



University of Scouting 2026

January 24, 2026
Glenwood Church of Christ
Tyler, TX



Class Catalog



College of Cub Scouting – Dean: Sarah Anderson

Cub Scouts 101

Instructor: Melisa LeBlanc

Get the lowdown on how Cub Scouting works, what to expect, and what you can do to help your scout and pack succeed. Maybe this is your first time in scouting or maybe it's been awhile and you're ready for a refresh or want to know what's changed. This session will give an overview of the Cub Scouting experience.

Tips for a Great Pack

Instructor: Sarah Anderson

Come learn from an experienced Cub Scouter who has "been there, done that" on what you can do to create a great pack. This includes topics such as encouraging cubs to wear their uniforms properly, ensuring parent participation, encouraging recruiting and retention in your pack, and developing and retaining trained leaders.

What's in a Cub Scout Leader's Backpack?

Instructor: Brooke Kinsman

Every Cub Scout Leader needs the essentials, but what about the extras that turn an ordinary den meeting into an amazing one? In this session we will unpack the tools, tricks, and resources that leaders could keep on hand to make meetings run smoothly and keep Cub Scouts engaged. Beyond the basic six essentials, you will discover simple items you can keep in your leader backpack that translate into fun, flexible, and memorable den adventures week after week.

Camping with Cubs

Instructor: Bob Watson

How to keep it fun, safe and age-appropriate (plus what gear actually matters).

Pinewood Derby: From Start to Finish**Instructor: Nathan Bishop**

This course takes you step-by-step through planning, organizing, and executing a successful Pinewood Derby — from kit distribution to awarding trophies. Learn how to create a fair, exciting, and memorable event for Scouts and families.

How to Teach the Whittling Chip**Instructor: Jerl May**

Learn how to introduce important pocket knife-handling skills to Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts. In this class we will cover how to teach knife safety to Bears and Webelos, as well as how to sharpen knives.

Being Prepared for Recruitment**Instructor: Brad Richardson**

If you've ever needed some recruitment ideas for your pack, this is a class you don't want to miss. Come learn about materials to use for recruitment along with ideas for events and strategies to make your event successful.

Beyond Basic Leader Training**Instructor: Sam Learner**

Every Adult volunteer must complete Safeguarding Youth Training, then what? Every adult leader position has training requirements for that individual to be considered "Trained" for that position. These trainings are designed to provide an adult leader with the knowledge and skills set to benefit their unit. This course will provide you the information on what you need and where to find it to be the Trained Leader your unit deserves.

Best Ever Blue and Gold Banquets**Instructor: Sarah Anderson**

How to have the best Cub Scout birthday ever with themes, decorations, ceremonies and more! This class covers planning, organizing, and presentation.

STEM for Cubs**Instructor: Brooke Kinsman**

STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) is built right into the Cub Scout program; sometimes leaders just need to see how! In this hands-on workshop we will explore simple, low-prep activities that bring Adventures and electives to life through STEM. Leaders will try out a few activities themselves and leave with ready-to-use ideas for every Cub Scout rank. Bring your curiosity (and maybe a willingness to get messy). You'll leave with practical activities that connect fun experiments to Cub Scout advancement.

Knotted Up: Teaching Knots to Cub Scouts

Instructor: Jerl May

Come learn how to excite your youth about tying knots and how to apply scouting's EDGE methods to Cub Scout knot instruction. Participants will learn one Cub Scout knot and obtain great resources for continued learning.

A-Hiking We Will Go

Instructor: Bob Watson

Cub Scout Hikes and Hiking Youth come to Scouting for many reasons; one of which includes experiencing the great outdoors. Join us for a discussion of how to include hiking as an integral part of your Cub Scouting experience, starting from Lion/Tigers, and building skills and increasing challenges appropriate for each den level. Experiences and examples will be shared and discussed, and how to include Scout education and Adventure requirements in each hike.



College of Scouts – Dean: Robert Rector

WEBELOS-to-Scout Transition

Instructor: Robert Rector

This session will help Scouters know what is involved with graduating WEBELOS into the Scouts BSA program. Whether you are a Cub Scout, Scouts BSA leader or a member of a committee, you need to know your role in this time in a Scout's life.

First Year Parent Orientation and Engagement

Instructor: Tricia Rector

Join us to learn valuable tools to increase parent engagement. Your first year parents are either very new to Scouting or bringing their expectations from Cub Scouts. Setting the tone and getting them engaged correctly will help both their Scout and the troop.

The EAGLE PROJECT: Navigating Through the Process

Instructor: Chris Norwood

It's time for your Eagle Project! How do I choose one, what is expected of me, what forms do I complete, when do I do it, and where can a Project be completed? Choosing and coordinating an Eagle Project can be quite overwhelming. Serving as an Eagle Project coach can also be challenging. This course will provide the what, when, how, and where's of the Eagle Project, including helpful tips and reminders.

