

University of Scouting

2026 Program Guide



February 7, 2026

Rowan College of South Jersey
Scouting America Garden State Council

Please join us for an unforgettable Scouting experience at the 2026 Garden State Council University of Scouting!

Our Scouts are at the heart of everything we do, and they deserve nothing less than the best trained leaders guiding them on their Scouting journey. It is with this commitment in mind that we introduce the 2026 Garden State Council University of Scouting. This in-person event is an invaluable opportunity for us to enhance our skills, share experiences, and collectively contribute to the rich tapestry of Scouting leadership.

This year's lineup of instructors promises a wealth of knowledge and insights that I am eagerly looking forward to. Whether you're a seasoned leader or just starting your Scouting adventure, we have classes tailored to every stage of your Scouting career. There's something for everyone, offering inspiration and practical knowledge to elevate your Scouting experience.

To make the most of this day of learning, I encourage you to invite your Scouter friends and Scouts' parent/adult to join us. The more, the merrier!

I also invite you to think about taking on a more active role in the University of Scouting next year. Whether as a Dean shaping the overall experience or an instructor sharing your expertise, your contribution can make a significant impact on our Scouting community.

I look forward to sharing the day with you!

Yours in Scouting,

Jeffrey Shaman
Volunteer, University of Scouting
Scouting America Garden State Council

What is the University of Scouting?

University of Scouting is a fun-filled annual event of supplemental training for adults involved in the Scouting program. It is the only time during the year where you can find the widest variety of training opportunities in all program areas. The University of Scouting degrees provide Scouters with a structured program in which they can advance and be rewarded with degrees and titles for each level of achievement. Courses are led by experienced volunteers who will help you enhance your ability to deliver a fun and exciting program to the youth in your unit. There are a variety of courses for new and veteran Scouters. For new Scouters, this event will help you gain a stronger sense of self-worth and a better understanding of their increasing value to the Scouting community. For veteran Scouters, this event will recharge your spirit and inspire you to a renewed enthusiasm for Scouting and all that it delivers to our youth. Whether you are new to the program or a veteran of many years, the University provides interesting courses, leadership training, and elective courses applicable across many Scouting programs. There is something for every adult leader.

The Vision and Mission of University of Scouting

The vision of the Garden State Council University of Scouting is to provide you with the best possible opportunity to improve your capability and skillset as a Scout leader and improve your productivity so that you may accomplish more in less time. The motivation is our desire to provide the highest possible quality scouting experience for our youth. To accomplish our vision, our mission is to provide Scouters a distinctive educational experience including a broad array of introductory, supplemental, and advanced training for all Boy Scouts of America (BSA) adult leader positions in support of every youth program. As such, we hope to provide the most comprehensive range of training courses of any BSA training venue in the region.

Participant Responsibilities

Thank you for your dedication to Scouting. Your participation in this training event illustrates that you care about the quality of the Scouting program that you are able to deliver for the youth whom you serve. The ability of Scouting to make a difference for our youth depends on volunteers like you who participate in training programs to seek broader knowledge and continual improvement. This event provides the broadest variety of Scouting-related course offerings under one roof available for Scouters in Garden State Council.

Please enjoy your visit with us today. Absorb all that you can, and then relay what you have learned back to your units and districts. This is your primary responsibility as a University of Scouting participant. But please don't stop there. Scouting needs you to help our program be even more effective next year. There are three key ways that YOU can help. As a University of Scouting participant, we have the following requests to ask of you.

#1: Feedback is a gift. Your feedback for each course taken and for the University of Scouting as a whole helps to guide the staff to further improve the U for next year. Any and all constructive feedback is greatly appreciated. Please use the evaluation form to let us know what you liked and what you didn't. The gift of your feedback enables us to ensure that we continue to meet your needs as a Scouting leader.

