

2027 University of Scouting

Class Schedule by Track (Black Pug Bundles)

Organized by track and period using the current UoS course planning schedule. P1 and P2 are 80-minute periods; P3 through P5 are 50-minute periods.

Classes may appear in more than one track when they support more than one learning pathway.

Each track includes a suggested audience to help attendees choose a pathway that best fits their role and interests. Tracks are only a starting point. During registration, you can drop any class that does not interest you and add another available course instead. **Your schedule is fully customizable.**



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Faith - Chaplains & Chaplain Aides

Faith, Care & Chaplaincy

Who should take this track: For unit, district, and council chaplains, youth Chaplain Aides, and leaders who want to better support Scouts through faith, listening, inclusion, and difficult situations.

P1

Chaplains - When Times Get Tough

For Chaplains & Listening Ears: This session will focus on times when things went wrong at events and what trauma compounded had there been a Chaplain on the property. The second half will focus on how to fix this and what types of training can keep Chaplains strong through hard times. Trigger Warning: Serious events that may cause an emotional response will be discussed.



P2

World Religious Overview

For any Cub/Scouts BSA/Venturing Leader or Scout: Find out about other religions from your religious perspective. This course provides basic information about the main religions you may encounter among your Scouts, and how to be cooperatively inclusive.

P3

The Duties of the Religious Emblems Coordinator

Training for Religious Emblems Coordinators, Unit Chaplains, Scout leaders, and Church leaders on promoting, maintaining, and tracking the Religious Emblems Programs at the unit, district, and council level.

P4

The Unit Scout Chaplain & The Unit Scout Chaplain Aide (P4 & P5)

For Chaplains & Aides: Learn why every unit should have a Chaplain and what he/she does. Find out how the Unit Scout Chaplain and the Unit Scout Chaplain Aide interact as well as what the responsibilities of the youth position are.

P5

The Unit Scout Chaplain & The Unit Scout Chaplain Aide (P4 & P5)

For Chaplains & Aides: Learn why every unit should have a Chaplain and what he/she does. Find out how the Unit Scout Chaplain and the Unit Scout Chaplain Aide interact as well as what the responsibilities of the youth position are.

Faith - Religious Emblem Coordinators

Religious Emblems & Interfaith Awareness

Who should take this track: For Religious Emblems Coordinators, chaplains, unit leaders, and faith-community partners who promote religious emblems and help units understand and respect different faith traditions.

P1

No class assigned. Choose another available course that interests you.

P2

World Religious Overview

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P3

The Duties of the Religious Emblems Coordinator

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P4

No class assigned. Choose another available course that interests you.

P5

No class assigned. Choose another available course that interests you.



Cub Scout Adventure Zone

Cub Scout Adventure Zone: All-Day Youth Program

Who should take this track: This full-day program is designed specifically for registered Cub Scout youth who want a day of hands-on, age-appropriate activities focused on Scouting skills, teamwork, and fun.

Youth must be registered youth with Cub Scout program.

Adult registration: Adults should not register for the Cub Scout Adventure Zone. Parents and adult leaders should register for their own University of Scouting classes and must remain on site while their Cub Scout participates in the program.

P1 – P5

Cub Scout Adventure Zone Program

This all-day program for Cub Scouts is designed to engage youth in hands-on, age-appropriate activities that support Scouting skills, teamwork, and fun.



Cub Scout - Committee Member

Building a Strong Pack Behind the Scenes

Who should take this track: For Pack Committee Chairs and members, Cubmasters, and other adults who help with pack operations, family engagement, recruiting, communication, and long-range support.

P1

From Pack to Troop: A Guide for New and Prospective Parents and Leaders

Whether you're considering Scouts BSA, preparing an Arrow of Light Scout for crossover, or are a parent or leader new to a troop, this session will help you understand how the troop program works. Explore the patrol method and youth leadership, the roles of Scouts and adults, advancement, troop organization, parent expectations, meetings and campouts, and ways adults can support Scouts without taking over their experience. Leave with a clearer picture of what makes Scouts BSA different and what families and leaders can expect during their first months in a troop.



