

Eagle Spirit 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](https://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.

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. No. Your meals and Cracker Barrel/Smores(Saturday Evening) will be provided.

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 ten 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. A Class B or any Scouting shirt is perfectly appropriate. We will be camping outdoors.

Check In: Registration opens at 4:00pm at the entrance to Adventure Point on Saturday.

Our program will start at 5:00 pm 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

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, Jacket, or Hoodie (for cold weather - it's Michigan - you never know!)
- Rain gear
- Water bottle
- 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)