#2: Get the word out. Did you know that it takes almost the same time for the staff to prepare this event whether we draw 100 or 2,000 participants? Or that it takes our instructors the same time to prepare whether 1 or 125 participants register for the course? Therefore, the effectiveness of this event to have a positive impact on the youth in Scouting is directly proportional to the number of seats filled in the classrooms. YOU are our best channel for promotion. We anticipate your experience with us today will be positive and rewarding. Please share that with your Scouting colleagues and encourage them to come with you this year and next year. Bring a friend with you!

#3: Share what you know. What's the difference between a faculty member and a course participant? NOTHING! We are all Scouting volunteers. All staff members have "real" Scouting jobs just like you. Okay, maybe there IS one difference - the faculty member stepped up to share their Scouting experiences or other talents to help the rest of us be more successful. YOU could be a part of this team. There are always positions open for instructors so please consider applying to be an instructor for next year's University of Scouting.

Code of Conduct

All participants, staff and guests are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Law.

Course Evaluations

Every UoS participant will receive an evaluation form via email within 5 days of the event. Our goal is to provide a meaningful and useful training experience for all participants and your constructive feedback will help us ensure we do better next year. So please let us know your thoughts on the event. Your feedback is critical to us in order to make our University of Scouting the best experience it can possibly be. If you don't tell us, we can't change it!

Event Schedule

The University of Scouting will run from 8:45am until 4:30pm. Courses begin at 9:10am; most are 50 minutes in duration with 10 minutes between courses. The lunch break is from 12pm – 1pm.

8:30	Doors Open
8:45	Opening
9:10 - 10:00	Course Period 1
10:10 - 11:00	Course Period 2
11:10 - 12:00	Course Period 3
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:10 – 2:00	Course Period 4
2:10 - 3:00	Course Period 5
3:10 – 4:00	Course Period 6
4:00 – 4:30	Closing

The Degree Program

The Garden State Council University of Scouting Degree Program is designed to provide you with the tools and knowledge that can be gained through supplemental training to help reinforce your Scouting

program. Participation in the Degree Program is voluntary and adherence to the degree requirements is totally the responsibility of the participant. The University's Degree Program provides a structured process in which participants can advance and be rewarded with degrees for each level of achievement. They may also gain a stronger sense of self-worth and a better understanding of their increasing value to the Scouting community. The atmosphere is one of fun and fellowship, but there's also an attitude of respect for the importance of the event. Remember, every youth deserves a trained Leader. Students are encouraged to return each year, not only to earn higher degrees, but also to share their experiences with fellow students. The atmosphere of camaraderie and school spirit invigorates the students, inspiring them to return to their units and share their enthusiasm with Scouts and other adult leaders. The University of Scouting degree program is designed to provide an incentive for continued training and as a method to recognize Scouters who participate in that training.

Garden State Council's University of Scouting offers degrees in the following three Colleges:

- Cub Scouting
- Scouts BSA
- Venturing

Credits

A credit is designated as one instruction period out of the six instruction periods provided throughout the day.

Enrollment Procedures

All participants are automatically enrolled in the Associate's Degree Program as applicable. Upon completion of the first 6 credits required for the Associate's Degree, a participant will be automatically qualified to work on the Bachelor's Degree, and so forth throughout the degree program.

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Be a registered Scouter
2. Have current Youth Protection Training for your registered position
3. Complete six (6) GSC University of Scouting courses that include:
 - a. Attend a minimum of three (3) courses from your home college
 - b. Attend three (3) elective courses from General Studies

Serving as instructor for a course may be substituted for one course credit for each unique course

BACHELOR'S DEGREE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Be a registered Scouter
2. Have current Youth Protection Training for your registered position
3. Hold an Associate's Degree from GSC University of Scouting
4. Complete basic BSA training for your registered position (Trained Patch)

5. Complete an **additional/different** six (6) GSC University of Scouting courses for a total of twelve (12) courses:
 - a. Attend a minimum of three (3) new courses from your home college
 - b. Attend three (3) elective courses from General Studies

Serving as instructor for a course may be substituted for one course credit for each unique course

