

National Youth Leadership Training

Northern Lights Council



2027 Leader Guide

Welcome to National Youth Leadership Training!

NYLT is one of Scouting's premier youth leadership programs. Throughout the week, participants build confidence, strengthen communication and teamwork skills, develop lasting friendships, and discover how to lead with purpose both within and beyond Scouting. Many parents and unit leaders tell us they see noticeable growth in their Scout's maturity, initiative, and enthusiasm after attending NYLT.

We are excited that your Scout has chosen to take part in this outstanding leadership experience. And thank you for entrusting us with your Scout during this important experience as well. Our staff is committed to providing a safe, positive, challenging, and memorable environment where every participant can learn and grow.

Please review this guide carefully with your Scout before arriving at course.

Course Leadership Contacts

If questions or concerns arise before or during the course, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the NYLT adult leadership team. We are happy to assist participants and families as needed throughout the week.

Course Director

Chris Ray
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218-303-6116

Assistant Course Director

Jesse Grabow
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Staff Advisor

Ryan Hansen
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Please identify yourself and your scout when calling, texting, or emailing, and allow up to 24 hours for a response.

What to Expect at NYLT

NYLT is an active, hands-on leadership experience built around teamwork and outdoor adventure. Participants are assigned to patrols composed of Scouts from across the council who are similar in age and experience level. Scouts from the same troop are intentionally placed in different patrols to encourage new friendships, fresh perspectives, and independent leadership growth.

Throughout the week, patrols work together to:

- Cook and clean together;
- Solve problems and complete challenges;
- Participate in leadership instruction and activities;
- Practice communication and teamwork;
- Experience outdoor living and camping together.

Instruction is delivered using the Scouting EDGE method, with participants immediately applying new skills through games, activities, and patrol competitions. Every day is active and full of opportunities for growth, and the course culminates in patrols presenting about their "Quest for the Meaning of Leadership."

Participants should expect a full outdoor camping experience in a variety of weather conditions. Please help your Scout come prepared for both warm and cool temperatures, rain, and outdoor activity.

Before You Attend: Participant Readiness

NYLT is most successful when participants genuinely want to be part of the experience.

Occasionally, Scouts attend because they feel pressured by parents or unit leaders, even when they are not personally interested or ready. In our experience, these Scouts often struggle to engage fully in the course experience and may negatively impact their patrol's teamwork and morale.

We encourage families and unit leaders to have an honest conversation before the course begins. If your Scout is uncertain about attending, please contact us. We are happy to discuss expectations and help determine whether NYLT is the right fit at this time.

Arrival, Check-In, and Availability

Check-In Information

Check-in begins at **8:00 a.m. on Monday morning**. All participants should plan to arrive and be fully checked in by 9:00 a.m.

A parent, guardian, or driver should plan to remain with the participant until:

1. Medical forms have been reviewed by the course medic; and
2. The initial check-in process has been completed.

Please ensure your Scout brings:

- Parts A, B, & C of the Annual Health and Medical Record completed and signed;
- Any required medication in original containers.

Early Arrivals

Early check-in begins at **6:00 p.m. on Sunday evening**. Participants are asked not to arrive before this time unless prior arrangements have been made directly with course leadership as staff members will be actively engaged in course preparation, campsite setup, and final planning activities throughout the day.

Please note:

- Dinner will not be provided Sunday; Participants should arrive having already eaten;
- Monday breakfast will be provided;
- Accommodations will be available Sunday night before the official course opening on Monday.

Late Arrivals

Participants are strongly encouraged to arrive on time. The first hours of NYLT are very important for building patrol spirit, teamwork, and interpersonal relationships. We do understand that unavoidable circumstances occasionally arise, however. If your Scout will arrive late, please contact the Course Director, Assistant Course Director, or Staff Advisor as soon as possible.

Leaving During the Week

NYLT is designed as a continuous, immersive leadership experience. Once the course begins, participants are generally not permitted to leave and return during the week except

in emergencies. This includes not allowing departures for sporting events, family activities, and other scheduled commitments that may delay their arrival or hasten their departure. Please ensure your Scout is able to fully commit to the entire course before attending.

Visitation Policy

We discourage visits during the week as there will be limited time to interact with your Scout. The NYLT schedule is intentionally structured to help participants build independence, teamwork, and patrol unity. Visits from family members or unit leaders can unintentionally disrupt the patrol experience and the course schedule.

Parents and families are warmly invited to attend the Closing Ceremony and Luncheon on Friday.

Early Departures

Participants are expected to remain for the entire course, including campsite cleanup and patrol responsibilities on Saturday. Each patrol is responsible for packing equipment and cleaning its campsite before departure. Early departures place an unfair burden on remaining patrol members and interrupt the shared course experience.

