

Introduction To Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS) FAQ

What is being taught?

Introduction To Outdoor Leadership Skills a fun-filled program of hands-on skills training in the outdoors, designed to help you master basic camp skills. It is designed to provide Scouters with the confidence to take youth into the outdoors.

Instructors will help you learn how to set up camp, cook, and work with woods tools. You'll also learn about ropes, map reading and compass skills, hiking and packing techniques, outdoor ethics, and many other topics.

How does this fit into being a “trained” Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster?

To be a “trained” Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster requires completing the online Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster courses as outlined in [BSA’s Position Trained Requirements](#). The IOLS Course (S11) completes the training. It is highly recommended that course participants complete the online training prior to taking the IOLS course.

When is the course being held?

The course is on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 8:00 AM to Sunday, April 12 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.

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 indicate this on your reservation.

Do I need to be a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster to attend?

Not at all! This is also a great course to send new scout parents to help them understand the Scouts BSA 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.

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Also, you will need to set up and sleep in a tent for Saturday evening as this is part of the course curriculum. You may set up your tent Friday evening if you wish - just check in with a staff member on where the tents are to be placed.

How do I register?

Registering for the course is through Black Pug, the council's reservation website.

I saw that BALOO 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 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
- [Scout BSA's Ten Essentials](#)

Additional Questions

For additional questions, please contact Tim Giorgi at 503-708-7745 or tim.giorgi@gmail.com