

# The Youth Leadership Training Continuum

**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. 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.

**Courses:** *Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops, Introduction to Leadership Skills for Teams, 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, Varsity Scout teams, Sea Scout ships, and Venturing crews. The training course is delivered to the youth of the troop, team, 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 web page:

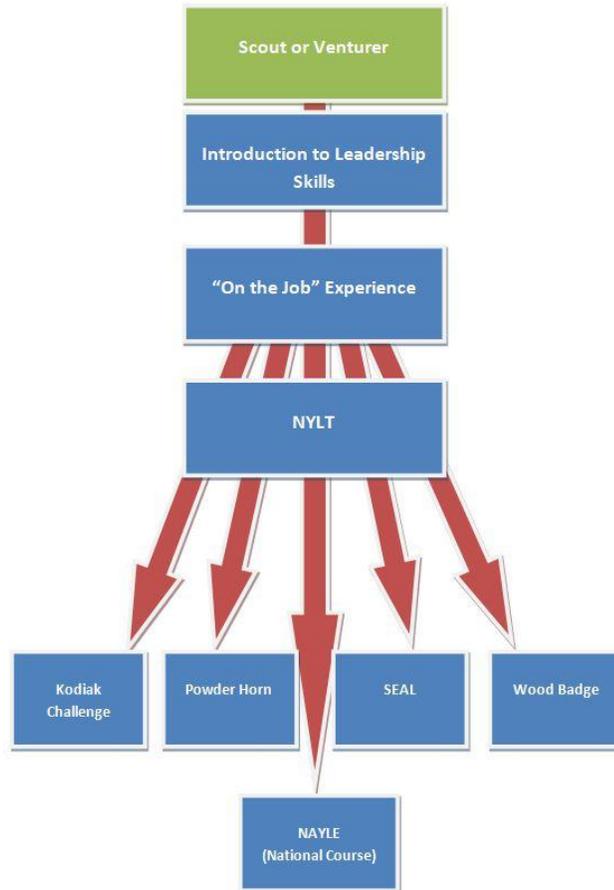
[www.scouting.org/Training/Youth](http://www.scouting.org/Training/Youth)

## *National Youth Leadership Training*

The *National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)* conference is a leadership training course 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 weeklong 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 or crew will benefit from the experiences developed in this course.

## *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/or 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. The syllabus is available online at [www.scouting.org/Training/Adult](http://www.scouting.org/Training/Adult). Approval by your council's leadership training chairman is required for a unit to deliver a Kodiak training course. Boy Scout participants must be at least 14 years of age to participate; Venturing youth must be at least 13 (and have completed the 8th grade) to participate; in either case, participants must be approved by their unit leader to participate in Kodiak. ILS is a prerequisite for participation in Kodiak.



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## *Powder Horn*

While not a leadership development course per se, completion of *Powder Horn* provides access to program information that will be of value to any Boy Scout or Venturer. Described as a high-adventure resource management course, *Powder Horn* exposes participants to elements of high-adventure programming and how to develop the resources necessary to implement the same high-quality programming into troops and crews. *Powder Horn* is offered through the local council level or a cluster of local councils. Boy Scout participants must be at least 14 years of age to participate; Venturing youth must be at least 13 (and have completed the 8th grade) to participate; completion of NYLT is recommended for youth participants and required for youth staff members. The syllabus is available by council request from the Volunteer Development Team at the national office.

## *SEAL*

The *Sea Scout Advanced Leadership* course is a leadership development course for Sea Scouts. 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. Youth must be at least 13 (and have completed the 8th grade) and achieved the Sea Scout Ordinary rank, and secure a nomination from their Ship's Skipper to participate. [www.seascout.org](http://www.seascout.org)

## *Wood Badge*

Open to adults and Venturers ages 18 through 20, the *Wood Badge* course is an internationally recognized leadership development course. Wood Badge serves as the advanced leadership training program for all branches of Scouting, including the Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity 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 multipart delivery plan referred to as a "ticket." Venturing participants in Wood Badge need to have completed Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews prior to enrolling in the Wood Badge course. The Wood Badge leadership development program is offered through a local council or on a cluster-council basis.

## *National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience*

The *National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience* (NAYLE) is an exciting program of the Philmont Training Center in Cimarron, New Mexico where young men and women enhance their leadership skills in the Philmont backcountry. Scouts will expand upon the team-building and ethical decision-making skills learned in National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). NAYLE uses elements of the Philmont ranger training as well as advanced search-and-rescue skills to teach leadership, teamwork, and the lessons of selfless service. NAYLE will offer Scouts an unforgettable Philmont backcountry wilderness experience where they live leadership and teamwork, using the core elements of NYLT to make their leadership skills intuitive. Boy Scout participants must be at least 14 years of age to participate; Venturing youth must be at least 13 (and have completed the 8th grade) to participate; in either case, participants must be approved by their unit leader to participate in NAYLE. NYLT is a prerequisite for participation in NAYLE.

**Resources:** BSA Training: [www.scouting.org/Training](http://www.scouting.org/Training)  
Youth Training: [www.scouting.org/Training/Youth](http://www.scouting.org/Training/Youth)

