



FAQs to Pilot Councils of Required Training

Q. How do we update our training records?

A. We are working with Information Delivery Group to make our system more user-friendly. In the meantime, you should be working with the Training chairs in each district and have them make contact with their top leaders to verify and update their training records. Unit commissioners can be helpful to units with this task.

Q. Define top leaders.

A. The top leaders are Scoutmasters, Varsity Scout Coaches, Cubmasters, Venturing crew Advisors, and Sea Scout Skippers.

Q. The pilot year begins January 1, 2010. Do untrained leaders have all year to complete training?

A. Yes.

Q. What is the next phase of the pilot program?

A. Beginning January 1, 2011, all direct-contact leaders will be required to complete training. Direct-contact leaders are anyone who comes into direct contact with youth members, and includes assistants to the top leaders and all den leaders.

Q. Should we schedule more training courses than usual?

A. Yes. Consider scheduling leader position-specific training and outdoor skills courses every quarter. Summer camp is a great place to offer training to Boy Scout leaders.

Q. Should we expand our training teams?

A. Yes. With more courses being offered, you will need additional trainers. Look for teachers and people with classroom experience (those comfortable with following a syllabus and speaking to a group), as well as NYLT staff and Order of the Arrow trainers. They know how to read a syllabus.

Q. What about the tenured leader who has never completed training?

A. They have probably been trained while performing their roles. Designate a mentor or coach to work with the tenured leader in a one-on-one session. The Scout Executive or his designee should be the person to determine if the person is trained.

Q. Would you recommend there be competition between districts?

A. A little friendly competition never hurts. Districts could challenge each other to see which district can achieve the highest percentage of trained leaders.

Q. How can we promote a team concept within our training team?

A. Some training teams are forming SWAT teams. SWAT stands for Scouts Want Adults Trained.

Q. What about training Scouters who are in remote areas?

A. Some districts have a portable/mobile training squad who will go to the remote areas to train. Consider using pack trainers as a resource for training all Cub Scout pack leaders.

Q. What about the person who refuses to take training?

A. The unit belongs to a chartered organization. Ask the chartered organization to appoint someone who is trained or is willing to take training in the top leader position.

Q. What about teaching Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills?

A. All Scoutmasters and Varsity Scout Coaches must complete Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills to be considered trained. Also, all Advisors of Venturing crews that have an outdoor program must complete Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills. If one of these leaders can demonstrate the outdoor skills to a member of the training team, it is not necessary they attend a formal training course.

Q. Scouters often say they can not afford the expense of taking training. How do we handle this?

A. Training should be bare-bones. Eliminate the bells and whistles.

Q. Most of the training courses are online, but everyone does not have access to a computer. How do we handle this?

A. All of the online courses are also available as a DVD to allow for group training. In a worst-case scenario, volunteers can go to the council office or their local library to complete online training. Consider setting up a "training blitz" at a community college or a business with a bank of computers.

Q. How will we know that required training will make a difference?

A. A process to measure success is being developed. History has shown that councils that have required training have shown improved retention, improved

advancement and camp attendance, and even improved participation in product sales/popcorn sales and other council fundraising efforts!

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