MASTER'S DEGREE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Be a registered Scouter
2. Have current Youth Protection Training for your registered position
3. Hold a Bachelor's Degree from GSC University of Scouting
4. Complete six (6) **additional/different** GSC UoS courses for a total of eighteen (18) courses:
 - a. Attend a minimum of three (3) additional courses from your home college
 - b. Attend one (1) elective course from General Studies
 - c. Teach one (1) course in your home college
5. Complete two position-related supplemental training courses
 - a. Cub Scout
 - i. Safe Swim Defense
 - ii. Safety Afloat
 - iii. Hazardous Weather
 - iv. Trek Safely
 - v. Climb on Safely
 - vi. BALOO
 - vii. Leave No Trace Awareness/Outdoor Ethics
 - viii. Certified CPR/First Aid course
 - ix. Any American Red Cross health and safety course
 - b. Boy Scout/Venturing
 - i. Safe Swim Defense
 - ii. Safety Afloat
 - iii. Hazardous Weather
 - iv. Trek Safely
 - v. Climb on Safely
 - vi. Merit Badge Counselor Orientation
 - vii. Leave No Trace Awareness/Outdoor Ethics
 - viii. Certified CPR/First Aid course
 - ix. Any American Red Cross health and safety course.

Serving as instructor for a course may be substituted for one course credit for each unique course

DOCTORATE OF SCOUTING DEGREE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Be a registered Scouter
2. Have current Youth Protection Training for your registered position
3. Hold a Master's Degree from GSC University of Scouting
4. Complete six (6) **additional/different** University of Scouting courses for a total of twenty four (24) courses:
 - a. Attend at least two (2) additional courses from your home college
 - b. Teach two (2) courses from your home college
5. Earn an adult leader award for your registered position
 - a. Cub Scout
 - i. Den Leader Award
 - ii. Unit Leader Award of Merit
 - iii. Scout Leader's Training Award
 - iv. Scouter's Key Award
 - v. Silver Beaver Award
 - b. Scouts BSA
 - i. District Award of Merit
 - ii. Unit Leader Award of Merit
 - iii. Scout Leader's Training Award
 - iv. Scouter's Key Award
 - v. Silver Beaver Award
 - c. Venturing
 - i. Venturing Advisor's Key
 - ii. Venturing Training Award
 - iii. Venturing Leadership Award
 - iv. Unit Leader Award of Merit
 - v. Silver Beaver Award
6. Show you have completed one (1) of the following:
 - a. 21st Century Wood Badge
 - b. Lifeguard Certification (BSA or another professional agency)
 - c. Powder Horn
 - d. Trainer's EDGE course
 - e. Wilderness First Aid

Serving as instructor for a course may be substituted for one course credit for each unique course

University of Scouting Fellow Requirements:

1. Be a registered Scouter
2. Have current Youth Protection Training for your registered position
3. Hold a Doctorate Degree from GSC University of Scouting
4. Complete six (6) **additional/different** GSC UoS courses for a total of thirty (30) courses:
 - a. Attend a minimum of three (3) additional courses from your home college
 - b. Teach two (2) courses from your home college
 - c. Develop a syllabus for a new course and teach that course at a GSC University of Scouting
5. Show you have completed one (1) of the following:
 - a. Leave No Trace Trainer
 - b. Tread Lightly Trainer
 - c. Lifeguard Instructor
 - d. First Aid/CPR Instructor
 - e. Staff for Wood Badge
 - f. Staff for Powder Horn
 - g. Staff for The Kodiak Challenge
 - h. Staff for Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (ITOLS)
 - i. Staff for National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)
 - j. Staff for Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO)

Serving as instructor for a course may be substituted for one course credit for each unique course

University of Scouting Distinguished Fellow Requirements:

