Youth Leadership Growth Opportunities

**Vision:** The Boy Scouts of America is the premier leadership development organization for youth in the United States of America.

**Methods:** The youth leadership training continuum represents the scope and sequence of leadership training courses available to youth members of the Boy Scouts of America and hands-on experiential learning through actual leadership roles. Courses are available for youth ranging in age from 11 through 20, delivered in a range of engaging methods using case studies, games, discussions, and experiential education models.

**Introduction to Leadership Skills:** *Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops, Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews, and Introduction to Leadership Skills for Ships.* Introduction to Leadership Skills (ILS) provides an introduction to leadership skills for youth in Boy Scout troops, Venturing crews, and Sea Scout ships. The training course is delivered to the youth of the troop, ship, or crew by older and more experienced youth as soon as a young person has been selected by his or her peers for a leadership position. Youth are introduced to the skills of leadership and the tools they will use to implement their vision of adventure and leadership in their role as a youth leader in their troop or crew. The syllabus is available from the BSA through the youth training link on the BSA’s Training webpage: [www.scouting.org/Training/Youth](http://www.scouting.org/Training/Youth).

**The Kodiak Challenge**
The *Kodiak Challenge* is an adventure that pushes the boundaries of every participant—an experience that will encourage a young person to try new things beyond his or her comfort zone. It is an experience, but it is grounded in the application of the leadership skills learned in ILS, NYLT, and NAYLE. It is, as is all of Scouting, an adventure with a purpose. Participants design and implement an adventure of their choosing, and through the assistance of a Kodiak guide, explore the leadership skills in the context of their adventure. Kodiak treks should be implemented by the leadership of a troop or crew with the approval of the Council Training Chairman. The syllabus is available online at [www.scouting.org/Training/Adult](http://www.scouting.org/Training/Adult).

**National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)**
The *National Youth Leadership Training* (NYLT) training is a week-long leadership course. The course is delivered by the local council to help youth further develop their capacity as leaders. The leadership skills introduced in ILS are developed in greater detail, and the week-long training course delivers the skills by modeling a month in the life of a Scouting unit. Youth who function in leadership roles in their troop, crews, or ships will benefit from the experiences developed in this course. A local council requests authorization to conduct this National Leadership training. The NYLT Course Director receives the syllabus at a NYLT Course Director Conference.

**NYLT Leadership Academy**
The NYLT Leadership Academy is the high-level national training course for NYLT Staff. NYLT Leadership Academy trains youth staff to be world-class presenters, evaluators, and leaders of their home council’s NYLT courses. Those who attend the Leadership Academy will hone their presentation and evaluation skills, meet successful leaders, participate in problem solving panels, learn best practices, and so much more! More information can be found at [http://nylt-leadershipacademy.org](http://http://nylt-leadershipacademy.org).
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National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience
The National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) is an exciting week-long program at Philmont and at the Summit where young men and women enhance their leadership skills. Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts expand upon the team-building and ethical decision-making skills learned in National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). NAYLE utilizes elements of the Philmont ranger training as well as advanced skills to teach leadership, teamwork, and the lessons of selfless service. NAYLE will offer Scouts an unforgettable wilderness experience where they live leadership and teamwork, using the core elements of NYLT to make their leadership skills intuitive. More information can be found at www.scouting.org/Training/Youth.

SEAL
The Sea Scout Advanced Leadership course is a leadership development course for Sea Scouts after they have attended Introduction to Leadership for Ships. Based on the application of seamanship, piloting, and navigation skills, SEAL challenges the most proficient Sea Scouts to use their seamanship skills as a vehicle for leadership development. More information can be found at www.seascout.org.

Wood Badge
Open to adults, including Venturers, and Sea Scouts ages 18 through 20, the Wood Badge course is a week-long or two week-end, internationally recognized leadership development course. Wood Badge serves as the basic leadership training program for all branches of Scouting, including the Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Sea Scouting, and Venturing programs. Wood Badge allows an in-depth exploration of leadership skills as well as a supervised implementation of the skills through a multi-part, post-course delivery plan referred to as a “ticket.” Venturing participants in Wood Badge must have completed “Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews” prior to enrolling in the Wood Badge course; Seas Scouts must have completed “Introduction to Leadership Skills for Ships”. The Wood Badge leadership development program is offered through the local council or on a cluster-council basis. A local council requests authorization to conduct this National Leadership training. The Wood Badge Course Director receives the syllabus at a Wood Badge Course Director Conference. More information can be found at www.scouting.org/Training/Adult.

Resources:
BSA Training: www.scouting.org/Training
Youth Training: www.scouting.org/Training/Youth