



SUMMER/FALL 2025

TRAINING TIMES

TRAINED
TO MAKE
A Difference



Trained to Make a Difference: A New Scouting U Initiative

In every den meeting, troop meeting, campfire circle, and weekend adventure, one truth remains clear: well-trained leaders make all the difference. To ensure every Scout has the best possible experience, Scouting U has launched a bold new campaign—“**Trained to Make a Difference.**”

This initiative focuses on one of Scouting's most vital needs: increasing the number of **fully trained direct contact leaders**—the Cubmasters, Den Leaders, Scoutmasters, and Assistant Scoutmasters and anyone who works directly with youth in the Scouting movement. Currently, fewer than 40% of these leaders nationwide are fully trained. Scouting U has set an ambitious goal: raise that number to **55% in every council.**

Why does this matter? The data is clear—units with trained leaders thrive. When leaders understand the program, know the methods, and feel

confident in their role, Scouts are more engaged, families stay longer, and the Scouting movement grows stronger.

Over the coming months, messaging and resources will be shared across all levels of the organization. Council and territory leaders will receive updates and be asked to help spread the word. Leaders themselves will be invited to complete a survey designed to measure awareness of training requirements and uncover the best ways to support them on their journey.

Looking ahead, Scouting U is committed to developing new strategies for reaching leaders where they are—making training more accessible, flexible, and impactful. A key milestone will come at **Scouting U Week at Philmont Training Center, July 12–18, 2026**, where the campaign will take center stage. Details on this will be released soon.

Because when leaders are trained, Scouts are inspired. And when Scouts are inspired, they go on to change the world.

Scouting America Receives \$30 million Grant from Lilly Endowment to Build Character in the Nation's Young People

Scouting America, the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training, has been awarded a grant of \$30 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help build the character of the nation's young people.

Scouting America is being funded through Character Development Through Youth Programs, a Lilly Endowment initiative designed to help youth-serving organizations create, test, implement and sustain strategies that support character development in the young people they serve in chapters and affiliates throughout the nation. Scouting America, formerly Boy Scouts of America, is one of eight organizations being funded through the initiative.

[Read More Here](#)

Updates and New Names for Trainer Development Courses

Scouting U is proud to announce updates to two essential training courses, formerly known as **Fundamentals of Training** and **Trainer's EDGE**.

Over the past year, a task force team carefully reviewed, piloted, and refined these programs—thanks in part to feedback from councils nationwide. The final updates were released in June 2025, along with new names that better reflect their focus:

- **Fundamentals Part 1: Science of Training** ([PDF HERE](#))

Designed for trainers of all experience levels, this course explores proven methods for effective teaching and communication. It helps new trainers build confidence and gives experienced trainers fresh strategies to enhance their skills—both in Scouting and beyond.

- **Fundamentals Part 2: Craft of Training** ([PDF HERE](#))

The second step in the train-the-trainer continuum, this course emphasizes practice, refinement, and real-time feedback. Trainers develop their abilities through hands-on learning and peer collaboration, building on faculty development opportunities offered in advanced leadership programs.

Looking ahead, an **online version of Science of Training** is in development, with facilitator guides planned for both courses to support virtual delivery. Expect release in 2026.

With these updates, Scouting America continues to strengthen the way we prepare trainers to teach, inspire, and lead.

New Quality Council Recognition Include Direct Contact Leader Training Metrics

Scouting America has adopted new standards for Quality Council Performance Recognition. The standards were announced during the National Annual Meeting in May. Included among the standards in the “Safeguarding Scouting” category is the goal for Unit leadership to “Maintain or increase % of Trained Direct Contact Leaders 50% Minimum.”

These standards have replaced the Council Journey to Excellence metrics which were retired last year. Council training volunteers and teams should be aware of the new goal in planning their strategies to build stronger percentages of trained direct contact leaders.

[Quality Council Scorecard](#)

2025 NYLT Leadership Symposium Returns

Scouting U invites NYLT leaders and staff to the NYLT Leadership Symposium, October 3–5, 2025, at Camp Alpine in Alpine, NJ. Designed for Course Directors, Scoutmasters, Advisers, youth staff, and future leaders, this gathering brings together Scouts and Scouters from across the country to share best practices and strengthen NYLT course delivery. With

workshops, panels, and a few plenary sessions, participants will learn the latest leadership concepts while exchanging ideas that help elevate their council's program.

Highlights include an NYLT Course Director Conference (CDC) on Saturday for current and backup Course Directors—required within 24 months of leading a course—as well as targeted sessions for councils restarting their programs. Whether you're looking for tips on staff development, program features, or course promotions, the Symposium offers insights for every role. Join the vibrant NYLT community for a weekend of fellowship, learning, and inspiration.

[Register now at nylt-leadershipsymposium.org](https://nylt-leadershipsymposium.org)

Questions? Contact George Wardle at george.wardle@nylt-leadershipacademy.org

Symposium PDF Flyer

Details & Registration

Safeguarding Youth: A Stronger Commitment to Protection

Scouting America has introduced its new **Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT)**, a comprehensive program designed to ensure the safest possible environment for every young person in Scouting. Developed with guidance from child safety experts, law enforcement, and psychologists, the training equips all registered adult volunteers with the knowledge and tools to recognize, prevent, and respond to abuse in all forms—emotional, physical, and sexual.

