

## QUALIFICATIONS

- Registered member of Troop, Crew, Ship or Post
- At least a Second Class Scout (or equivalent)
- Unit leader approval
- Completion of the Introduction to Leadership Skills course for your program is strongly recommended.

## UNIFORM

Participants should arrive in the official Scouting America field uniform of their respective program. Participants are encouraged to wear a Scout-appropriate activity t-shirt under their field uniform for the game-play portion of the training.



## BEAR CLAW STAFF

Bear Claw is presented by youth leaders under the direction of a Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). The staff are graduates of Bear Claw, NYLT, or NAYLE and are often senior members of their Scout units who bring practical experience to support delivery of the syllabus.

The youth staff are guided by a Scoutmaster and a small adult staff. Adult staff members are typically graduates of the Council-level Wood Badge leadership training course.

Graduates are encouraged to return as staff members. Informational meetings are normally held in early January and are announced through the Bear Claw Facebook page, District message groups, and other social media platforms.

# Aquia Episcopal Church

2938 Jefferson Davis Hwy  
Stafford, Virginia 22554

**March 21, 2026**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

### **COURSE FEES: (Early Bird) \$30**

This includes course materials, lunch, Bear Claw graduation, and Bear Claw graduation beads!

### **MORE INFORMATION:**

Mr. Eric Gilgenast  
Bear Claw Scoutmaster  
docndeb91@gmail.com  
443-528-2854



[fb.me/AquiaBearClaw](https://fb.me/AquiaBearClaw)

Bear Claw is limited to 60 participants. Registration will close upon receipt of 60 paid registrations have been received. If you are serious about attending Bear Claw, submit your application and payment as soon as possible. Registration will open in January 2026.

**Scouting America**



**AQUIA DISTRICT**



## **Bear Claw Leadership Training**

**Saturday  
March 21, 2026**

**Aquia Episcopal Church  
2938 Jefferson Davis Hwy  
Stafford, VA 22554**

## WHY BEAR CLAW?

Every youth deserves well-trained leaders. Regardless of program affiliation, Bear Claw provides leadership skill reinforcement that bridges the gap between the ILSx and NYLT programs. The Bear Claw staff also demonstrate that the youth-led Patrol Method works effectively with minimal adult supervision.

Over the course of the training, participants are exposed to six of the eleven leadership skills through facilitated "Buzz Groups" and practical application.

## BEAR CLAW LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Bear Claw is an exciting, action-packed program designed to provide youth members with leadership skills and experiences they can apply in their home units and in other situations requiring leadership of self and others.

Bear Claw is a one-day interactive leadership training event designed by Scouts for Scouts. It bridges the leadership training gap between unit-level Introduction to Leadership Skills (ILSx) and the National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) programs.

Content is delivered by senior-level Scouts in a Troop and Patrol setting. Participants may choose either a Patrol Leader or Senior Patrol Leader track. Throughout the day, all participants will learn how to more effectively lead Scout units using the Patrol Method. They will experience how an effective Scouting program can be executed with minimal adult oversight through proper planning, communication, and team development.



*"The Patrol Method is not a way to operate a ... Scout Troop... it is the only way!"  
Unless the Patrol Method is in operation, you don't really have a ... Scout Troop."*  
-Robert Baden-Powell

## LEADERSHIP TRACKS

Baden-Powell indicated that the most important position in any Troop is the Patrol Leader. The Patrol Leader track is designed for Scouts preparing to fill this role or seeking to improve their Patrol Leader skills. Staff-led Buzz Groups focus on helping Scouts learn and reflect on how these skills can be effectively applied within a Patrol setting. Scouts will be guided to understand the importance of this key position and the impact they can have on the future of those around them.

The Senior Patrol Leader track is designed to help more senior Scouts understand the vital role they play in supporting Patrol Leaders, the importance of planning to overall unit success, and the value of strong communication and association with adult Scout leaders and the broader community.

An Adult Leader track is also offered for Scouters and parents who wish to gain a better understanding of the youth-led Patrol Method and to share ideas and experiences with other leaders.

## LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- Vision
- Problem Solving
- Communicating Well
- E.D.G.E
- Goal Setting
- Resolving Conflict
- Planning
- Ethical Decisions
- Team Development
- Leading Yourself



## SENIOR PATROL LEADER & ADULT LEADER BREAKOUT SESSION

One of the day's highlights occurs when the Senior Patrol Leader and Adult Leader tracks come together to discuss challenges faced on both sides of the fence when implementing the youth-led Patrol Method. Questions may be asked directly or submitted through a "parking lot" generated earlier in the day. This session fosters a greater appreciation and deeper understanding of each group's role in making the youth-led, adult-mentored Patrol Method successful.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Following completion of the Buzz Groups, participants have the opportunity to put their knowledge into practice through a creative lunch exercise, games, and other team-building activities. Participants will also take part in a model Patrol Leaders' Council, Troop meeting, and closing campfire program.



## RECOGNITION/GRADUATION

The final event of the day is the closing campfire. Participants will perform skits, songs, and cheers as Patrols and will receive their Bear Claw graduation certificate, leadership pledge cards, and beads. The beads may be worn as part of the uniform.

**This course is built around the BE-KNOW-DO model of leadership:**

- What a leader must BE
- What a leader must KNOW
- What a leader must DO