P2

Pack Committee Operations Plan

Learn about best practices to guide a Pack Committee through an 'Ideal Year of Scouting', including agendas and timelines your Pack can use immediately to guide the way.

P3

Family Involvement in Cub Scouting

Encourage other family members (tag-alongs) and friends to join Scouting activities. Show siblings and friends how much fun Pack outings can be and encourage them to join the unit.

P4

Digital Citizenship (how to responsibly use electronic devices)

Scouts are growing up in a connected world — but with great tech comes great responsibility. This session explores how to use electronic devices, apps, and social media safely, respectfully, and in a way that aligns with Scouting values. This class encourages discussion and builds awareness of how to model good digital habits in the unit, at camp, and at home.

P5

Spring Into Cub Scouting: Recruiting Families Before Summer

Don't wait until fall to grow your pack. Explore ways to use spring recruiting to welcome new families before summer and give them an immediate connection to Cub Scouting. Learn practical strategies for promoting your pack, reaching prospective families, and using spring and summer activities to build engagement. Participants will leave with ideas they can use to strengthen recruiting efforts and start the next program year with new families already involved.

Cub Scout - Den Leaders / Cub Master

Leading Cub Scouts Day to Day

Who should take this track: For Den Leaders, Assistant Den Leaders, Cubmasters, Assistant Cubmasters, and other adults who work directly with Cub Scouts and want practical ideas for meetings, behavior, ceremonies, faith, and fun.

P1

Cub Scout Games

Learn about easy and fun games with a purpose for a single Den or the entire Pack. The Bear Carnival is an ideal time for kids to teach other Scouts how to complete the game and hand out inexpensive gifts to all levels of players.

P2

Behaviour Management Techniques

Learn how to control 5 to 11-year-olds with management techniques and engage older Scouts to help reinforce behaviour expectations in both Den and Pack meetings.

P3

Cub Scouts - Duty to God

For any Cub Leader or Scout: Everything you need to know about the Cub Scouts and Duty to God. This training incorporates Duty to God for all Rank advancement/Belt Loops, with Pack/Den programming.

P4

Flag Etiquette for Units, Courts of Honor, and Campouts

Build confidence in properly presenting and respecting the U.S. flag during Scouting activities. This course covers practical flag etiquette for unit meetings, courts of honor, campouts, and other ceremonies, including displaying, raising, lowering, folding, and retiring the flag. Participants will also review common mistakes and ways to help Scouts take an active role in meaningful and respectful flag ceremonies.

P5

Cub Scout Skits, Run-Ons, and Cheers

Learn how to develop easy, fun, and simple performances with your Dens to get kids motivated and comfortable in front of an audience.



Cub Scout Activities

Planning Memorable Cub Scout Experiences

Who should take this track: For leaders who plan den and pack activities, outings, camping, special events, and adventures, especially those looking for practical program ideas, event planning tools, and ways to document the experience.

P1

Thrifty Pack Events That Cubs Remember

Hands-on event-design class using low-cost, donated, recycled, or repurposed materials, such as recycled raingutter regatta, upcycled leathercraft from belts, cardboard derby, DIY carnival games, stomp rockets, obstacle courses, and simple service projects.

P2

Photography Tips

Learn practical techniques for taking stronger photos at Scouting events, including composition, lighting, action shots, and choosing images that tell the story of the event. Participants will put those techniques into practice by photographing activities around University of Scouting and submitting selected images for event documentation and possible promotional use.

P3

Backyard/Pack Camping Program & Standards

Learn about expectations, what to bring, and how to camp as a family or with the Pack. Hear about best practices for planning a successful first night outside.

P4

Plan and Run a Bicycle Rodeo

Learn how to plan a fun, family-friendly bicycle rodeo for a Cub Scout pack, district event, school partnership, or recruiting activity. This class will walk participants through an age-appropriate event format that combines bicycle and helmet checks with simple skill stations such as starting, stopping, turning, balancing, hand signals, obstacle navigation, and safe riding awareness.

