

Boy Scouts of America - Training Overview

I sent out training requirements to all units and this brought forward many questions. I would like to share with you some of these questions and the answers. I thank all of you for your attention to your unit training requirements. We want the best program and safest environment for our children. The only way to provide this program correctly is through our trained leadership.

Sherrie Nielsen

How do I know what training I require?

If you go to Three Fires Council website www.threefirescouncil.org, click on the [Training] tab, click on the [Adult Training] you will be given a list of all the different areas of scouting: Cub Scout Leaders, Boy Scout Leaders, Varsity Leaders, Venturing Leaders, District & Council Leaders, Sea Scout Leaders and Commissioners. Click on the option for your position.

You will be able to view a list of training required for your position. You'll also be able to see the adult leader knots appropriate to those positions. They will also list training which is optional but suggested for certain activities. (Sample: BALOO for Packs which want to go camping)

How do I take online training?

Online training is available at www.myscouting.org. You may need to use the right side of the screen to setup an account. Once entered, on the Home page there is a column on the left under Training. Select [E-Learning](#). You'll see 4 tabs with online training classes. These include Cub Scout, Boy/Varsity Scout, Venturing and General. Make sure to review all the training by scrolling all the way down to the bottom. If the dot next to the training is yellow the training is not started, blue is 'in process' and green is completed (yeah!). Click on the training option like Youth Protection to start the training. Unfortunately for most training, if you stop in the middle of a session you may need to start at the beginning to restart the training. Most training is less than 1 hour each (Hazardous Weather being a little bit more). Always print your training record upon completion.

If the dot does not turn green you might not show as completed. I generally log out and back in to make sure the dot turned green. If you still do not see green, send me a copy of your training certificate and I'll submit it to council through the Council Training Committee. If you take training outside Three Fires Council, also give me a copy of your records to submit manually.

I'm a Committee Chair and I would like to check all my leader's training records. Can I do this?

Yes, you can check the training records if you have a membership ID. Membership IDs can be found on the charter or on the membership card the people receive. Log into your at www.myscouting.org account. On the left side column click on [Training Validation], select [All Training]; change the drop down to [Member ID]. Enter the membership ID number in the box. This screen does not have a good print option. Consider cutting the records from the screen and paste them into a word document. You can then print the word document and save on the computer or email to the leader.

We have new people joining the unit and they now tell us we cannot submit the application without Youth Protection. How do they do Youth Protection training without a membership ID?

You are correct the Youth Protection Training Card must be submitted with the leader application. If you go to www.myscouting.org on the right side you can register online as a leader and take Youth Protection training. This will allow you to take the training and print out a training card to be submitted with the application.

I don't remember my www.myscouting.org password to get into my training records. I have heard Three Fires Council cannot help. What do I do?

Three Fires Council at one time could help us login but this has all moved to National BSA in Texas. If you need to reset your password, do not call Three Fires Council, call BSA National at 972-580-2267 **or website: myscouting.scouting.org** and give them your login and name. They'll reset your password so you can log back into your account. Once you log in, reset your password.

Our unit keeps former Scoutmasters and Eagle Scouts on our charter. These people just showed up on our training requirements. Many of the Eagle scouts are off at collage and cannot take the classes. Some people have expired youth protection. Some of these people are still connected to the chartering organization and give us 'good will' in their position. They only come back occasionally; do they need to take the training? First off, this is a good time to review if you want to continue to have these people on your charter. If they are around the scouts (Direct Contact) they should be taking the training. Some units have moved these people to a Committee position. The bad news is they then show up on the next list of training requirements for needing to take Troop Committee Challenge or Cub Specific: Pack Committee Training. The good news: both these training classes are available online.

Three Fires Council is requesting all leaders get trained in the Basic requirements for their position. It is strongly suggested all Top level Direct Contact leaders (Scoutmaster, Cubmaster, and Venture Advisor) be trained by the next re-charter, which for Potawatomi Trails is January 2012. The remaining Direct Contact leaders are required to be trained by January 2013 (Assistant Scoutmaster, Den Leaders, Asst Cubmasters, etc.) Currently 2 Districts in 3 Fires now have mandatory training for **all** leaders. We want the safest and best program for all our youth. The only way to do this is through trained leadership.

Now I know the training I need to take, how do I find out about the training classes available to me?

Go to www.ThreeFiresCouncil.org and look at the [Training] tab. The first option is [Training Events/Fliers] here you can learn which training is available online and which is only available as a class like Outdoor Leader Skills, Charter Organization Rep Training or Scoutmaster Specific. Dates of classes and fliers are always available. Check back often for more training dates. I constantly send out emails of training events and I'm also posting events on Facebook under Potawatomi Trails District. These are excellent ways to find out about training but if you don't see it, call me and I'll check my resources. You can also take training outside of Three Fires Council and forward me your training card/certificate.

Training is important. What can we do to help?

First I have a team of Pack Trainers who can do training at the pack level. I need to talk to these leaders and get them training materials and training cards. Suggest your Pack Trainers get trained and then contact me. Make sure someone from the Pack attends Roundtable to pick up fliers for events and activities to share with the Pack.

At the Troop level ask someone to be in charge of training to check the training records and monitor upcoming training to report to the unit monthly. Suggest training to leaders who are not trained. Some leaders are not computer literate and might need your help to take the training online. Help each other.

So many Charter Organization Representatives are not trained in Potawatomi Trails District. Along with the understaffed Commissioner staff these are the people who should be encouraging training in their unit. Charter Org Reps I need you to complete your training. Take the Charter Org Rep Fast Start training online and get registered for the Charter Org Rep training at Training Academy Nov 12th, 2011 in Aurora, IL.

Honestly, the majority of scout training is so much FUN. You get to meet people with the same issues you are having in your units. You get real life resources to help you. Trained Leaders help protect the unit. Let's help each other protect our children with a stupendous program.

Lastly, you'll find out so much if you attend Roundtable of 'What's Happening'. You'll learn about training events, camping and advancement opportunities, fun activities. Pick up the information in your unit mailbox at Roundtable and share this information with your unit leaders. Suggest a new leader from your unit attend each month. Roundtable is the second Thursday of the month at Christ United Methodist Church at 920 Swain in Elmhurst IL. If you do not get the District email ask to be added to the email list.

Thank you so kindly for all you do in Scouting,

Sherrie Nielsen

Potawatomi Trails District Training Chair

