

Troop 787

Adult (Scouter) Training

Sir Robert Baden-Powell's words "Every Boy Deserves a Trained Leader."

The success of every Scouting program depends on having well-trained leaders. They not only bring a quality program to their units, but they have more fun doing it. Everything we do in Scouting has a purpose. Training is the key to recognizing, understanding and achieving the purpose behind each activity. It is a proven fact that Scouts with well-trained leaders have more fun, stay in the program longer and advance further.

Training is available to parents and adult leaders at the Troop, District, Council, Regional and National levels. It is progressive, beginning with Fast Start and continuing with Basic Adult Leader Training. These courses are a "must" for all adult leaders, and they provide valuable insight for parents. Experienced adult leaders who change positions are considered "trained" only after they have taken the courses specific to their new position.

Adult Leaders (Scouters) can further improve their skills by taking additional training. Supplemental Training and Advanced Adult Training are offered throughout each year at the District, Council, Regional and National levels. Courses include: Leadership, Team Building, Youth Protection, Safety and specific Scouting skills. The skills learned are applicable to all of life's leadership roles. We invite you to join with the thousands of other well-trained Scout leaders serving the youth of Orange County.

Fast Start Training is a short training session that will give you a basic understanding of the program. This training is available online. There is a Fast Start course for each level of Scouting (online – 45 minutes).

After taking Fast Start, you may take **This is Scouting (formerly New Leader Essentials)**, which is the first course in Basic Adult Leader Training. It will provide you with a complete overview of the Scouting experience. Troop Leaders are expected to take all Basic Adult Leader Training courses for their position, but the courses are open to all Scouters and parents (online – 50 minutes).

Youth Protection Training (YPT) is a short, but important, course. Adult leaders and parents who work directly with youth are expected to take Youth Protection Training (online – 40 minutes).

Once a volunteer has a solid overview of the BSA's values-based program, he or she can begin training for a specific Scouting position through **Leader Specific training**. This training provides the specialized knowledge a new leader needs to assume a leadership role. Because each course is designed for a specific leadership position, the training time varies. Leader Specific training has been developed for Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Members.

This hands-on program gives adult leaders the practical outdoor skills they need to lead Scouts in the out-of-doors. Imagine having hands-on knowledge setting up a campsite, pitching a tent, hiking, outdoor cooking -- all the skills necessary to see the outdoor program of the Boy Scouts of America come to life. The skills sessions presented in Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills closely follow the Boy Scout Handbook and are meant to serve as an adult training outline. By using these skills sessions in conjunction with the Boy Scout Handbook, trainers can be sure new leaders are proficient in the basic outdoor skills through First Class rank. Each skills session references specific chapters in the handbook.

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) training. This hands-on program gives adult leaders the practical outdoor skills they need to lead Scouts in the out-of-doors. Imagine having hands-on knowledge setting up a campsite, pitching a tent, hiking, outdoor cooking -- all the skills necessary to see the outdoor program of the Boy Scouts of America come to life.

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The **High Adventure Team** is a group of volunteer Scouters who enjoy backpacking and working together to approve and develop trail awards, promote the High Adventure program, and provide training to adult leaders. The Backpack Awareness Training course provides the basics for new Leaders and information updates for those who are veterans.

The High Adventure Team meets at Council Headquarters on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. All registered Scouters are welcome to come and join us.

At the meetings discussion items include: problems encountered by Scouters, informational updates, BSA policy changes, governmental policy changes, and improvements in our training programs in an attempt to promote a safe and enjoyable experiences in High Adventure.

The training courses are designed to help prepare the new Trek Leader for taking scouts into the wilderness and provide updated information for the veteran Trek Leader. Backpack Awareness classroom training is followed with a day hike to provide field experience with map and compass and a weekend overnight hike to experience what has been taught. This training is offered twice a year, the last weekend of February and the last weekend of September. Winter Backpack training is put on in January.

Wood Badge is a training course for Scouters which finally results in their receiving a certificate, a small neckerchief, a leather slide, and two small wooden beads on a leather thong. Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, directed the first course in 1919 and gave each of the participants one of the beads which he had captured from the African chieftain Dinizulu. Thus did the course name develop, for its symbol was literally a badge of wood.

Wood Badge is, further, Scouting's premier training course. Baden-Powell designed it so that Scouters could learn, in as practical a way possible, the skills and methods of Scouting. It is first and foremost, learning by doing. The members of the course are formed into patrols and these into a Troop. The entire Troop lives in the out-of-doors for a week, camping, cooking their own meals, and practicing Scout skills. The uniqueness of Scouting is the patrol method. The use of the natural gang of six or eight boys who elect their own leader and plan and carry out many of their own activities is a democracy in microcosm. Here young men learn the give and take of working with people as they must surely do all their lives. Here, too, they are given leadership and learning opportunities which prepare them for their future roles as citizens. It is for this reason that it is so crucial that all adults understand thoroughly the patrol method. Thus it was that Baden-Powell developed a practical course built around the operation of a Troop and its patrols. Yet this is only the most well-known of three parts in the entire Wood Badge experience. The practical course--the week in the out-of-doors--was originally scheduled to follow a "theoretical" part 1, which consisted of answering a series of questions about the aims and methods of the Scouting program. Part 3 then followed the practical course and required a 6-month application period while the Scouter practiced in his home Scouting situation what he had learned in parts 1 and 2. In actual practice, once Wood Badge became available in the United States, the theoretical questions and the application were carried out simultaneously after the practical course was taken.

But Wood Badge is more than just mechanical course work. Wood Badge is the embodiment of Scouting spirit. Like many intense training experiences, it has always relied on a busy schedule forcing the participants to work together, to organize and to develop an enthusiasm and team spirit to accomplish the tasks and challenges placed before them. Carried out in context of Scouting ideals and service to young people, the course brings out a deep dedication and spirit of brotherhood and fellowship in most participants. Certainly were it not for the common goal of the movement and its program for young people, it would be hard to get grown men and women to endure the 16-hour days required by a program that runs from early morning to late at night.

The course is designed to be a highlight --"a mountaintop experience" -- for the course participants. Careful planning and strict attention to detail provides a physical/logistic support and program second to none. Add to this a thoroughly prepared and enthusiastic staff and it is little wonder that most Scouters return from Wood Badge inspired and prepared to do an even better job of providing Scouting to boys. In addition to a fine course, all the traditions and heritage of Scouting are stressed and used to inspire those attending. Wood Badge in one form or another is used throughout the Scouting world. Tens of thousands of Scouters proudly wear the Gilwell neckerchief, woggle, and beads of Wood Badge-trained leaders. Because it was begun by Baden-Powell in England in 1919, it is clearly backed by the finest thought and tradition of the founder and thus carries with it great prestige. Wood Badge is then, a great force for world brotherhood, for though it uses the local traditions in each country, it emphasizes the international aspects of the movement and the heritage of Baden-Powell and Gilwell Park.

Additional online courses include **climb on safely, physical wellness, safe swim defense, safety afloat, staffing the district committee, trek safely and hazardous weather**. Most trainings take less than 45 minutes and all scouters are encouraged to take as many of these courses as possible.

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