

Bushmaster NYLT

Camp Thunderbird, June 21st – June 26th, 2026



What is Bushmaster NYLT?

NYLT stands for National Youth Leadership Training. It is a weeklong co-ed leadership-training course for Scouts America, Venturers and Sea Scouts. The NYLT course is set up to represent a month in the life of a unit. This might be a month in the life of a troop or a series of meetings leading to an activity in a Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship.

Participants experience the various stages of team development. They discover that leadership requires vision, goals, and planning. They learn how to define a vision, set goals for achieving it, and plan for accomplishing those goals. Built on the legacy of past youth leader-training courses, NYLT integrates the best of modern leadership theory with the traditional strengths of the Scouting experience.

A wide range of activities, events, games and adventures will cause the NYLT participants to work and play together as they put into action the best that Scouting has to offer. NYLT participants put their preparations to the test with a NYLT Outpost Camp on the night of day 5.

The course is led and taught by some of the best youth leaders in the Council; all of who are graduates of the NYLT program and typically have staffed multiple courses. The Course Directors who assist the youth staff are Wood Badge trained with extensive experience in training programs.

NYLT is the most advanced youth leader training that Scouting offers in the Pacific Harbors Council. It is fun, intense, and challenging.

Who can attend NYLT?

In order to attend a NYLT course, a youth must have the following qualifications by the beginning of the course:

- Must be a registered member of a Scouting unit.
- Must have a current BSA Health and Medical Record form parts A, B, and C.
- Scouts America members (male and female) must be at least 14, or 13 and have completed the eighth grade. They must have completed Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops.
- Members of Scouts America are required to earn the First-Class rank before attending NYLT.
- Venturers and Sea Scouts (male and female) must be at least 14, or 13 and have completed eighth grade, and fall within the maximum age allowance for their program. They must have completed Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews or Ships. It is recommended that they have had at least one year of camping experience. While NYLT is not an outdoor skills course, it is important that each participant have basic camping and outdoor cooking experience.
- Have a unit leader recommendation.

NYLT is designed for a participant of about 14+ years of age. A unit leader, at their discretion, may approve a participant at 13 years of age to attend NYLT (if the participant is mature and is an outstanding performer). Since a participant only takes this course once, we want him or her to get the maximum benefit from this experience. Therefore, it is essential that he or she be able to handle the demands of this advanced course, which requires both maturity and experience. We have found that in almost all cases, having the Scout wait a year before going to NYLT is more beneficial to both them and their unit.

What is the course fee?

The course fee is \$325, due and payable in full no later than April 30th, 2025 After May 1st, the course fee is \$360. All fees are required by 5pm May 31st, 2026.

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What is the refund policy?

To continue providing quality Scouting programs at affordable prices, we have instituted the following refund policy for programs offered by the Pacific Harbors Council. All cancellations and/or refund requests must be submitted in writing to Creighton Scout Service Center, 4802 South 19th St, Tacoma, WA 98405. Or emailed to susan.richmond@scouting.org. Refunds are based on the date the written request is received at the Creighton Scout Service Center. Requests received two weeks (10 business days) or more prior to an event will receive a full refund. Requests received from 5 to 9 business days before the event will receive a 50% refund. No refunds are available 4 or fewer business days prior to an event.

Are there Council scholarships available?

There are limited Council/private scholarships for NYLT, however many units gladly sponsor their youth to attend NYLT by paying all or part of the course fee. Units should also contact their Chartered organization as many set funds aside to assist the Scouts in matters such as these.

When does registration close?

The last day to register for the course is May 31st, 2026. After that date, participants are taken only if space is available. The current enrollment limit is 76 participants. Register as early as possible to avoid problems and potential disappointment.

Our unit has never sent anyone before... why should we now?

Sending participants to NYLT helps them develop their leadership potential. This results in a smoother running unit. If your Troop/Crew/Ship is really committed to having a truly youth run unit, then your youth leaders need the skills presented in this course.

Which and how many participants should a unit send to NYLT?

The real answer to the question of who and how many participants to send is more a question of who you think is mature enough to take part in a weeklong intensive training course and who you believe the future leaders of your unit will be. It is always best to remember the benefits of the buddy system and send two or more participants to share the information and support each other upon returning to their unit.

Can I attend NYLT if I am not a member of the Pacific Harbors Council?

Absolutely! Please contact the Pacific Harbors Council to get more information. Applications are available on the Pacific Harbors Council website.

Isn't the unit or adult leader training enough?

NYLT builds on and enhances the skills and ideas introduced at the other levels of training. NYLT is not designed to replace the training done by the unit adult leaders, it is designed to provide additional leadership skills and enhance the youth leader's ability to lead within their unit. In addition, a major ingredient of NYLT is the interaction amongst participants from all over the Scouting. That is why it cannot be provided at the unit level alone.