P5

Plan the Adventure: Trip Planning for Scouts and Leaders

Every great adventure starts with a plan and Scouts should be in the driver's seat. This session equips adults with the tools to plan safe, exciting, and Scout-led outings from day hikes to multi-day campouts. Participants will walk through a step-by-step planning process and leave with templates and ideas to return to their packs.



Doctoral Candidates

Doctoral Candidate Workshop

Who should take this track: For participants working toward a University of Scouting doctoral degree who need support developing, refining, or completing their thesis/project and preparing for final review.

P1

Thesis/Project Development

This course helps candidates understand the thesis or dissertation project concept required to earn your Doctoral Degree. Learn about how to determine your topic parameters, review other completed thesis papers and learn about needed formats and documentation.

P2

No class assigned. Choose another available course that interests you.

P3

No class assigned. Choose another available course that interests you.

P4

Thesis Workshop

This course enables the candidate to solidify their specific thesis or project topic. There is open discussion concerning definitions and project limits for each candidate as well as guidance toward the development of your thesis idea. Encouragement and hands-on personal support are substantial features discussed.

P5

The Doctors Are In

This course will give candidates insight into the process of this year's Doctoral recipients. Their advice on how they worked to complete their dissertation is always valuable and can help any Doctoral candidate to avoid potential pitfalls.



DOCTORAL

ADVANCED LEARNING
GREATER IMPACT

T.C.S. - Starting Strong in Troop Life: A Guide for Families & Leaders

Starting Strong in Troop Life

Who should take this track: For new and prospective Scouts BSA families, Scoutmasters and assistants, committee members, and other troop leaders who want to strengthen onboarding, advancement, youth leadership, communication, and the transition from Cub Scouts.



**TROOPS, CREWS
& SHIPS**

EXPLORE • LEAD • SERVE

P1

From Pack to Troop: A Guide for New and Prospective Parents and Leaders

Whether you're considering Scouts BSA, preparing an Arrow of Light Scout for crossover, or are a parent or leader new to a troop, this session will help you understand how the troop program works. Explore the patrol method and youth leadership, the roles of Scouts and adults, advancement, troop organization, parent expectations, meetings and campouts, and ways adults can support Scouts without taking over their experience. Leave with a clearer picture of what makes Scouts BSA different and what families and leaders can expect during their first months in a troop.

P2

Courage Before Confidence

Confidence is usually the result of repeatedly attempting hard things, not a prerequisite for trying them. The greatest barrier to growth is not failure – it's the fear of failing. Today's youth are increasingly reluctant to take risks that might lead to embarrassment, disappointment, or imperfect results. Yet, Scouting offers one of the few places where young people can safely attempt difficult things, struggle, fail, recover, and discover what they are truly capable of – if the adults around them understand the importance of these lessons and create a safe environment in our troops and crews for them to dare and thrive.

P3

First Class Emphasis

Learn why the first 12–18 months are critical to Scout retention and long-term growth. This session explores how structured advancement planning, new-Scout patrols, and Troop Guides help youth reach First Class through hands-on, outdoor, patrol-based experiences. Topics include pacing advancement without rushing, fostering Scout-led progress, and naturally integrating First Class skills into troop adventures.

P4

Scout Smarter: A Quick Tour of Free Library Resources

Discover free digital resources available through public libraries that can help Scouts and leaders find information, explore interests, complete advancement requirements, and plan engaging unit activities. This fast-paced tour will show you where to find useful resources and how to begin putting them to work in your Scouting program.

P5

SPL-Scoutmaster Partnership; Leading Together

This course offers practical tools for developing a productive, respectful, and growth-centered working relationship between the Senior Patrol Leader and the Scoutmaster. Explore how to balance guidance with independence, communicate effectively across age and experience, and create an environment where youth leadership thrives. Ideal for adult leaders and aspiring youth leaders.