The course concludes following the Closing Ceremony on Saturday, June 12. Participants may depart any time after approximately 6:30 p.m.

Personal Equipment

Participants must arrive fully prepared with their own personal equipment. Because Scouts are assigned to different patrols from other members of their home troop, it is not practical to share equipment with friends or troopmates during the week. Please review the packing list carefully and ensure your Scout arrives prepared for a full week of outdoor camping and activity.

Personal Hygiene & Laundry

A Scout is Clean. Because NYLT is an active outdoor experience, participants should expect to get dirty during the week. Opportunities for showers are generally available before 6:30 a.m. or after 9:30 p.m. due to the busy course schedule. There will be a rotating schedule for participants for showering.

Laundry facilities will be available, along with detergent and quarters if needed. However, participants are encouraged to bring enough clean clothing for the entire week whenever possible.

Please help your Scout remember:

- Toiletries and shower supplies;
- Towels;
- Weather-appropriate clothing;
- Extra socks and clothing layers.

Homesickness & Participant Support

Some participants experience homesickness during the week, especially during the first few days. Our staff is experienced in helping Scouts work through these feelings in a positive and supportive way. One goal of NYLT is helping young people develop confidence and independence as leaders. We encourage families to discuss this in advance and to encourage participants to remain engaged with their patrol and the course experience. If concerns arise, staff members will work closely with the participant and contact parents when appropriate.

Medication & Medical Care

All medications must be checked in with the course medic during arrival. Requirements include:

- Medications must remain in original containers;
- Participants are responsible for reporting to the medic at the appropriate times for medication distribution;
- The OTC Medication Approval Form should be completed and brought to course.

Emergency medications or devices, including inhalers, insulin supplies, or bee sting medication, may remain with the participant as appropriate.

If a participant becomes ill or injured:

- They may temporarily rest away from their patrol;
- Parents/guardians will be contacted if symptoms persist or worsen;

- Serious illnesses or injuries will receive immediate medical attention, and parents/guardians will be contacted promptly.
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Family Troop Model and Patrol Assignments

National Youth Leadership Training courses that include both male and female participants now operate using Scouting America's Family Troop model. This approach allows all participants to be part of a single NYLT troop while continuing to follow all Safeguarding Youth policies and Scouting's Barriers to Abuse requirements.

Depending on course enrollment and participant demographics, patrols may be organized as single-gender patrols, co-ed patrols, or a combination of both. Patrol assignments are made by course leadership with the goal of creating positive learning environments that support teamwork, leadership development, and participant safety.

Families who have questions or preferences regarding patrol composition are encouraged to contact the Course Director or Staff Advisor before the course begins. While specific patrol assignments cannot be guaranteed, reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate requests whenever possible.

Course Conduct & Expectations

NYLT is built upon the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Every participant deserves a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment. Accordingly, all participants are expected to:

- Treat others with dignity and respect;
- Follow the Scout Oath and Scout Law at all times;
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior toward fellow participants and staff;
- Contribute positively to their patrol and the course community;
- Adhere to the NYLT Course Code of Conduct.

Discrimination, harassment, bullying, threatening behavior, or offensive conduct will not be tolerated. Examples of prohibited behavior include:

- Derogatory comments or jokes;
- Threatening language or intimidation;
- Offensive or discriminatory remarks;
- Inappropriate physical contact;
- Displaying offensive materials or images.

Participants are expected to report concerns involving discrimination, harassment, or unsafe behavior to course leadership immediately. Scouts who struggle to meet expectations will first receive coaching and counseling from staff. However, serious or repeated violations of the Code of Conduct may result in dismissal from the course. If a participant must be sent home, parents or guardians will be contacted and responsible for transportation.

Problems During the Course

Our goal is for every participant to have a safe, meaningful, and positive experience.

When challenges arise, participants are encouraged to speak first with:

1. Their Troop Guide; or
2. Another trusted youth or adult staff member.

Staff members work quickly to address concerns involving behavior, conflict, safety, or participant wellbeing.

Closing Ceremony & Banquet

Parents, guardians, and unit leaders are invited to attend the Closing Ceremony and Banquet on Saturday.

Ceremony Information

- Begins promptly at 4:30 p.m.
- Located at the Butler Outpost Dining Hall

Following the ceremony, and a brief closing event, there will be time for:

- Photos;
- Conversations with staff and participants;
- Informal questions and celebration.

Participants are expected to depart by approximately 6:30 p.m. after final cleanup responsibilities are completed.

If you plan to attend the banquet, please notify course leadership so an accurate meal count can be prepared.

After NYLT

When your Scout returns home, take time to talk with them about their experience. Ask them about:

- Their patrol;
- Leadership lessons learned;
- Challenges they overcame;
- Goals they want to pursue after NYLT.