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Does NYLT teach Scout craft skills?

Our primary focus at NYLT is on the leadership skills and providing an opportunity to use and strengthen those skills. Although some Scout craft skills are used to reinforce the leadership concepts taught. A youth does not have to be proficient in these skills to enjoy and attend NYLT.

When do I take my son/daughter to NYLT?

Participants should arrive at Camp Thunderbird at 12:00 noon on Sunday, June 22nd, 2025 for check-in. Because the NYLT Staff will be very busy making final preparations for the course, participants who arrive before noon will be expected to wait until registration opens. No exceptions! All participants should have any remaining paperwork ready for the Registrar, have all medications in original containers ready for the Medic, have a copy of both sides of the medical insurance card, and have rain gear ready to protect themselves and their gear.

Should they eat before arriving?

The 1st meal will be served at approximately 5:30PM Sunday so please make sure your son/daughter has had lunch before arriving at Camp.

What if I cannot get my son/daughter to Camp Thunderbird by the registration time?

We cannot allow participants to arrive on course late as the course starts immediately after registration and they will miss very important classes and team building exercises. Participants may not leave the course for any reason so plan on them being there all 6 days without interruption. Registration starts at noon...no exceptions, no late arrivals.

What should my son/daughter wear to NYLT?

Participants should arrive wearing their Field uniform, which is comprised of the official Shirt, (with patches properly sewn as described in the uniform inspection sheet), Official Pants or Shorts (or Scout like Pants), and green belt. **Neckwear, epaulets and course-hat will be provided at registration.**

Although Venturing Crews typically determine and design their own uniforms, per Scouts America policy, if any Crewmember attends a Council or National event where specific BSA uniforms are expected (i.e. Bushmaster NYLT) then they are required to wear the official Venturing uniform with proper insignia placement. The official Venturing uniform is comprised of the forest green Venturing shirt, charcoal gray shorts or pants, (or Scout Like Pants), and gray belt.

When do I pick up my son/daughter from NYLT?

The course is officially over at 8:30 PM Friday June 27th and all participants must leave camp at that time. Family, friends and Scout Leaders are invited to attend the graduation ceremony at 7:30 PM in the main fire bowl. Those planning to attend the graduation should arrive in time to walk to the fire bowl however do not arrive any earlier than necessary as the participants are continuing through final ceremonies and camp cleanup until then.

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What medical forms are required?

A valid Annual Health and Medical Record and a [copy of both sides of your medical insurance card](#) is required. Both must be valid thru the end date of the course.

NYLT Staff will not allow a Scout on course without these forms.

You can download a copy of the Medical form at:

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_ABC.pdf

Sections A, B, and C of the medical form must be completely filled out. We ask that all parents ensure that they list all food and medical allergies or any other concerns about your son/daughter on this medical form.

Do course participants wear their unit uniform at all times during the course?

Yes, wearing the proper uniform is a part of the NYLT course. The Field uniform is worn at all times, unless participants are specifically told to wear their Activity uniform. The following table describes the Field and Activity uniforms for the Bushmaster NYLT course.

Field Uniform

- Scout shirt with all the proper insignia
- Sturdy athletic shoes or boots
- Scout shorts or pants (or Scout like color pants or shorts)
- Scout socks (optional)
- Scout belt (web or leather)
- Name badge (received at NYLT)

Activity Uniform

- Scout Tee-shirt (one is provided in the NYLT fee)
- Sturdy athletic shoes or boots
- Scout shorts or pants (or Scout like color pants or shorts)
- Scout socks (optional)
- Scout belt (web or leather)
- Name badge (received at NYLT sign-in)

Do I need a backpack?

Yes! Participants will be expected to carry all of their equipment to and from the campsite and will need it for the outpost experience later in the week. No trunks or suitcases allowed. There will be other times during the week when the backpack is essential.

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What type of footwear should the participants have at NYLT?

"Sturdy" athletic shoes or hiking boots are required for the health and safety of the participants and staff. Please be advised that sandals and tennis shoes are not acceptable footwear. The participants are encouraged to bring shower shoes for the showers, however, during any other time of the week "sturdy" athletic shoes or hiking boots are required. No open toed shoes except for shower shoes

How will participants live during NYLT?

Participants will be placed into a patrol consisting of six to seven participants from throughout Pacific Harbors Council. Each patrol has its own site with its own stoves and cooking equipment. Participants will prepare their own meals as patrols.

Does every participant need to bring a tent?

Yes! For the outpost portion of the course, participants will need to bring a backpacking tent. Participants may either bring their personal tent or borrow a tent from their home unit.

Is any special equipment needed?

An equipment list will be sent to each participant after his or her reservation is received. Please note that each scout should have 2 full scout uniforms (if possible but not required) with shorts/switch-backs pants.