Intro to Wilderness First Aid - Do I Really Need Wilderness First Aid Training?

Instructor: Melissa Miller

We may find ourselves in emergency situations where help is delayed - on a day hike, 50 miler, or even in an urban setting - and basic First Aid training is not enough. We will discuss the difference between Wilderness First Aid and Urban First Aid; how to evaluate the time it will

take for help to arrive; the first aid needed when help will arrive within minutes versus when it is hours or days away; how to evaluate types of injuries and what it will take to get home or to help; where to find resources in unexpected situations; and how to plan for communicating in emergencies when cell phones do not work. Find out if your first aid kit is ready for what you may encounter today or on your next trip.

Scouting Like a Girl: Leading a Girls Troop with Confidence

Instructor: Elizabeth Olson

Running a girls troop comes with its own unique set of challenges—and rewards! In this session, we'll dive into the key differences between girls and boys troops, from navigating interpersonal dynamics to balancing program activities that better fit their interests. We'll also tackle some of the difficulties faced over the past year, like ensuring enough female leaders at events and how to encourage interest in a wide range of merit badges. Whether your Scouts lean toward arts and crafts or are ready to explore new adventures, this class will offer insights and practical tips for building a strong, supportive troop that thrives.

Adventures in Meritorious Service

Instructor: Joseph Mott

This interactive course will be part instruction and part class discussion. We will explore ways to find and complete meaningful and challenging service projects, learn how units can serve individually or together, and why service is important in Scouting.

Adventure Awaits: Geocaching for Scout Leaders

Instructor: Luke Kimbrough

Dive into the exciting world of geocaching! This hands-on class is designed for adult scout leaders looking to incorporate geocaching into their troop activities. You'll learn the basics of GPS navigation, how to find and hide caches, and tips for engaging scouts of all ages in this outdoor treasure-hunting adventure. Whether you're a novice or an experienced "cacher", this class will equip you with the skills and resources to enhance outdoor experiences and foster a love for exploration in your scouts. Get ready to lead your troop on their next great adventure!

Awards Beyond the Ranks

Instructor: Robert Phillips

Scouting offers many, often under promoted, additional awards beyond ranks and merit badges. Sometimes referred to by scouts as "Side Quests", these additional opportunities build on Scouts' interests, develop project development and execution skills, and often showcase Scouting to the local community. Learn about some of the additional awards available and how to earn them.

Paddles Up! Preparing for Your Next Canoe Adventure

Instructor: Ben Houston

Get ready to gear up for adventure! This hands-on course teaches Scouts everything they need to pack, prepare and set up a canoe for an awesome trip on the water. Scouts will learn how to

choose the right equipment, pack a canoe for balance and safety, secure gear for rapids and portages, and stay prepared for changing weather and water conditions.

From dry bags and barrels to maps and safety kits, participants will get real experience loading canoes, organizing group gear, and understanding what it takes to be trek-ready. By the end of the course, Scouts will be outfitting canoes like pros and ready to take on their next paddling challenge with confidence.

Ain't No Mountain High Enough

Instructor: Shana Moland

This session will help identify some barriers that exist in units, specifically at the troop unit, that prevent full participation for scouts with disabilities. We will discuss how to adapt activities, take charge and guide in proactive planning, and be mindfully aware of how to create a space for every scout to participate and succeed, regardless of ability. By the end of this session, you will see that with enough planning and some creative adjustment, there ain't no mountain high enough to prevent our scouts from participating in any of the fun.

Mastering Map and Compass: Essential Skills for Scout Leaders

Instructor: Luke Kimbrough

Equip yourself with the fundamental skills of navigation in this comprehensive map and compass class tailored for adult scout leaders. Learn how to read topographic maps, use a compass for accurate bearings, and navigate in various terrains. This course will enhance your ability to teach scouts essential orienteering skills while building your confidence to lead outdoor adventures. Whether you're prepping for a weekend hike or a multi-day expedition, this class will give you the tools you need to guide your scouts safely and effectively through the wilderness.

Troop/Unit Boards of Review

Instructor: Gordon George

Every rank in Scouts BSA requires a Board of Review for the Scout to progress. Come learn the who, what, when, where, and why of Boards of Review and how they evolve as the Scout moves up the ranks. In this class you will learn the key resources and core principles to guide you to correctly and effectively run a board of review. We will review and discuss as a class commonly-arising scenarios, and learn what to do - and what not to do - to handle each of them. And we will show how Boards of Review support Scouts' progress in the program rather than stand as a barrier to be overcome along the way to earning ranks.



