



NYLT Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is NYLT?

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) is a six-day, council-level leadership experience for youth ages 13–20 in Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouts. The course teaches proven leadership skills through a youth-led, outdoor-based program designed to help Scouts become effective leaders in their units and communities

Who can attend NYLT?

Youth must:

- Be **13 or older AND First Class** by the start of the course
- Be a current member of **Scouts BSA, Venturing, or Sea Scouts**
- Have completed **Introduction to Leadership Skills (ILST/ILSC/ILSS)** in their home unit
- Receive approval from their Scoutmaster, Advisor, or Skipper

How are youth kept safe?

NYLT follows Scouting America's **Guide to Safe Scouting** and **Youth Protection policies**.

- All adult staff are **background-checked**, trained, and registered.
- A **medical officer** or first-aid trained adult is on site throughout the week.
- Emergency procedures, weather monitoring, and incident plans are in place.

How are medications handled?

At check-in:

- Adults/parents provide medications in original labeled containers.
- A designated medical officer stores and administers medications as required.
- Exceptions may apply for inhalers, EpiPens, and other self-carry treatments.

Can my Scout bring a phone or electronic device?

- Your Scout should not expect to use any digital device, including phones, during NYLT.
- If Scouts do bring their phones, they should only expect to use them in their tents at night, after all scheduled activities are completed. Chances are they will be so tired, they won't even turn them on.
- This allows participants to stay focused, engage with their patrol, and fully experience the outdoor leadership challenges.
- Emergency contact procedures are still available through adult staff.

How will I be contacted if needed?

In any emergency or urgent situation, course leadership will contact parents using the information provided at registration. If you need to reach your Scout, Gillian Suhre, Council Event Director, will be the primary point of contact. GSuhre@seattlebsa.org

What gear does my Scout need?

Participants receive a **course-specific packing list** in their Welcome Letter when they first register, which typically includes:

- Full field uniform (“Class A”)
- Outdoor activity uniform (“Class B – one provided at check-in”)
- Personal tent and sleeping gear
- Personal camping equipment
- Water bottles, rain gear, and essentials

How does food work?

NYLT provides structured meals throughout the week.

- Some meals are cooked by patrols.
- Dietary needs (allergies, gluten-free, vegetarian, etc.) can be accommodated with prior notice. Be sure to list all restrictions on the medical and registration forms.

What if my Scout gets anxious or homesick?

This is not uncommon in a summer camp setting. NYLT staff are trained to support participants throughout the week-long camp. Patrol Guides and adult leaders check in frequently and help participants stay engaged and confident. Parents will be contacted if concerns arise. Keeping the participants busy throughout the week helps tremendously.

Is NYLT physically challenging?

The course includes hiking, outdoor activities, and leadership challenges, but it is not designed to be strenuous. Participants of all ability levels are expected to have a positive attitude and a willingness to try new things.

What will my Scout do/learn?

NYLT teaches practical leadership skills such as:

- Team development
- Effective communication
- Problem-solving and planning
- Ethical decision-making
- Goal setting
- Leading by example

Scouts apply these skills through team-based challenges and daily patrol activities.

What will my Scout receive? What will they earn?

NYLT graduates receive:

- An NYLT T-shirt
- The NYLT “trained” patch
- A course-specific NYLT patch
- A course completion certificate
- Skills and strategies directly applicable to leadership positions in their troop, ship, or crew

NYLT is not a “rank” or advancement course. It is designed to support and train leaders in Scouting America and beyond.

Are scholarships or financial assistance available?

For Scouts registered in Chief Seattle Council, **camperships** are available. Apply in Black Pug for a Campership at the time of registration.

Can my Scout attend NYLT more than once?

Once a Scout completes NYLT, they cannot attend as a participant again. However, they may be eligible to **apply to serve as NYLT staff** in future years—a powerful next-level leadership experience.