1. Be a registered Scouter
2. Have current Youth Protection Training for your registered position
3. Hold a Fellowship from GSC University of Scouting
4. Complete six (6) **additional/different** GSC UoS courses for a total of thirty-six (36) courses:
 - a. Attend two (2) additional courses from your home college
 - b. Teach two (2) courses from your home college
 - c. Develop a syllabus for two (2) new courses and teach them at a GSC University of Scouting
5. Show you have completed one (1) of the following:
 - a. Leave No Trace Master Educator
 - b. Tread Lightly Master Tread Trainer
 - c. Lifeguard Instructor Trainer
 - d. First Aid/CPR Instructor Trainer
 - e. Course Director for Wood Badge
 - f. Course Director for Powder Horn
 - g. Course Director for The Kodiak Challenge
 - h. Course Director for Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (ITOLS)
 - i. Course Director for National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)
 - j. Course Director for Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO)

Serving as instructor for a course may be substituted for one course credit for each unique course



Introduction to Leadership Skills (ILS)



Code	Course Name	Description
USYo-600	ILS	<p>The purpose of the ILS course is to teach Scouts with leadership positions about their new roles and how to most effectively reach success in that role. The day-long training includes group activities, completion of active assignments, and games!</p> <p>Completion of this course is a pre-requisite to taking advanced youth leadership training, including National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). Garden State Council's next NYLT course is scheduled for August 2026.</p> <p>Youth Participants are asked to identify as one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scouts BSA Youth• Venturing Youth• Sea Scouting Youth



The College of Cub Scouting



Code	Course Name	Description
CUB-302	Cub Scouting in the Outdoors	<p>Does your Pack have "outing" in your Pack's Scouting program? Learn Cub Scout camping rules, how to use the Guide to Safe Scouting, why BALOO training for adults is essential, and using the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award to enhance your program.</p> <p>Learn why and how to keep your Cub Scouts engaged in the outdoors that makes Outing in Scouting program unique.</p>
CUB-216	Cub Scout Games (indoor/outdoor)	Harness that energy and keep them from running wild. Activities to occupy free time or just to let off steam.
CUB-112	First Time Campers - Getting Families Out Camping	You've just welcomed new families to your Pack. Your Pack calendar has a family camping trip coming up. But these new families look bewildered and cost conscious. Here's the course to draw them into the 'Outing' that is in Scouting. We'll review the rules of family camping, what's necessary for that first weekend outing and how to minimize the cost.
CUB-111	Preparing AOL Scouts/Parents: Pack to Troop Transition	This course will examine the differences between the adult-led Webelos/Arrow of Light program and the youth-led Scouts BSA program, from a conceptual standpoint and in terms of program choices and leader practices. The course will provide ideas and recommendations to best prepare the graduating Arrow of Light Scout, and their parents, for the upcoming adventure of Scouts BSA.
CUB-203	Pack Committee Workshop	Learn how an effective Pack Committee operates. You'll find out what the Pack Committee does - the administrative and organizational side of running a Cub Scout Pack. Topics such as membership, fundraising, and activities planning will be discussed. Learn proven methods to plan an effective, exciting year-round program.
CUB-105	Building a Strong Den Program	Are you a first time Den Leader? Want to get some ideas on how to run a successful den? Come get some great ideas and advice from someone who has been there!
GEN-311	Prep for summer camp (with special needs component)	<p>This session equips leaders with practical strategies to prepare their units for a successful, safe, and enjoyable summer camp experience. We'll cover pre-camp planning, gear and skills readiness, health and safety considerations, and how to set clear expectations for scouts and families. A dedicated segment focuses on supporting scouts with special needs—addressing accommodations, communication with camp staff, and creating an inclusive environment where every youth can thrive.</p> <p><i>This course counts as either BSA Scout College or College of Cub Scouting credit toward University of Scouting degrees.</i></p>