Introductions to Planning a High Adventure Trip

Instructor: Mark Crum

Are you planning a high adventure trip for your scouts? Overwhelmed by the details and amount of information available? This course will go over the basic planning steps for making your High Adventure trip successful. We will go over travel plans, costs, what to do on the way and be able to answer any questions you may have. Perfect for a first time adventure advisor or a parent about to send a scout on their first high adventure trip.

Venturing Crew Rank Advancement and Special Awards: Supporting and Motivating Venturers

Instructor: DeeAnn Kimbrough

Explore the unique rank advancement system in Venturing, along with special awards that recognize Venturers' skills, service, and leadership. This class will cover the core ranks from Venturing to Summit, detailing requirements and award criteria, and also highlight special awards like the Ranger, Quest, and TRUST awards. Learn how to incorporate both rank advancement and special awards into your crew's activities, foster self-led progress, and inspire Venturers to achieve their potential. Perfect for new and experienced advisors, this session equips you with strategies to support and motivate Venturers on their paths to growth and accomplishment.

The Benefits Offered by a Venture Crew

Instructors: Leslie Couch and David Bush

Learn how a Venturing Crew provides young adults, whether they have previous Scouting experience or not, with opportunities for challenging adventures, leadership development, personal growth, community service, and the chance to create their own memorable experiences, all anchored on the foundation of timeless Scouting values.

Wind, Water and Know-How: A Fun Intro to Sailing

Instructor: Stephanie Davis

Ahoy Mateys! Adventure awaits on the water! Come get to know the basics of sailing including terms, how to and all the fun equipment. Singing sea shanty's is optional!



College of General Studies – Dean: Rich Long

Dutch Oven Cooking

Instructor: Robert Rector

This hands-on introductory course teaches Scouts the fundamentals of outdoor Dutch oven cooking – an essential skill for campouts, troop outings, and high-adventure trips. Participants will learn how to safely use charcoal and campfire heat, season and care for the cast-iron cookware, and prepare a variety of beginner friendly meals using time-tested scouting techniques.

Hammock Camping

Instructor: John Dietzel

Hammock camping is taking Scouting by storm. What is hammock camping, and should you take it seriously? Are hammocks really that great? This class provides an introduction on why you might consider hammocks, and discusses equipment, practices, tips, and other resources.

Women in the Wilderness

Instructor: Melissa Miller

Do you have female scouts and are unsure about taking them into the back country? Have you ever wondered how to help your scouts or yourself on trail when it comes to hygiene or monthly cycles. Do you need to learn how to create some backpacking meals for your unit or yourself on a budget? Would you like to know about backpacking gear that is best for trail and long-distance hikes? This class will help address those questions. I will even go over my own personal experience hiking the John Muir Trail and what I learned on my 250-mile hike in 2025.

Canva Design Software Applications for Leaders

Instructors: Sara and Rich Long

Tired of boring flyers and emails that parents ignore? In this hands-on workshop, we will unlock the power of Canva and the BSA Marketing Hub to create eye-catching flyers, newsletters, and social media posts that families actually notice. Bring your laptop or download the Canva app before class so you can design alongside us. You will leave with ready-to-use templates and the know-how to make your unit communication look professional, polished, and fun.

AI for Scout Leaders: Tools to Make Your Life Easier

Instructors: Rich and Sara Long

Artificial Intelligence isn't just for tech experts – it can be a powerful tool for Scout leaders. In this session, we will explore different types of AI and how they can make planning meetings, communicating with parents, and creating engaging activities faster and easier. Participants will leave with real-world examples, recommended tools, and ideas for safe, effective use in the den, pack or crew.

Q&A with the Scout Executive

Host: Daniel Anderson

Here is an opportunity to visit with our long time Council leader and recently appointed ETAC Scout Executive, Daniel Anderson, to ask questions and get his perspective on the State of Scouting in East Texas. It's your chance to have a meaningful and constructive conversation regarding our local Scouting community regarding what is working and not working. What are the issues that impact our growth and impact within our communities? What are viable solutions? How can we increase involvement from our adult scouting volunteers at the District and Council level? Let's have a constructive, open dialog and seek viable solutions for the benefit of all ETAC units.

Intro to Paddle Craft Safety

Instructor: Harrison Lee

This class will cover basic equipment and procedures needed for troop level excursions for day outings and overnights on both flat and moving water.

Backpacking Tips

Instructor: Tyler Dietzel

What do you really need to bring and what do you not need to bring? Food, a unit travels on its stomach. Where can you go? What unit gear is essential and what not so much? How can you prepare your unit for the trip? How to keep it fun. Transportation concerns and tips. Money, money, money. We will discuss these topics and anything else that comes to mind.

Scoutbook Unlocked: Updates, Changes, and Smarter Unit Management

Instructor: Luke Kimbrough

Scoutbook is constantly evolving, and staying current saves your unit time and frustration. This fast-paced class highlights recent updates, important changes, and practical tips for managing advancement, training, communications, and reports more efficiently. Learn how to make Scoutbook work for your unit instead of working around it.

