

NYLT 2021 Edition

Selected Administrative Updates and FAQs

(11/10/21)

Q: What has changed in terms of “Staff Makeup” in the 2021 edition of NYLT?

A: The updated content states, *“Every effort must be made to ensure that youth staff drawn from Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouts, both male and female, are represented on the course. If the course has female youth staff or participants, there must be at least one adult female leader (age 21 or over) for each unit on the course that has female youth (staff or participants).”*

There must be at least two female youth staff to ensure a proper buddy system amongst the youth staff. There are no co-ed buddies among youth staff or participants, ever. Reference NCAP Standards HS-501, HS-511 and Scouting’s Barriers to Abuse.”

Q: What has changed in terms of “Patrol Makeup” in the 2021 edition of NYLT?

A: The updated section header is now called “NYLT Linked Troop Leadership Requirements” and states, *“In Scouts BSA, troops are either all-boy or all-girl, **never co-ed**. Linked troops are an option within the Scouts BSA program and this is the model that NYLT will use. An NYLT program serving both male and female participants must have its own adult leadership structure, including two-deep leadership for each troop.*

For example, an NYLT course with 34 male participants and 6 female participants will be conducted as two linked troops. Each troop will have a Scoutmaster of 21 years of age and the same gender of the troop they are leading. An assistant Scoutmaster would also be selected for each unit.

*If you have a smaller number of female participants, you may have a troop of 2 girls on your course with their own Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmaster. While different from previous NYLT operations, this is the policy of Scouts BSA. **There will be no co-ed patrols.***

Every effort shall be made to recruit female troop guides who would be assigned to the female patrols within that troop. Consideration shall be given to selecting a female senior patrol leader for that troop as well.”

Q: What has changed in terms of the “Buddy System” in the 2021 edition of NYLT?

A: The updated content states, *“The buddy system is always required (see Scouting’s Barriers to Abuse and NCAP Standard HS-511). Buddy pairs cannot be coed, including staff buddy pairs. Note that because the buddy system is one of Scouting’s Barriers to Abuse, courses cannot have one single female or one single male in attendance as a participant or youth staff. There must be at least two of a gender present as participants or youth staff. A youth staff member cannot effectively serve as a buddy to a participant given the nature of the staff role.”*

Q: What has changed in terms of “Troop Accommodations” in the 2021 edition of NYLT?

A: The updated content states, “Patrols within each NYLT “troop” should be made up of youth of similar age (refer to the Guide to Safe Scouting). Besides keeping the youth participants safe, organizing patrols in this manner maximizes the learning potential and leadership experience of the participants by giving patrol members equal footing with one another. An effort to maximize geographic, cultural, and program diversity will further enhance the ability of patrol members to experience, observe, and understand patrol dynamics. Adult staff must pay appropriate attention to the camping arrangements. Regarding accommodations and per Scouting’s Barriers to Abuse:

- Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female youth.
- Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.
- Linked troops may share a campsite if Scouting’s Barriers to Abuse can be met, including privacy and separate accommodations.
- When using a large site, tents should be arranged so the male patrols are in one area of the campsite and female patrols are in another. There is no prescribed distance.
- All adults 18 and up, regardless if they are participants (registered in Venturing or Sea Scouting) or staff, must be treated as adults related to all youth protection policies, including housing and restroom/shower facilities.
- Appropriate male and female adult staff (21 years or older) must be present in all course campsites per Scouting’s two-deep leadership requirements.

For the outpost camp, the location of each patrol’s overnight campsite must be determined in advance. **Leaving participants alone in their outpost sites is not acceptable.** Patrols should set up in a similar manner as their regular patrol sites with male patrols in one area and female patrols in another. **There must be adult staff present at all times with tents within visual range and within earshot.** The participants need to know that the adults are there if needed.

Remember that NYLT is a leadership course, not an outdoor skills course. Venturers and Sea Scouts have no advancement that requires outdoor skills training. Venturers and Sea Scouts (male or female) may have few or no outdoor skills.”

Q: What has changed in terms of “Youth Protection and Required Adult Supervision” in the 2021 edition of NYLT?

A: The updated content states, “Anytime a group of teenage youth come together for an intensive, six-day learning experience, there is a degree of risk. As with all Scouting programs, being prepared is the key to minimizing these problems and addressing them effectively when they occur. Preparing properly provides us an opportunity to model appropriate ways for teens to interact. The BSA teaches us to manage risk and managing an NYLT course is no different.

