

Scout Leader Training

Updated April 17, 2015

Where viable, Scouting is part of the Church’s activity program for young men. Most members called to serve in Scouting positions also function in related Young Men or priesthood assignments (for example, many Scoutmasters also serve as deacons quorum advisers). The following outlines the training required for members serving in Scouting positions at both the ward and stake levels.

Scout Leader Positions in the Church

Scouting Position	Church Calling
Chartered Organization Representative	Member of the bishopric
Unit Commissioners	Members of the stake Young Men, stake Primary presidency and/or other stake members
Scoutmaster or assistant	Deacons quorum adviser or assistant adviser
Varsity Coach or assistant	Teachers quorum adviser or assistant adviser
Venturing Crew Adviser or assistant	Priests quorum adviser or assistant adviser
Merit badge counselors	-----
Cub Master and Den Leaders	Primary callings

Training Philosophy

The Church teaches, “Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence” (D&C 107:99). Carried out, this suggests that members serving in Church assignments—including Scouting—will learn the responsibilities of their calling and then fulfill them to the best of their ability.

Scouting teaches that “Every boy deserves a trained leader.” All Scouting leaders are required to complete specific basic training in order to be registered by the Boy Scouts of America. When a leader has completed the required training, he or she is entitled to wear the “Trained” leader emblem.



Instruction from the Church’s *Scouting Handbook*

“Young Men and Primary leaders who are called to Scouting responsibilities should receive training in Scouting principles, policies, and procedures as used by the Church. Trained Scout leaders who understand and live the gospel, understand priesthood governance, and understand the Scouting program are better able to serve young men and boys involved in Scouting activities.” (Scout Handbook 2.0).

Training Provided by the Church

When Called

“A leader who extends a Church calling explains its purpose, importance, and responsibilities. . . He outlines the meetings the person should attend and describes any resource materials that are available” (*Handbook 2*, 19.2).

Orientation

Stake auxiliary presidencies “orient newly called ward auxiliary presidencies. They also provide ongoing encouragement, support, and instruction for ward auxiliary presidencies and teachers” (*Handbook 2*, 15.4.1).

Ongoing

Stake Young Men leaders provide training to ward Young Men leaders as requested. Training is also provided in stake priesthood leadership meetings (see *Handbook 2*, 15.4.1 and 18.3.3).

Training Required by Scouting

A leader who has direct contact with young men is considered fully trained when they has completed the following training.

Youth Protection Training

Youth Protection training is required for all registered Scout leaders and provides instruction on BSA policies and guidelines intended to protect both youth and adults. The training is offered online or may be taken as part of a district or council training course. It is to be completed before service with youth begins, and is to be taken every two years. The training can be completed in approximately 25 minutes.

Position Specific Training

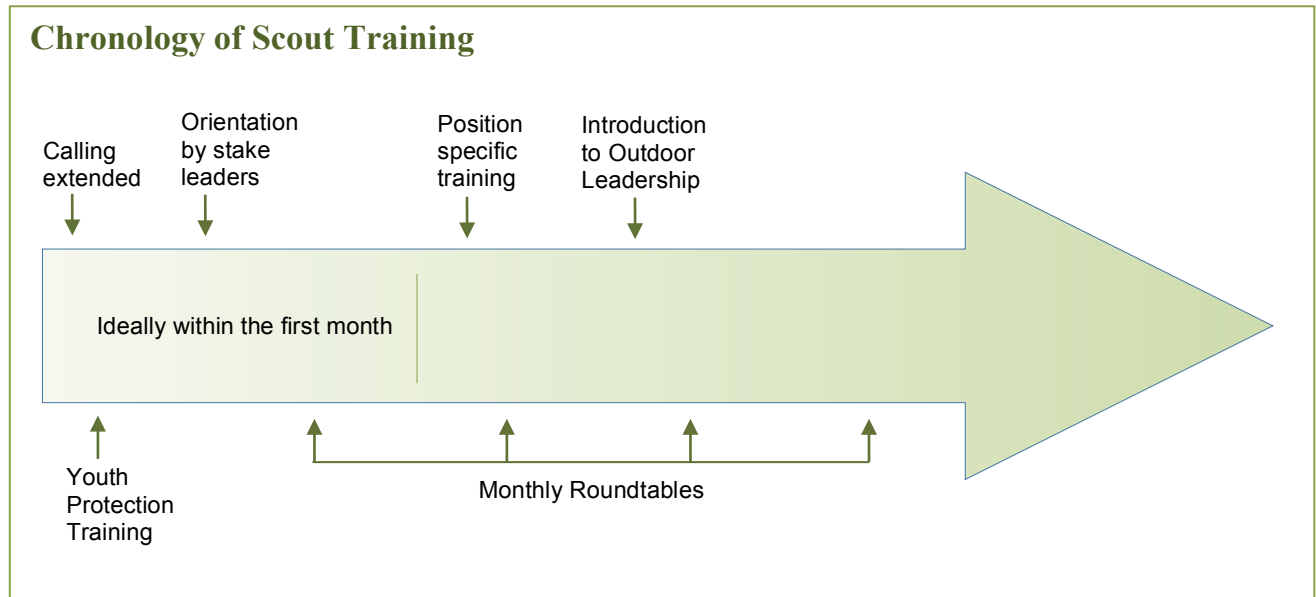
Position specific training is provided for Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity, and Venturing leaders. This training is divided into three parts: (1) The role of the adults in a youth-led program, (2) Program content, and (3) Planning and unit administration. This training is conducted during one day or three evenings and is to be completed during the first year.

Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills

This is an outdoor, overnight course focused on building skills and confidence in conducting safe outdoor experiences. It is offered under the direction of the district or council as group training and is to be completed during a leader’s first year.

Scout Roundtables

Monthly “Roundtable” meetings are held by the BSA local district. The purpose of these meetings is to provide local leaders with resources, information, training, and skills to strengthen their programs. The meetings are typically held on a weeknight for one to two hours.



Optional Scouting Training

In addition to the training described above, numerous other optional (supplemental) training resources are available to Scout leaders. A summary of these is included on the attached BSA document, *What Makes a Trained Leader?*

Funding Scout Training

Funds for required Scout training should be taken from the stake or ward Local Unit Budget Allowance (LUBA). Leaders should not be required to pay for the costs of required training.

WHAT MAKES A TRAINED LEADER?



Adult leaders in units are considered trained and eligible to wear the official *Trained* emblem when they have completed Youth Protection Training and the training courses outlined below, or have completed Youth Protection Training and a previous basic training course *when it was current*.

Youth Protection Training is a joining requirement for all registered adults and must be retaken every two years!

CUB SCOUTING

*Position-Specific for your position**

BOY SCOUTING

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Position-Specific and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (Scoutmasters and assistants)

Troop Committee Challenge (committee members)

VARSITY SCOUTING

Varsity Coach Position-Specific and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (Coaches and assistants)

Team Committee Challenge (committee members)

VENTURING & SEA SCOUTS**

Venturing Advisor Position-Specific (Advisors and assistants)

Crew Committee Challenge (committee members)

All adults in Ships: Sea Scout Adult Leader Basic

Need Help?

Contact Scouting University
972-580-2000
www.Scouting.org/training

* Pack Trainers take *Pack Committee Challenge* and *Fundamentals of Training*.

** Venturing Youth Protection Training
Chartered Organization Representatives take This Is Scouting and Training the Chartered Organization Representative.

11/11/2014

From Boy Scouts of America Official Website
scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/What_makes_a_trained_leader.pdf