A class for Leaders: What is your why?

Instructor: Chandra Sorrells

In this class, we delve into the ways we define our why. What is your vision? How do you get there? How do you inspire others to join in your vision? Finally, why is your why central to great leadership?

If MacGyver had been an ER doc

Instructor: Troy Miller

For those of you too young to remember, Angus MacGyver was a top agent for the Phoenix Foundation. He solved problems with vast scientific knowledge and meager resources like duct tape, safety pins, chewing gum and bailing wire. He never carried a gun. Dr Troy Miller, your presenter, grew up in Phoenix and there the similarities end. He is, however, a retired ER physician with 30 years experience and retired after 20 years as a sworn peace officer in Tyler. He spent almost 10 of those years as a SWAT medic. He has been trained by the CONTOMS

(counter narcotic and tactical operation medical support) program. Their motto is in Latin “Medicina bona, locus malis” which means “good medicine in bad places”. If providing good medical care, learning to improvise and how to foster a mindset of “now that there’s nothing left to do – what do we do now” would benefit you, your loved ones and your scouts, this presentation is for you.

Essential Tips and Advice for Hikers

Instructor: Leslie Couch

Discuss practical tips in how to get started for hiking, using AllTrails app for navigation, understanding elevation gains and importance of education and preparation to become a confident hiker. Discuss the 10 essentials and importance of each one.

Sanity in a Sleeping Bag: Stress Hacks for Scout Leaders

Instructor: Michelle Crum

Scout leaders give their all to create unforgettable experiences—but what about your own well-being? Join Michelle Crum, PhD, Division Chief of Preventive Medicine at UT Tyler School of Medicine, for a lively, laugh-friendly session: **Sanity in a Sleeping Bag: Stress Hacks for Scout Leaders**. This session isn’t just about surviving camp—it’s about thriving as a leader who shapes character and molds young minds. We’ll share practical strategies for managing stress, improving sleep, and juggling those jam-packed camp schedules so you can stay focused on what matters most: inspiring growth, teaching resilience, and leading with confidence! Expect wellness tips for leaders and scouts, plus hands-on activities that will leave you recharged and ready for your next adventure. Don’t miss this chance to invest in yourself while investing in your pack, crew, troop, or ship!

Top Tier Merit Badge Counseling

Instructor: Robert Phillips

Using the Guide to Merit Badge Counseling, explore tips and techniques on how to present and coach merit badge topics, delivering fun and motivation while learning, and reporting/record keeping in a digital world. For both current and potential counselors. Course is additional material to the D76, SCO474, and SCO486 required courses.

Outdoor Ethics Orientation Course

Instructor: DeeAnn Kimbrough

The goal of the Scouting America Outdoor Ethics Orientation Course is to introduce the concept of Outdoor Ethics. It should help youth and adults at all program levels understand the general principles behind Scouting's outdoor ethics program. Topics to be covered include: Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly! and The Land Ethic / Stewardship, and Outdoor Ethics Awareness and Action Awards Program.

After this course and completion of the on-line Leave No Trace 101 Course and Tread Lightly! 101 on-line Awareness course, participants should have enough knowledge to conduct Outdoor Ethics workshops within their respective units and help youth earn their Outdoor Ethics

Awareness Awards. Completion of this course is also a requirement for earning the Outdoor Ethics Action Award.

EDGE Course Part 2: Craft of Training 4-hour course

Instructor: John Dietzel

This course is the second part of the train-the-trainer continuum. As trainers develop their training skills, this course provides an opportunity for trainers to practice and refine their abilities through experiential learning, paired with feedback from faculty members and peers. This course also supplements the training development sessions offered during faculty development for advanced leadership training courses.

Pre-requisite: EDGE Course Part 1: Science of Training. This is found on my.scouting.org.

Please bring completion certificate



College of Youth Leadership - Dean Wendy Lowry

The College of Youth Leadership (CYL) is youth-led leadership training developed and presented by the NYLT Staff. CYL is open to all registered Troop-aged Scouts who want to enhance their leadership skills, share ideas, and enjoy a day of fellowship with other Scouts from around the council. The courses are taught by NYLT Staff members in two tracks, Introductory and Advanced, using games and interactive presentations.

Introductory Track

Best for newer scouts ages 11-13 or 14-15-year-olds with no leadership experience. This track puts an emphasis on basic leadership. Scouts will learn the required material to best lead a patrol. Skills learned include how to lead small groups, team building, goal setting, and other essential leadership knowledge.

Advanced Scout Track

Designed for 14-17-year-olds. This track is designed to empower scouts to become a Senior Patrol Leader. Advanced leadership skills are used in this course to improve upon previous experience and training. Scouts will find this track utilizes skills that they already have and teach them what they don't know so that they will be the best leader they can be.