

# **National Youth Leadership Training**

*2024 Conference*

June 9 - 15, 2024  
Hanna Venture Base  
Rhinelander, WI 54501

# **Course Information & Guidelines**

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## *The NYLT Course is a Leadership Skills Course.*

Historically, the Northwoods Challenge or Junior Leader Training course was centered on Scout skills. We rely on the home troop and leaders to do the skills instruction for this. The NYLT Leadership Course is a collegiate level course taught in such a manner that Scouts from ages 13-20 are able to understand the concepts and put them to immediate use.

All participants are put into preset patrols with similar aged Scouts from throughout the Samoset Council, also including some out of council Scouts. Scouts from the same troop or city are set into different patrols, ensuring that all youth start 'clean', no preconceived ideas or behaviors. These patrols work together all week, cooking, cleaning up, learning, competing, hiking, having fun and above all, exploring Leadership Skills. Each day is packed with activity - all set in an outdoor setting, so boredom is not an issue. We try to use the 'out' in Scouting so we are outside except for about 4 hours of the week.

Just like the participants, the staff is also sleeping outside in tents. The weather - good or bad, hot or cold, rainy, snowy or sunny, is experienced by all of us. We provide plenty of food. The youth participants cook all of the meals over open wood fires. They work together to prepare, cook, eat and clean up for each meal. Several staff will share the meals with each patrol.

Several hours each morning and afternoon are spent in instruction delivered with the Scouting EDGE method. Immediate use of the instruction helps to reinforce the skill set. Using various 'games' the skills are brought alive and friendly competition is also used.

The best part of the course has been the impact made on the Scouts. Parents and troop adults have always commented that the Scout that attended the NYLT course is not the same when they return. An immediate, new enthusiasm is seen as the Scout wants to be one of the youth in a 'Youth - Led' Scout Troop or Crew. They have been equipped with a new set of skills that may be not what the home unit is used to.

I encourage all Unit Leaders to help these Scouts take your group to the next level in Scouting. It is a great experience while being fun to watch and be a part of something that the youth will be smiling while leading others to success.

This week will be an exciting and fun experience as each Scout undertakes their own 'Quest for the Meaning of Leadership'!

# **IMPORTANT**

**Please register for NYLT. Go to [samoset.org](http://samoset.org), select training and choose National Youth Leadership**

**PARENTS, this booklet contains information you need to know and understand before your Scout comes to National Youth Leadership Training Conference 2024. If you have any questions, contact the Course Facilitator [info on page 5]**

**When you sign & return the Personal Resource Questionnaire (fillable pdf or download from [samoset.org](http://samoset.org)), both you and your Scout agree to abide by the rules & policies in this book.**

**As soon as you receive this booklet, please sit down with your Scout and discuss each item.**

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THE PARENT AND SCOUT UNDERSTANDS THESE GUIDELINES!**

# Mandatory Orientation Meetings

There is a **MANDATORY** orientation meeting for the Scout and a parent / guardian / adult **MUST** attend. Their Scoutmaster or Crew Advisor may come along also, if available.

You have a choice of attending **ONE** of the following meetings:

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 – 7:00 p.m. – **Stevens Point Area**  
St. Pauls United Methodist Church  
600 Wilshire Blvd, Stevens Point

Thursday, May 16, 2024 – 7:00 p.m. – **Wausau Area**  
Wausau Homes Scout Service Center , 3511 Camp Phillips Rd, Weston

Out of Council Troops may have meetings in their area at Course Director option.

Each meeting will last about 1 hour and will start promptly at 7 p.m. Bring your copy of the “National Youth Leadership Training Information & Guidelines.”

**A Picture of the SCOUT will be taken at this meeting, therefore they MUST be in a Scout / Venture shirt.**

## AGENDA

Opening & Welcome  
Discuss the Purpose and Goals of NYLT  
Review Portions of the Parents Handbook  
Review the Schedule for the Week  
Fire Starter Guidelines  
Discuss the Leadership Pin  
Review of Samoset Council policy on Bullying, Hazing & Harassment  
Questions & Answers

***If you and Scout do not attend one of these meetings, they will not be able to attend NYLT. If you have any questions, please call the Course Facilitator.***

# NYLT GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony will **START** on **Saturday June 15, 2024**  
**at 10:00 am SHARP** in the activity field in front of Hanna. We advise arriving a little early [ 9:45 am! ] to watch the Scouts march in to the Activity Field area. At the conclusion of this Graduation ceremony, about 10:30 am, there will be a short time for pictures, conversations, questions and answers [ nothing formally organized! ]

Following this we expect most participants will depart by 11:00 am as our staff has to complete the teardown and storage of the conference materials and supplies.

