

Four Mile Run District IOLS/BALOO Student Packet

What is IOLS (Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills)?

This in-person course is designed to provide a working knowledge of the basic outdoor skills necessary to succeed as a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster, and is required in order to be considered “fully trained” for those positions. The course is also open to all adult volunteers in a Troop, Ship, or Crew, and to Venturing leaders.

Outdoor skills are critical to the success of the Scouting program, and IOLS focuses on building confidence and competence in leaders conducting outdoor camping experiences. The course is based on the Scouts BSA Handbook. Instructors will help you learn how to set up camp, cook, and work with woods tools, and about ropes, planning campfire programs, map reading and compass skills, hiking and packing techniques, nature identification, and outdoor ethics. IOLS will bring to life the pages of the Scouts BSA handbook to help you deliver the promise of Scouting to yourself and the youth you serve. It will increase your comfort level and give you confidence as a trained, skilled leader. The program will also give you the opportunity to work with other Scout leaders from your area, meet new friends, and share knowledge with fellow unit leaders.

What is BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation)?

This in-person course is designed as an introduction to the Cub Scout outdoor program for leaders interested in adding a camping component to their Pack activities. Scouting America’s Cub Scout camping policies will be taught along with the necessary tools to help units carry out a successful camping experience.

BALOO training includes an online prerequisite which students must complete before attending the overnight. The online component is available 24/7, just log in to My.Scouting.org, go to My Training, and under Training Courses by Program click on Expanded Learning and then click on BALOO. You can also get there by selecting Cub Scouting from the Training Courses by Program list, and then click on Catalog and search for BALOO. The prerequisite course takes 35 minutes to complete.

The screenshot shows the Scouting America My Training interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Catalog', and 'My Learning'. Below this, the breadcrumb trail reads 'Catalog > BALOO Prerequisite Training v2'. The main content area features a card for 'BALOO Prerequisite Training v2'. The card includes a thumbnail image with the text 'BALOO BASIC ADULT LEADER OUTDOOR ORIENTATION'. To the right of the thumbnail, the course details are listed: 'Learning Plan', 'Total time: 35 minutes', 'Last completion: 03/13/2024', and 'Progress: 100%' with a full progress bar. Below this, a 'Description' section states: 'These learning modules provide the knowledge base prior to taking the BALOO Outdoor course and is required training to complete prior to attending the outdoor portion.' At the bottom of the card, there's a 'More' link. Below the main card, there's another section for 'Introduction To Cub Scout Outdoor Program V2', which also shows 'Total time: 5m' and 'Progress: 100%'. A 'Retake' button is visible at the bottom of this section.

Frequently asked questions:

1. Is this an overnighter and do I need to stay the whole time?
A. Yes. You will be sleeping over Saturday night and must attend the entire course.
2. Is camping required?
A. Yes. This is a national training requirement set by Scouting America.
3. Do I bring my own food?
A. Only if you camp Friday night and want breakfast on Saturday. Your registration fee covers Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast.
4. I have dietary needs, do I bring my own food?
A. There is a question on the registration form for any dietary restrictions. Please note the restrictions there, when registering.
5. I have physical restrictions, how can I be accommodated?
A. We will make every effort to accommodate your physical needs. Please note your needs on the registration form and a staff member will be in touch with you before the course.
6. Do I need a tent and what type should I bring?
A. Yes, you will need to bring your own tent or share with another student (consistent with Scouting America policies). Very large tents (6-person or more) are discouraged.
7. What do I need to bring for the weekend?
A. See the packing list below for personal gear.
8. I am an Eagle Scout, can I test out?
A. No. Even though we will be teaching all the skills you learned as an Eagle Scout, the purpose of this training is to teach you how to teach the scouts in your unit.
9. Is a uniform required?
A. This is a uniform activity, so the Field Uniform (Class A) is highly recommended. If you do not have one, please wear scouting-appropriate apparel.

Check In:

Registration opens at 7:30am, at the campsite, although you can check in Friday night if you want to arrive ahead of time. Our program will start at 8:30 am SHARP on Saturday.

Medical Forms:

You must bring your completed medical forms with you to check-in. Medical A&B:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf

Uniform:

As with all training sessions, Scouters are expected to be in uniform on Saturday and Sunday.

Suggested Personal Gear List

- Tent and ground cloth
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad or mattress (this is very important if you'd like to stay warm!)
- Sturdy shoes or hiking boots
- Change of clothes
- Extra socks
- Sleeping attire
- Sun protection (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen)
- Coat or jacket, cap, gloves (for cold weather)
- Rain gear
- Water bottle
- Mess kit or plate, cup, bowl, utensils
- Soap, washcloth, towel
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Camp chair
- Notebook, pen, pencil
- Hand sanitizer
- Medicine
- Daypack
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Pocketknife
- Personal first aid kit

A few nice-to-haves:

- Pillow
- Trash bag
- Insect repellent
- Scouts BSA Handbook (for IOLS students)