A zero-tolerance policy for any youth protection, safety and bullying infractions should be communicated and enforced, just as it is with other potential problem issues such as

drugs or alcohol. Any infraction must also be reported per BSA's incident reporting guidelines and NCAP standard AO-808.

All adult staff are responsible for the safety and well-being of staff and participants. Adult staff must be constantly vigilant of all activities occurring at the NYLT course site. Any behavior that is contrary to the Scout Oath and Law and/or Guide to Safe Scouting must immediately be brought to the attention of the course director/Scoutmaster and addressed.

During the NYLT staff orientation session, youth and adult staff will undergo the Understanding and Preventing Youth-on-Youth Abuse Training for NYLT Staff. The facilitator's guide and slideshow are available on the NYLT Google Drive. As part of this training, a qualified adult will lead a discussion on the problems that could occur on the course and how they should be dealt with. To ensure compliance with various state law requirements, all NYLT staff, regardless of age, must complete the online BSA Youth Protection Training and share their unexpired certificate of successful completion with the NYLT course director.

NYLT staff must be familiar with and follow the Guide to Safe Scouting. A digital or hard copy of the current Guide to Safe Scouting should be available on site.

No harassment or hazing will be allowed by anyone or at any time. The BSA policy on hazing and harassment is as follows:

The Boy Scouts of America prohibits language or behavior that belittles or puts down members of the opposite sex, unwelcome advances, racial slurs, chastisement for religious or other beliefs, or any other actions or comments that are derogatory of people. Any form of hazing, initiations, ridicule, or inappropriate teasing is prohibited. Reference NCAP Standard HS-501. Proper adult supervision meeting the BSA's two-deep leadership requirements for each troop is always required throughout the course and must meet BSA requirements. Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required and there must be a registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over for NYLT troops with female participants. Reference NCAP Standards HS-501 and HS-502.

Adult supervision is required in and around the youth staff campsite, patrol campsites and during the outpost camp. There must be adults camping in those areas in order to regularly monitor activity and behavior. This may be a challenge for some NYLT courses depending on their facility and may require the need for additional adult staff members in order to be in compliance. Reference NCAP Standard HS-502."

Q: Why were these changes made?

A: These changes were made as part of the BSA's continuing efforts to keep all participants safe while taking part in any BSA activity, including NYLT courses.

Q: In the linked troop model, do the troop sizes need to be equal.

A: No, the unit sizes do not have to be equal between the two genders. However, no matter the size of the unit they must have an adult, 21 years of age or older, to serve as the Scoutmaster for that troop. They should also have a same gender Senior Patrol Leader and Troop Guides.

Q: What is the ideal size for the girl troop?

A: It would be ideal for the girl troop to have 6 to 8 youth, or more. This will help create the best learning environment possible for all of the participants. A minimum of 2 girls must be recruited to be able to have the girl troop on a course.

Q: Our council has only had a few girls sign up for NYLT in the past, how will we get a full girl troop?

A: As a staff you will want to be purposeful in your recruiting of participants. Work with your council staff advisor to secure information about the girl troops in your council and proactively promote to those units specifically. Many girl troops have now conducted two years' worth of program, and NYLT will be an important part of increasing the Scouts BSA program in their unit.

Q: How do we handle course traditions that may not comply with updated NYLT course standards?

A: You need to cease any such practices immediately and ensure you are in compliance with the new edition of the NYLT course standards.

Q: How will our NYLT course operate using the Scouts BSA Linked Troop model?

A: This is a new requirement for all NYLT courses and is important to the future success, especially as we increase the number of female participants. Scouting U is continuing to gather feedback and will make future updates on the course adult and youth organizational structure next year. One recommendation, at this time, is to identify a course director who will also serve as the Scoutmaster of one of your linked troops and another individual who is listed as the backup course director and serves as Scoutmaster of the other troop. Each troop should also have a senior patrol leader. Both troops are able to join together for course ceremonies, presentations, and activities. The two Scoutmasters and SPLs can split some of the responsibilities or work together. Councils are encouraged to improve their marketing efforts to increase the number of female participants in their NYLT courses.

Q: If we have two Scoutmasters, who is eligible for the 4th bead?

A: The individual who is listed as course director/Scoutmaster on the "Request for Authorization to Conduct a National Training Course" and meets the requirements for the 4th bead in the "National Youth Leadership Training Recognition Request" is eligible.

**Please submit additional questions to Scouting U National NYLT Coordinator
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