This enhanced program reflects Scouting America's proactive approach to youth protection. Key features include an expanded focus on safeguarding against a wide range of risks, annual refresher courses to keep awareness sharp, and alignment with the most current best practices in child safety. The training underscores prevention as the cornerstone of creating a culture of safety within every unit.

Current Youth Protection Training remains valid until **May 31, 2026**, after which all volunteers will be required to complete the new Safeguarding Youth Training. With this step forward, Scouting America reaffirms its unwavering dedication to ensuring every Scout can learn, grow, and thrive in a secure and supportive environment.

Scouting U Week at Philmont: A Celebration of Learning and Leadership

Scouting U Week at the Philmont Training Center brought together leaders, educators, and youth for an inspiring week of growth and connection.

Special guests Roger Krone, Brad Tilden, and Devang Desai attended at various points during the week, visiting classrooms and meeting with participants from NAYLE and the NYLT Leadership Academy.

The week's schedule featured a dynamic lineup of conferences, including *Innovate & Facilitate: A Blueprint for Impact*, *Nuts and Bolts of Training*, *NYLT Power Up – Purpose in Service*, *Wood Badge Cohort*, and professional development courses, Advanced District Administration and District Operations 2. The Council Key 3 Conference and the BSA Retirees Reunion were also part of the program, while youth honed their leadership skills through NAYLE and the NYLT Leadership Academy.

Participants shared glowing feedback, noting:

- *"It wildly exceeded expectations. Do this course more often."*
- *"This conference exceeded expectations—great hearts and minds, explaining why and how."*
- *"I feel better prepared as a District Training Chair and now have the tools to grow our training."*

The week also included a special milestone: Retired Scout Executive Brad Allen and his wife Dantzelle celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family at Philmont.

Looking ahead, **Scouting U Week 2026** is scheduled for **July 12–18**, with a focus on Council, District, and Unit Training Chairs. More details will be shared in the months to come.



PTC Scouting U Conference Faculty

2025 Scouting U National Volunteer Training Conference Recap

In April, nearly 70 volunteers gathered in Texas at the Longhorn Council Hurst Service Center for Scouting U's National Volunteer Training Conference. Guided by the theme *"Trained Leaders Make a Difference,"* participants spent three energizing days exploring everything from the impact of artificial intelligence to innovative ways of recruiting trainers.

Hands-on brainstorming sessions gave leaders a chance to exchange best practices from across the country, while keynote sessions featured insights from National Service Center professionals—including the Program Development team led by John Mosby, Glen Pounder, and Michael Ramsey.

Scouting U subcommittees also shared key updates, opening the conversation virtually to an additional 60 participants nationwide. A heartfelt thank-you goes to the many facilitators and leaders who helped make this conference a success. Special thanks to David Ehrlich, Scouting U Vice-Chair of Leadership Development for coordinating the conference.



Welcome New National Wood Badge Coordinator.

Scouting U is pleased to welcome Ray Warren as the new National Wood Badge Coordinator. Ray has been actively involved with Wood Badge at the council, territory and national level. Most recently, Ray has coordinated the Virtual Wood Badge Course Director Conferences.

A sincere thanks to Dave Savone for his three years of service as the National Wood Badge Coordinator.

Ray can be reached at bac.ray@gmail.com or nationalwoodbadgecoordinator@gmail.com

Welcome New Territory Training Coordinators

Scouting U is pleased to welcome new Territory Training Coordinators, Scott Keifer, supporting CST 9, and Wendy Kaban supporting CST 10.

Both Scott and Wendy have many years of training experience. Scott is from the Michigan Crossroads Council and has served as the Council Advanced Training Chairman, Wood Badge Course Director, Backup NYLT Course Director, and Course Director Conference Coordinator for Wood Badge and NYLT. Wendy is from the Daniel Webster Council and has served as the coordinator for the NYLT Course Director Conference, and has served on staff for Wood Badge and the Course Director for NYLT.

Many thanks to David Sullivan, outgoing CST 10 Territory Training Coordinator. His training expertise and willingness to jump in and help develop the Territory Training Coordinator position is greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Anthony "Tony" Sitz, who recently stepped down from his position as the Territory Training Coordinator for CST 8. Thank you, Tony, for your dedication and support. Until the new TTC is appointed, Toni Welch, Scouting U Learning Delivery Chair will serve as point of contact.

Territory Training Coordinators

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- 9 - Scott Keifer (Michigan Crossroads Council) scottkiefer@mac.com
- 10 - Wendy Kaban (Daniel Webster Council) wmkaban@gmail.com
- 12 - Bonnie Hubauer (French Creek) bonniehubauer@gmail.com
- 13 - Jay Lubin (New Birth of Freedom) CST13Training@gmail.com

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