The College of Scouts BSA



Code	Course Name	Description
BSA-223	Eagle Scout Coaching and Mentoring	A scout's advancement toward the rank of Eagle Scout can be challenging. Come learn about the Eagle Scout journey, the roles and responsibilities of adults in helping our youth successfully navigate the Life to Eagle process, and how to handle some of those special circumstances and tricky questions that arise along the way.
BSA-226	Navigating Difficult Conversations	We have all been there. You find yourself dealing with a difficult situation time and time again. You're faced with a challenging issue and emotions are running high. You are confronted with an issue of a sensitive nature that needs to be discussed. You begin to dread dealing with people, or at least certain people! This course will provide you with some insights for dealing with these and other similar difficult situations.
GEN-311	Prep for summer camp (with special needs component)	This session equips leaders with practical strategies to prepare their units for a successful, safe, and enjoyable summer camp experience. We'll cover pre-camp planning, gear and skills readiness, health and safety considerations, and how to set clear expectations for scouts and families. A dedicated segment focuses on supporting scouts with special needs—addressing accommodations, communication with camp staff, and creating an inclusive environment where every youth can thrive. <i>This course counts as either BSA Scout College or College of Cub Scouting credit toward University of Scouting degrees.</i>
BSA-225	Understanding Garden State Council Resources	Discover the full range of programs, tools, and support available to units through the Garden State Council. This session highlights key council services (and people!) including training, advancement support, camping opportunities, fundraising programs, and volunteer resources—and shows leaders how to access and leverage them effectively. Ideal for anyone looking to strengthen their unit by making the most of council-level offerings.
BSA-312	Working with Youth leaders and PLC	This course gives adult leaders practical skills for developing, mentoring, and empowering youth leadership within a troop. Participants will learn effective ways to support the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC), strengthen communication, set clear expectations, and guide scouts in planning and running their own program. Ideal for new and experienced leaders who want to build a stronger, youth-led troop culture.
BSA-411	Girl Troop Leader Roundtable	Join us for a moderated roundtable discussion for Girl Troop Leaders.



The College of General Studies



Code	Course Name	Description
GEN-201	Scouting Religious Awards	Because a Scout's duty to G-d has been, since its founding, a core principle around which the program is built, for 100 years Scouts and Scouters of all ages (Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, adults) have had the opportunity to earn awards unique to their own religious tradition. This course provides a chance to learn about the various awards offered and the Religious Emblems Committee that coordinates them.
GEN-204	Fundraising	Perhaps budgets are not your strength. Discover how to create a Unit budget that will fuel your program to success. Explore the important role that fundraising plays in a healthy Scouting Unit. Learn about the exciting product sales, like popcorn and camp cards, that the Council offers to help Units fund their Scouting adventures.
GEN-113	Breaking the Code: Scouting America medical forms and general health and safety explained.	<p>Navigating Scouting America's Annual Health and Medical Record can be daunting, but this class will break it all down. Discover the purpose behind each section of the health forms and how they ensure the safety and well-being of every Scout and Scouter. Learn leader responsibilities regarding the forms, best practices for handling Scout medications during campouts and activities, and tips for organizing and collecting forms efficiently. This interactive session will also address health and safety questions from participants, providing practical insights for a safer and more prepared Scouting experience.</p> <p><i>This course counts as either BSA Scout College or College of Cub Scouting credit toward University of Scouting degrees.</i></p>
GEN-111	Retention and Recruiting	Struggling to bring in new families—or keep the ones you have? Recruiting and retaining membership is vital to improving the quality and diversity of the program and growing your unit. Learn and discuss techniques to improve your outreach, membership development, and how to preserve your unit membership.
GEN-109	Scoutbook 101	Come learn about Scoutbook and how your unit, leaders and scouts can benefit from a connected system for advancement. This is a great tool to track progress and help with the day-to-day management of your unit. Learn the ability to access and maintain all of your Scouts' information with just a few clicks, even from your smart phone.
GEN-203	Having a Well-Trained Unit	What does it mean to have a well-trained unit? How do you encourage training within your unit for youth & adult leaders? What are the benefits of making someone a Unit Scouter Reserve? What opportunities are available above and beyond the "minimum requirements" and what benefits do these trainings bring to your unit? Come and find out!