Participants should not bring electronics such as cell phones, MP3 players, electronic games, laptops, etc. (stand-alone cameras are acceptable.) Participants will have limited access to communication and will not be able to call home etc. except in case of emergency via one of the adult staff. Participants should not bring junk food, extra snacks, weapons, fireworks, drugs/alcohol/tobacco, or any other items unbecoming a Scout. The NYLT Staff reserves the right to confiscate any items that do not contribute to the environment we want to create. All confiscated items will be returned to the participants on day 6.

Do I need to bring any money to NYLT?

Yes! We plan to make available snacks, personal hygiene items, and Bushmaster memorabilia. All proceeds from the sale of these items will be deposited back into the Bushmaster NYLT course.

Do the participants get to take showers?

YES! The participants are strongly encouraged to take a daily shower. Remember, a Scout is CLEAN! Camp Thunderbird has separate shower facilities for both male and females. Showers are indoors with plenty of fresh hot water. Shower shoes are strongly suggested.

Is there free time at NYLT?

NYLT is a fast-paced course and as such, there is no free time scheduled. However, if a team works together and stays focused on the tasks at hand, then the team could earn patrol time by accomplishing the scheduled tasks early.

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Can the participants earn Merit Badges or other advancement?

NO! NYLT is not summer camp. The objective of NYLT is to train leaders, and not to earn merit badges and rank advancements. However, the skills the participants will learn at NYLT will help them advance back in their home units. The purpose of this course is to develop leadership skills that participants will use in their home unit and throughout their lives.

What about the food at NYLT?

Participants should not bring any food with them to NYLT! All the meals are provided for them. If the participants are hungry in between meals, the Trading Post will have snacks (fruit, crackers, other healthy snack items). If your son/daughter has any food allergies it is vital the NYLT Staff be informed before the course starts! Part of NYLT includes the preparation of some of the daily meals. Although all the food is provided to the participants, it is not prepared. NYLT provides all the cooking supplies needed to prepare the meals including eating utensils. The NYLT Staff, working with each patrol, oversees food preparation however participants prepare all meals.

How are medications handled?

NYLT has a qualified staff member who serves as a medic. When the participants check into camp they will also check in their medications with the medic. Medications must arrive in their original containers with clear instructions on dosage. The medic will hold all medications during the week except for bee sting kits and asthma inhalers. It will be the participant's responsibility to get his/her medications when needed. NYLT does this for Health and Safety reasons. If you have more questions about this, please contact the Council Coordinator. At the end of the week when the participant is picked up from camp their medications will be in their graduation packet.

What does the Staff do?

The Staff spends at least 6 months preparing for course. They plan classes and activities based on the National Youth Leadership Training Syllabus. They arrive at Camp Thunderbird three days before the participants to set up the camp. It is the youth staff that does all of the work. They are the ones planning and teaching the leadership skills to the participants. The adult staff is there mostly for health and safety, but also to mentor the youth staff. The youth staff consists of a Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, several Quartermasters and Instructors, and one Troop Guide for each patrol. The adult Staff consists of the Course Director, Course Adviser, several Assistant Course Directors, Quartermaster, Admin and Health Officer.

How do I become a member of the NYLT Staff?

At the end of the week, the participants wishing to be on staff are asked to fill out a staff interest form. All participants who filled out a form will be considered for an interview for a staff position some time before the end of October 2025. Accepting the invitation is the only way they will have the chance to become a staff member.

What about the Adult Staff?

If you are a registered adult leader, we need you to help with NYLT too! We are always looking for adult leaders. Please contact us and tell us who you are and why you want to be an Adult Leader for

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NYLT. Although NYLT exists to teach youth how to be leaders, the Adult Leadership at NYLT is an opportunity to learn. NYLT also provides a great opportunity for Wood Badge participants to complete their ticket!

How can I get additional information?

Please e-mail or call the NYLT Council Coordinator or the Course Staff Adviser. Their contact information is listed on the last page of this document. You may also call the Pacific Harbors Council Office at (253) 682-2217.

Final Thoughts

Some may think that one-week isn't long enough to teach a youth how to become a leader. Others believe one week is just too long. Neither is correct and both are right.

Becoming a leader is an evolutionary process. The more practice they get using their leadership skills the better leaders they become. The NYLT course gets participants started on the right path by presenting leadership skills, helps identify and strengthens the skills they already possess and gives them an opportunity to try out and hone those skills in a controlled, training environment. The participant really learns leadership by applying the skills he or she learns back in their home unit under the guidance of his or her unit Leader.

The training of youth leaders is the responsibility of the unit leaders. NYLT is designed to support, not replace, the unit leader's role in the training process. Each participant who attends will do so as a representative of his or her home unit and will wear the uniform and insignia of their home unit.

To quote a past graduate of a NYLT course, "Bushmaster NYLT provided me with an unfair advantage in Scouting and in life". We wholeheartedly agree!

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