T.C.S. - Outdoor Program Builder

Build a Stronger Outdoor Program

Who should take this track: For troop, crew, and ship leaders, outdoor coordinators, activity leaders, and experienced Scouters who want practical ideas for navigation, cooking, paddling, conservation partnerships, and backpacking.

P1

Maps, Compass & GPS

Build confidence in teaching one of Scouting's core outdoor skills: navigation. This course offers hands-on methods for helping Scouts master map reading, compass use, and GPS technology. Learn practical techniques for skill instruction at troop meetings, campouts, and high-adventure treks.



P2

Back Country Cooking: Freeze-dried and Beyond

Discover the essentials of backcountry meal prep through demonstrations, discussion, and hands-on interaction. Topics include stoves, fuels, cookware, water purification, and most importantly foods! Bring your recipes and gear ideas to share or just enjoy the demonstrations.

P3

Planning a Canoe or Kayak Outing; Locations, Logistics, Safety, and Fun

Whether you're planning a half-day float or a multi-day trek, this course will guide you through the key elements of organizing a safe, memorable paddle. Explore where to learn paddling skills, where to find great paddling locations, and how to ensure compliance with Scouting America's aquatics safety policies.

P4

Partnering with Indiana DNR: Service, Education, and Outdoor Adventures

Unlock the vast potential of collaboration between your unit and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)! This course will provide a comprehensive overview of how to engage with DNR properties and programs across Indiana. Whether seeking service projects, educational experiences, or exciting outdoor adventures, the Indiana DNR offers many opportunities to enrich your troop's program and foster environmental stewardship in your youth.

P5

Ultralight Backpacking

This course covers gear selection, meal planning, and packing strategies that reduce weight without sacrificing safety or comfort. Participants will explore ways to teach Scouts how lighter loads improve mobility, extend trek range, and build confidence in the backcountry.

General Technology

Digital Tools for Stronger Scouting

Who should take this track: For leaders in any Scouting program who want to use technology more effectively for communication, storytelling, event promotion, documentation, digital citizenship, and access to free community resources.



GENERAL STUDIES

IDEAS TODAY
STRONGER TOMORROW

P1

Beyond the Books: Library Resources to Support Your Scouting Program

Public libraries offer much more than books. Explore free resources available through the Indianapolis Public Library and libraries across Indiana that can support unit activities, advancement, merit badges, research, and program planning. Participants will work through hands-on activities using library resources and learn practical ways to connect those resources to real Scouting needs.

P2

Create Event Marketing with free online tools (Canva, Suno, and AI)

Learn how to use Canva, Suno, and AI tools to create effective promotional materials for Scouting events and activities. Explore the difference between generative tools that create new text, images, or audio and non-generative tools that help organize, edit, and refine existing content. Participants will practice a simple workflow for creating event graphics and supporting promotional content while considering responsible use, copyright, Scouting branding, and youth protection.

P3

Scribe with a Smartphone: Using Photos & Videos to Tell Your Unit's Story

Today's Scribes do more than take notes — they can capture a unit's spirit through photos, videos, and digital storytelling. This session teaches how to use technology to document meetings, events, and campouts in a respectful, fun, and helpful way. Participants will learn basic media skills, ethical considerations, and how to organize content to support newsletters, social media, and court of honor slideshows.

P4

Digital Citizenship (how to responsibly use electronic devices)

Scouts are growing up in a connected world — but with great tech comes great responsibility. This session explores how to use electronic devices, apps, and social media safely, respectfully, and in a way that aligns with Scouting values. This class encourages discussion and builds awareness of how to model good digital habits in the unit, at camp, and at home.

P5

Social Media and Scouting: What's Appropriate? What's Effective?

Covers how Scouting leaders, parents, and volunteers can use social media responsibly and effectively. Participants will learn what content is appropriate to share, strategies for building engagement, and ways to promote Scouting in a positive, youth-focused manner.