The College of General Studies

Special Needs Track



Code	Course Name	Description
GEN-302	Alternate Routes to Advancement	We've all heard of the <i>Guide to Advancement</i> , but have you heard about Alternative Eagle Rank Merit Badges or Registration Beyond The Age of Eligibility? Do you know the difference between an accommodation and modification and when to use them? Come take a deep dive into Section 10 of the <i>Guide to Advancement</i> and learn what opportunities await your Scouts of ALL abilities.
GEN-303	Mindful Food Planning and Preparation	One of the best parts of Scouting is Outing! And what makes Outing so great? Friendships, Fun, and FOOD! This presentation will provide basic knowledge and skills on preparing delicious food that will satisfy everyone! We will discuss ways to be mindful of food allergies and religious and cultural dietary needs when planning and prepping for your camping trip. Bon appetit!
GEN-304	Learning to Work with Scouts with Special Needs	'Do Your Best' is more than a Cub Scout motto. It is the motto. In this course, we will provide you with the resources needed to help you build a network of support for your Scouts and for YOU. What is an <i>Individual Scout Advancement Plan</i> , and how do we use it? You know all about Scoutmaster Conferences, but have you heard about Joining Conferences? How do we get parents to become more (or less) engaged in their child's Scouting career? And most importantly, who do we turn to when we need help? We will provide you with the 'tools' to help get you started. We will also discuss various sources of Scouting literature, such as the <i>Inclusion Toolbox</i> and quarterly <i>Abilities Digest</i> .
GEN-305	Managing Behaviors During Scout Activities	This engaging course will discuss how to manage varying personalities and sometimes challenging behaviors when participating in Scout activities. We will use the <i>Guide to Safe Scouting</i> and <i>SAFE Checklist</i> to align methods on effective communication, corrective action & conflict resolution, and show you how to utilize a Peer Buddy (not to be confused with the Buddy System). Methods include "person-first" and "identity-first" language, restorative questions, and 'Nurtured Heart' tactics.
GEN-307	Those We Can See and Those We Can't: Physical Limitations and Neurodiversity	'Be Prepared'. When it comes to Scouts with any limitation, advanced preparation is key! In the first part of the course, we will touch upon some mobility challenges, adaptations, and creating functional private spaces. It's no brainer that ALL BRAINS MATTER, but what does it mean to be neurodiverse? Simply put, it's a different way of thinking. The objective for the second portion of this course is to provide various scenarios to help you recognize common "invisible disorders" and actions you can take when those "invisible disorders" are no longer invisible.
GEN-306	Special Needs Roundtable	Join us for an open conversation on Special Needs Scouting. Bring your questions, comments, concerns, and ideas! We want to hear from you!



The College of General Studies Outdoor Continuing Education Track



Code	Course Name	Description
GEN-220	Dress for Success – Or at Least to Stay Warm	Cold-weather camping made easy—learn smart layering and gear tips so you stay warm, safe, and ready for adventure without spending top dollar.
GEN-221	Eating Well on the Trail & In the Woods	It doesn't have to be oatmeal, granola, and ramen. If you give it some thought and plan ahead, meals can be exciting, entertaining, and engaging! Explore some tools that you may not have thought of for camp cooking.
GEN-207	Dutch Oven Cooking	Discover foolproof recipes and simple techniques to turn cast iron into your camp kitchen's secret weapon over fire or flame. Learn how many briquets are really required and how to clean pots for storage and future use.
GEN-222	Sleeping IN the Trees	Tips, gear, and setups for turning a hammock into the perfect backcountry bed - rain or shine / hot or cold. Trees required separately - sometimes.
GEN-103	Wilderness First Aid Lite	Basic principles of Wilderness First Aid and examples of "using what you have". Introduction only; this class does not meet requirements for Wilderness First Aid Certification.
GEN-319	What Is That?	Learn simple tricks to identify the plants and wildlife you see on the trail. A fun, practical introduction to spotting and identifying local plants and animals. Emphasis on what can hurt you, what likely won't, and how to tell the difference.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank our University of Scouting Instructors for sharing their knowledge with us and for taking time out of their busy schedules to help further Lord Baden-Powell's famous quote, "Every [child] deserves a trained leader." The University would not have been possible without them.

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments please send them via email to
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