



Session Three

Other Training Opportunities

Time Allowed

5 minutes

Teaching Objectives

The intent of this presentation is to encourage participants to pursue further opportunities for learning. Among the most important points to consider are these:

- The BSA offers adult leaders a continuum of training opportunities and encourages lifelong learning.
- A wide spectrum of supplemental training experiences can provide adult leaders with specialized skills and broader general knowledge that will help them better deliver the promise of Scouting.

Materials Needed

- Dates and locations of district and council training opportunities for adult leaders
- PowerPoint slides or overheads from CD, if desired
- Flipchart or other means of writing discussion notes

Recommended Facility Layout

Session meeting area. Each participant should have a comfortable place to sit, take notes, and organize written materials. That setting most often consists of tables, each accommodating six to eight participants forming a patrol, and enough chairs for all participants.

Delivery Method

- Instructor-led discussion

Presentation Procedure

A presentation of New Leader Essentials introduced new leaders to the training continuum the BSA offers its adult leaders. Remind the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training participants of that sequence of training and point out that they have nearly completed the position-specific portion of the continuum. The remainder of this presentation will highlight other training opportunities available to Scouting's adult leaders, and the great value there is for leaders to seek out and take part in these learning experiences.

Training Continuum For Adult Leaders

Fast Start → Basic Leader Training (New Leader Essentials, Position Specific Training, and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills) → Wood Badge

Learning Opportunities for BSA's Adult Leaders

Discuss each of the following learning opportunities. Whenever possible, note dates and locations of upcoming sessions of each training.

YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING

Every new leader is encouraged to attend the Youth Protection Training offered by the district and council—a 90-minute videotaped session that prepares them to conduct Scouting activities in accordance with Youth Protection guidelines. Your council may require this training.

INTRODUCTION TO OUTDOOR LEADER SKILLS

This important and enjoyable part of Scoutmaster training covers the outdoor skills expected of a First Class Scout. Adult leaders who already have knowledge of some of the skills may pass that section of the course by demonstrating their abilities to an instructor. Adult leaders who have already completed Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills will not need to repeat the training.

WOOD BADGE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Wood Badge for the 21st Century, the BSA's premier advanced training in leadership theory and team development, brings together Scouters from all walks of life and

from all BSA programs—Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, and Venturing, as well as district and council leaders. By pooling their ideas, sharing meaningful experiences, and learning from highly qualified instructors, participants will return to their home units with new skills and resources, greater confidence, and deeper dedication to deliver the values of Scouting.

ROUNDTABLES

The monthly roundtable, conducted by a roundtable commissioner, brings together Scout leaders from a number of troops to share ideas and teach skills. Each meeting is also an opportunity for enjoying fellowship, fun, and food with others who are committed to Scouting's aims and ideals.

ADVANCED CAMPING SKILLS

Many councils offer training in advanced outdoor skills. Instructors can note those opportunities and the dates upcoming training will be offered. If appropriate, include Outdoor Skills Instructor training and Scout Skills Show and Do events.

CLIMB ON SAFELY

Climb On Safely is the Boy Scouts of America's recommended procedure for conducting BSA climbing/rappelling activities at a natural site or a specifically designed facility such as a climbing wall or tower. It is an orientation only and does not constitute instruction on how to climb or rappel. For any adult interested in involving members of a Scout unit in climbing/rappelling activities, Climb On Safely training is an important introduction to BSA guidelines and procedures.

PROJECT COPE

Project COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) is a national program of the Boy Scouts of America. Composed of group initiative games, low-course events, and high-course events, the events of COPE courses involve participants in group challenges and individual initiatives. The underlying goals of Project COPE are consistent with the objectives of the Boy Scouts of America. The group activities are ideal for enhancing the leadership and teamwork of Scout units, and activities challenging individuals can be used to bolster self-esteem and promote personal growth.

Adult leaders may have opportunities to go through COPE courses with their Scouts at summer camp or at other times of the year. Those who are interested can pursue a deeper understanding of challenge course management through

BSA training to become certified COPE course instructors or managers.

PASSPORT TO HIGH ADVENTURE TRAINING

Passport to High Adventure Training is a supplemental training course to assist Scout leaders in planning high adventure outings for their Scout units. Based on the BSA's manual *Passport to High Adventure*, the training focuses on appropriate skills needed to conduct a successful high adventure trek.

OTHER LOCAL TRAINING

(Instructors can list and discuss other training opportunities available to Scout leaders through their district and council.)

PHILMONT TRAINING CENTER

The Philmont Training Center in New Mexico offers a number of courses each summer for Scout leaders. Courses focus on everything from teaching outdoor skills and First Class basics to seminars on troop program planning, merit badge counselor orientation, working with troop committees, and encouraging advancement.

JUNIOR LEADER TRAINING

Much of Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training has focused on the Scoutmaster's role in providing the boy leaders of a troop (the "junior leaders") with the tools they need to run a boy-led troop operating by the patrol method. This is at the heart of a successful troop.

Chapter 7 of *The Scoutmaster Handbook*, "Training Junior Leaders," gives an overview of how Scoutmasters can train the boy leaders of a troop. A complete reference to preparing junior leaders for their responsibilities can be found in the *Scoutmaster's Junior Leader Training Kit*. It provides instructions for Scoutmasters to conduct the introduction to leadership session with a new senior patrol leader, and to offer continuing training to all boy leaders of the troop.

TROOP ANNUAL PROGRAM PLANNING CONFERENCE

Using material found in *The Scoutmaster Handbook* chapter on "Program Planning" and the video *Troop Annual Program Planning Conference*, Scoutmasters can create their own supplemental training to ensure that the boy leaders of their troops can plan effective year-round programs.

VIDEO SUPPORT

The BSA has developed a number of videos to support various aspects of Scout leader training.

- *Troop Program Planning*, No. AV02V010
- *Scoutmaster's Junior Leader Training*, No. AV02V013
- *Youth Protection Guidelines*, No. AV09V001A
- *A Time to Tell*, No. AV09V004

Summary

If the world around us were constant, we wouldn't need to change. Everything would stay the same, and so could we. Of course we live in a world swirling with change. To take full advantage of the changes that are occurring, each of us needs to be learning all the time. We need to be inquisitive and eager to try out new ideas, master new skills, and look for new solutions to old problems.

The Boy Scouts of America encourages adult leaders to pursue opportunities for life-long learning. It increases the abilities of its adult leaders to deliver the promise of Scouting. It improves the quality of the BSA as an organization. Last but not least, it helps keep people lively, alert, and eager to do their best, often while having a very good time.
