster of a highly trained troop

Presentation Method

This presentation is an overview of the Youth Leadership Training Continuum. It is best presented using a visual aid such as a white board, flip chart, or PowerPoint. Some discussion with Q&A is encouraged. Further interest can be addressed after the meeting or in future meetings.

BSA Reference Materials

- Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops: www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/ILST%20FINAL%202011%20-%20Item%20Number%20511-016.pdf
- The Kodiak Challenge: www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/Kodiak%20Challenge%20FINAL%202011%20-%20Item%20Number%20511-014.pdf

Online Resources

- National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE): www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/Resources/NAYLE/
- Powder Horn: www.powderhorn-bsa.org

Presentation Content

Leadership is a vital part of the Scouting program. Boy Scouts in positions of leadership run the troop. They take care of the many tasks necessary for troop and patrol meetings and activities to run smoothly. By accepting the responsibilities of troop leadership, Scouts are preparing themselves to be leaders throughout their lives.

Opportunities to develop leadership skills will keep Boy Scouts interested and involved, and Scouting gives them a rich and varied arena in which to use those new skills.

Youth Leadership Training Continuum

The Youth Leadership Training Continuum represents the scope and sequence of leadership training courses available to youth members of the Boy Scouts of America. Courses are available for youth ages 11 through 20 in a range of engaging methods using case studies, games, discussions, and experiential education models.

Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST)

ILST is the first course in the series of leadership training offered to Boy Scouts and is a replacement for Troop Leadership Training. The purpose of the course is to teach Scouts with leadership positions how to most effectively succeed in their new roles. It helps them understand their responsibilities and equips them with organizational and leadership skills to fulfill those responsibilities. It is the Scoutmaster's responsibility to make sure the Scout has all the necessary tools and to coach and mentor the Scout toward success. ILST is organized into three modules, and each one takes 60–90 minutes to complete, with some optional games and challenges added to enhance the leadership lessons (and the fun).

- **Module One—Troop Organization** includes a description of each leadership position in the troop, including roles and responsibilities, troop organization, and introductions to vision and servant leadership.
- **Module Two—Tools of the Trade** covers some core skill sets to help the Scout lead, including communicating, planning, and teaching.
- **Module Three—Leadership and Teamwork** incorporates additional leadership tools for the Scout, including discussions of teams and team characteristics, the stages of team development and leadership, the ethics and values of a leader, how to involve all team members, and a more in-depth review of vision.

The ILST course may be conducted over three days, one module at a time, perhaps before a regular troop meeting that incorporates some of the optional games. The course may also be conducted in one session.

Completion of ILST is a prerequisite for Boy Scouts to participate in the more advanced leadership courses National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) and the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE). It is also required to participate in a Kodiak Challenge Trek.

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)

National Youth Leadership Training is an action-packed program designed for councils to provide youth members with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home troops and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others.

The NYLT course is a six-day course centered on the concepts of what a leader must *be*, what he must *know*, and what he must *do*. The key elements are taught with a clear focus on “how to.” The skills come alive during the week as the patrol goes on a Quest for the Meaning of Leadership.

Content is delivered in a troop and patrol outdoor setting with an emphasis on immediate application of learning in a fun environment. Interconnecting concepts and work processes are introduced early, built upon, and aided by the use of memory aids. This enables participants to understand and employ the leadership skills much faster.

National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE)

National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience 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.

NAYLE is now available at all national high-adventure bases. The material presented is essentially the same at all four venues but also has site-specific elements:

Philmont NAYLE. Philmont offers participants an unforgettable backcountry experience where they use their NAYLE leadership skills to resolve exciting and challenging issues. Participants are introduced to and have an opportunity to build upon the legacy of Waite Phillips, the benefactor of Philmont Scout Ranch.

Sea Base NAYLE. Offered each spring in the beautiful Florida Keys, this course enables participants to sail on a boat and practice their NYLT skills via water-based activities. They learn the history of the Florida Sea Base and hear all about Sam Wampler, camping director for the South Florida Council, who had a vision that took the Sea Base from a small venue that organized a few sailing trips in the '70s to what it is today.

Northern Tier NAYLE. Participants attend this course during the summer while paddling canoes in the Boundary Waters of northern Minnesota. Northern Tier NAYLE provides participants with a unique experience available only at the BSA's oldest high-adventure base.

Summit Bechtel Reserve NAYLE. Participants attend this course during the summer while experiencing all that West Virginia offers.

Boy Scout participants must be at least 14 years of age to participate. Venturing youth must be at least 13 (and have completed the 8th grade) to participate. All participants must be approved by their unit leader. NYLT is a prerequisite for participation in NAYLE.

Kodiak Challenge

The Kodiak Challenge is designed to be an adventure that pushes the boundaries of every participant, encouraging them to try new things that may be out of their comfort zones. In this experience they apply the leadership skills they learned in ILST, NYLT, and/or NAYLE.

Like all of Scouting, the Kodiak Challenge is an adventure with a purpose. Participants design and implement an adventure of their choosing, and with assistance from a Kodiak guide, explore the leadership skills in the context of that adventure. Kodiak treks should be implemented by the leadership of a troop or crew. The syllabus is available online at www.scouting.org/Training/Adult/.

Approval by your council's leadership training chairman is required for a unit to deliver a Kodiak training course. Boy Scout participants must be at least 14 years of age to participate. Venturing youth must be at least 13 (and have completed the 8th grade) to participate. All participants must be approved by their unit leader. ILST is a prerequisite for participation in Kodiak.

National Leadership Seminar (NLS)—Order of the Arrow

The National Leadership Seminar is a weekend conference on the skills and attributes of leadership. It is intended primarily to enhance the leadership skills of the Order of the Arrow's key youth and adult members as they seek to improve their services to the Boy Scouts of America and the greater community. The weekend format is designed to complement the longer, more detailed Wood Badge and NYLT programs. Near the end of the seminar, participants make a contract with themselves to apply the skills studied on projects in their lodge, council, and community.

Powder Horn

Powder Horn is a hands-on resource management course designed to give you the contacts and tools necessary to conduct an awesome high-adventure program in your troop, team, crew, or ship. While not a leadership development course per se, completion of Powder Horn provides access to program information that will be of value to any Boy Scout or Venturer. Powder Horn may be offered at the local council level or through a cluster of local councils. Boy Scout participants must be at least 14 years of age to participate. Venturing youth must be at least 13 (and have completed the 8th grade) to participate. Completion of NYLT is recommended for youth participants and required for youth staff members.

Wood Badge

Wood Badge is open to adults and to Venturers ages 18 through 20, but not Boy Scouts. This internationally recognized leadership development course serves as the advanced leadership training program for all branches of Scouting, including Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, Sea Scouting, and Venturing programs.

In conclusion, the Boy Scouts of America provides many opportunities for youth to develop and improve their leadership skills in the unit, in the local council, and at national training centers. By using and promoting the BSA's training programs, and allowing boys to employ the skills they learn, a troop can reap the benefits and Scouts can achieve their vision of adventure and leadership.