Course Contact Information [ please identify yourself with all calls, texts or emails ]

Course Director  
Dennis Blaser  
Email: [mnso2183@gmail.com](mailto:mnso2183@gmail.com)  
815 First Street.  
Cell: 715-571-6389 [ call or text ]  
Rothschild, WI 54474

Course Facilitator  
Randy Gilray  
Email: [NYLTsamsoet@gmail.com](mailto:NYLTsamsoet@gmail.com)  
151820 Flameflower Rd  
Cell: 715-573-6717 [ call or text ]  
Wausau, WI 54401-5413

During the course from June 9 - June 15 contact Randy Gilray or Dennis Blaser at above contacts.

Please use the Scout's name in the subject line, in the text or on the voicemail.

## ***Does your Scout really want to be at NYLT?***

Every year we have Scouts how come to National Youth Leadership Training [NYLT] because either their parents or their Scoutmaster “made” them come. They really don’t want to be here, but they were afraid to disappoint someone. It has been our experience these Scouts quickly develop an attitude problem and start to disrupt the patrol or cause problems. **Please talk to your Scout.** If they really do not want to come, swallow your pride and let them stay home. Don’t force a program on them if they are not ready for it

**Check-In time is between 10:26 and 11:43 p.m. on Sunday morning, June 9.**

No noon meal will be furnished, so please eat before arrival.

***The parent / adult / driver must stay until the Scout has completed the medical check-in!***

***The Scouts are not always fully aware of the answers our staff must have regarding their medical issues and prescriptions that they have along!***

The Check-in / Welcoming process typically takes 15-20 minutes and there is about 30 minutes of other activity to be completed. Please arrive no earlier than 10:00 a.m. but no later than 11:00am. After check-in activity, the course program starts promptly at 11:50 p.m.

### **Scoutmasters Welcome**

Scouts will meet the adult leadership so that any questions they have can be answered and NYLT can make sure the Scout has certain items out for use BSA Health Forms, Medications and a 3-ring binder

### **Cancellations**

For cancellations contact the Course Facilitator, info on page 5, prior to Friday, May 17, 2024 so those individuals who may be on a “wait list” may be contacted.

### **Late Arrivals**

It is expected that **all participants arrive on time.** A crucial part of the learning process at NYLT involves the experience of living and working with a team of individuals called a patrol. It is vital for this teamwork and spirit to be established immediately on the first day.

### **Early Departures**

There are no early departures. The scheduled departure time is between 10:30 - 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 15 after the **Graduation Ceremony which starts at 10:00 am.** Please do not plan on picking up your Scout before this time. Each patrol is responsible for packing up camp equipment and cleaning up their campsite. All Scouts are expected to share equally in this process. When Scouts leave early, they place an unfair burden on the remaining patrol members. The Course Director reserves the right to withhold the patch/graduation certificate from Scouts who fail to complete all the requirements of the course, including cleanup.

### **Leaving During the Week**

Upon arrival, Scouts are not permitted to leave and return during the week, unless it is an emergency. ***This means a Scout may have to make a choice between coming to NYLT and participating in a potential sporting event or other type of event. This also includes events that may delay their arrival or hasten their departure!***

## **Refunds**

Refunds for the fee paid in, ( less an adjustment ), will be made if a cancellation occurs before May 17, 2024. Please notify the NYLT Course Director and Please see page 13 for complete refund information.

**The Deposit and Registration Fee are transferable to another Scout for NYLT this year, if desirable. See page 13.**

## **Personal Equipment**

Participants at NYLT are placed in predetermined patrols. This placement is done by the Course Directors and Facilitator and is not subject to change. Scouts from the same troop or town will be placed in different patrols. This allows Scouts to "start fresh" with no reputations or past histories to inhibit them. This also allows them to learn from the shared knowledge and experience of others. ***It is therefore not possible for Scouts to "share" equipment with another Scout from their home troop.*** All Scouts must be fully prepared with their own equipment.