Participants receive notebooks, handouts, and leadership resources throughout the week. Encourage your Scout to keep and use these materials as future references.

Most importantly, help your Scout find opportunities to practice and apply their leadership skills in Scouting, school, service, athletics, and everyday life.

Leadership learned at NYLT extends far beyond camp.

Participant Equipment List

The official uniform for NYLT is the current Scouts BSA or Venturer Summer Uniform. For personal comfort and performance of the course activities, all participants will need to have the required items listed below.

REQUIRED ITEMS:

- Full Uniform (As required by home unit)
- Uniform Shirt (recommend 2)
- Uniform Shorts/pants (recommend 2)
- Uniform socks (recommend at least 3 pairs)
- Watch/time piece
- Scout T-shirts (Up to 5 recommended)
- Underwear (recommend 5)
- Shoes/boots suitable for hiking (extra pair of shoes in case they get wet)
- Rain gear (poncho, rain suit, etc.)
- Sweatshirt/ jacket/sweater for cool nights
- **Scouting 10 essentials**
- Sleep wear (as desired)
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, towels, washcloths, deodorant, comb, toothbrush/toothpaste, etc.)
- Personal Tent
- Required medications, only enough for the week, in original bottles/packaging, placed in zip lock bag labeled with camper's name.
- Backpack adequate for carrying gear on an overnight hike
- Mess kit (to include fork/knife/spoon)
- Canteen/Water bottle
- Ground Cloth (Waterproof)
- Sleeping bag
- Two Pens & a steno-style notebook
- Two plastic yard trash bags (to keep items dry)
- Two each 7" x 10" ziplock bags to keep items dry

OPTIONAL (RECOMMENDED):

- Pillow
- Air mattress/foam pad
- Sunglasses
- Shower Flip Flops
- Non-aerosol (only) insect repellent
- Non-aerosol (only) sunscreen
- Long sleeve shirt
- Work Gloves
- Lip balm

ITEMS NOT TO BRING:

To help ensure a safe, focused, and enjoyable course experience, participants should not bring snacks, aerosol cans, coolers, radios, gaming devices, fireworks, tobacco products, beverages, large amounts of cash, or non-Scout reading materials. Participants should also refrain from bringing any item that is inconsistent with the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

We recognize that mobile phones are a normal part of everyday life and can be useful for travel and emergency communication. However, one of the goals of NYLT is to help participants fully engage with their patrol, the program, and the leadership experience. For this reason, participants are generally expected to limit phone use to essential purposes only.

To help participants remain fully engaged in the NYLT experience, activities such as gaming, social media, streaming, and other recreational phone use are not permitted during the course. Participants who use their phones inappropriately will first receive reminders and opportunities to correct the behavior. However, continued misuse after multiple warnings may result in the participant being required to surrender their phone to course leadership for the remainder of the course.

Participants bring electronic devices at their own risk. The NYLT staff and Northern Lights Council are not responsible for devices that are lost, stolen, or damaged during travel to, from, or during the course.

Luggage and Backpacks

Participants may choose any type of luggage or duffel bag for transporting their gear to and from camp. Because camping will take place in tents and weather conditions can vary, we strongly recommend packing clothing and personal items in waterproof bags or containers within your luggage. In addition, every participant must bring a backpack suitable for carrying personal gear and required equipment during the overnight hike.

Cooking Equipment

All patrol cooking equipment and related supplies will be provided by the NYLT course. Participants do not need to bring their own cookware or cooking utensils.

NYLT Course Code of Conduct Free from Discrimination and Harassment

The NYLT Code of Conduct is a shared commitment to creating a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment for everyone at the course. During the first day of NYLT, participants will review and discuss the following NYLT Code of Conduct with their patrol and Troop Guide to ensure they understand both the expectations and the reasons behind them. Following this discussion, each participant will be asked to sign the acknowledgment form, affirming their commitment to uphold these standards throughout the course.

I understand that:

1. Everyone has the right to live and study in an environment free from discrimination or harassment based on race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, national origin, or citizenship.
2. It is my responsibility not to engage in behaviors that constitute discrimination or harassment.
3. It is my responsibility to report instances of discrimination or harassment (directed at me or another participant to my NYLT Course Director or any adult on my NYLT course.

Comments and conduct that might be perceived as offensive include:

1. Using vulgar language.
2. Threatening another participant or staff member or making derogatory comments.
3. Mocking or telling jokes based on race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, national origin, or citizenship.
4. Displaying degrading photographs, posters, or objects.
5. Reading out loud about degrading acts.
6. Touching (e.g., brushing, patting, hugging, rubbing, pinching) staff members or participants.
7. Staring or leering at participants or staff members.