

Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) FAQ

What is BALOO?

BALOO stands for Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation. It's the introductory training Cub Scout leaders complete before taking Cub Scouts on an Den or Pack overnight camping trip.

Leaders who complete BALOO training are better prepared to plan a den or pack overnight events. You'll learn how to make camping activities and outings fun. You'll discover how to keep your Cub Scouts safe and entertained. And you'll learn how to plan an event that's rooted firmly in Cub Scouting's principles. Successful experiences in the outdoors make Cub Scouts — and their parents — more likely to keep coming back.

How do I take BALOO?

BALOO consists of two components: online and hands-on. You'll need to complete both — in order — to qualify as a "Trained" Cub Scout outdoor leader and receive the BALOO recognition patch.

1. Online component: The online portion of BALOO is available at the BSA Learn Center at my.scouting.org. The goal of the online portion is to make the best use of time to allow leaders to experience as much as possible during the practical hands-on training. Leaders should complete the [online 35-minute course](#) before attending hands-on course.
2. Practical, hands-on component: This course is designed as an introduction to the Cub Scout outdoor program for leaders interested in adding a camping component to their Pack activities.

Is this training required for my Cubmaster or Den Leader scouting position?

This training is not required to be a fully trained Cubmaster or Den Leader. However, the BSA requires that you have at least one BALOO-trained adult on every Cub Scout den or pack overnight outdoor event. That includes pack camping and Webelos den overnights.

When is the BALOO practical portion of the course being held?

The course is on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 8:00 AM to Sunday, April 13 at 12:00 PM. We will be starting at 8:00 AM sharp so please arrive no later than 7:45 AM to sign in and be ready to go.

Where is the course being held?

The course is being held at [Butte Creek Ranch](#). We will be doing as much of the training outside as is possible.

What is the cost?

The cost of the course is \$35.

Are meals included?

The course covers Saturday continental breakfast, Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, Saturday cracker barrel, Sunday breakfast and snacks.

Most important: will there be coffee?

Yes! Coffee, Tea, and water will be available along with snacks.

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What if I am vegetarian, vegan, or have other dietary needs?

We will do our best to accommodate you but can only do so if you let us know ahead of time. Please send an email to Tim Giorgi at tgorgi@optsolutions.com explaining any dietary needs/preferences before Monday, 4/7/24.

Do I need to be a registered leader to attend?

Not at all! This is also a great course to send new scout parents to help them understand the Cub Scout program. It will also help you identify potential future leaders for your unit. Note that all participants must be registered adult leaders to attend.

Can I come to Butte Creek Friday evening?

Yes. Staff will be there starting Friday afternoon and mini-daks will be available to use Friday night. Note that no meals are provided until Saturday morning so you will need to bring your own food for Friday evening. Also, you will need to set up and sleep in a tent for Saturday evening as this is part of the course curriculum.

How do I register?

Registering for the hands-on course is through Black Pug, the council's new reservation website.

I saw that IOLS is also being taught that weekend. Can I earn certificates from both?

While about 75% of the information is the same, the BSA does not permit the courses to be combined where participants can earn both certificates.

What gear should I bring?

Note you will be sleeping overnight in your own tent on the Butte Creek Parade Grounds.

- [Medical Form – part A & B](#)
- Tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad
- Scout Uniform (wear please!), sturdy shoes, change of clothes, sleeping attire
- Mess kit, water bottle, soap, washcloth, towel
- Comfortable camp chair
- Notebook, pen or pencil
- Warm coat, cap, gloves, and raingear
- [Cub Scout Six Essentials](#)

Additional Questions

For additional questions, please contact Tim Giorgi at 503-708-7745 or tgorgi@optsolutions.com