## **Fire Starters**

Each Scout will be required to bring several [ 4 ] home-made fire-starters with them in 2023. Resources within Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and many camping journals can be found. RESTRICTIONS: NO liquid fuels [ gasoline, fuel oil or lighter fluid are FORBIDDEN ], NO explosive powders allowed. Use of paper, wax, charcoal [match-lite OK], paper shreds, dryer lint, cotton balls & petroleum jelly, all set in egg crating or paper cups is allowed. [ See Fire Starters download in NYLT info ]

## **Special Diet Needs or Activity Restrictions**

If your Scout has any special needs (such as diet or activity restrictions), please notify the Course Facilitator / Director ASAP so that necessary arrangements can be made. Allowances for minor physical limitations are possible, though all Scouts must be able to function independently without excessive assistance or aid.

**ANY diet issues / allergies must be noted on the Personal Resource Questionnaire.**

**CONTACT the COURSE DIRECTOR NOW if your Scout has any food allergies issues.  
The food order is placed in early May and is difficult to change!**

## **Visitations**

The curriculum at NYLT is highly structured and tightly scheduled. The only “free time” is around meal times or just before bed. Visits tend to disrupt the patrol routine and cut into patrol spirit and unity. An important aspect of this course is to allow young leaders to function with minimal adult oversight. **We would NOT advise visiting during the week!**

In order to assure the safety and security of staff and participants, all visitors are asked to check in with the Course Director at the Hanna Venture Base main building so arrangements can be made. Visitors and / or strangers will not be permitted to just walk through the property or wander around aimlessly.

## **Discipline**

Because Scouts will perform daily camp chores with minimal adult supervision, all Scouts must be responsible and mature. Scouts will live by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and adhere to the NYLT Code of Conduct AT ALL TIMES [ page 14 ]! Any Scout who fails to live up to these expectations will be counseled. If it becomes necessary to send your Scout home, you will be contacted and required to pick up your Scout within 6 hours. If you will be unavailable during the week of the course, please note an alternative adult to contact.

## **Lost / Stolen / Damaged Equipment**

Damage (other than normal wear and tear) to any Council property or equipment, or any personal property of another participant or staff member, will be paid for by those responsible. Personal property left unclaimed after the conclusion of the course will be turned in to the Council Office in Weston. If still unclaimed after August 1, 2024 it will be disposed of. Stealing violates the Scout Oath and Law and will be grounds for dismissal.

## **Mail**

The postal service does not deliver mail to Hanna Venture Base, so your Scout will not be able to receive mail.

## **Phone Calls & Emails**

A pay phone is not available at Hanna Venture Base. Calls from Scouts will therefore be restricted. If you need to contact your Scout, the number for the Course Facilitator or Course Directors , **info on page 5**. You may call or text. Simply ask for your Scout (from National Youth Leadership Training or NYLT) to return your call. Note your Scout will be busy camping and learning leadership and will not be near a phone, so it may take some time to round them up. If it is an emergency, we will get them immediately. If it is not an emergency, they will call back when it is convenient for them to do so. Please use your Scout’s name when leaving a message.

**Cell Phones are not permitted for participant Scouts!** If a Scout is found with a cell phone it will be taken away until the end of the week. Parents may pick it up from the Course Director after graduation on Saturday.

**E-Mail:** You may direct any email inquiries to: **NYLTsamoset@gmail.com** .

The subject line should be: NYLT - [ Scout's name ].

These emails will be answered but will not be immediate. Please allow up to 24 hours for a reply.

For immediate response, please call **[715] 573-6717**.

### **Personal Hygiene**

Due to the outdoor camp setting at NYLT and the "tight" program, daily showers are not possible. Twice during the week Scouts will be provided with an opportunity to shower. In between, Scouts need to "sponge bathe" in their campsites. Also, you can find prepackaged wash cloths that can remove the dirt of the day! A washing machine is not available, although Scouts may hand wash their clothes in a bucket. Ideally, enough clean clothes should be brought for the week so that washing them is unnecessary.

### **Sickness / Injuries**

Occasionally we encounter Scouts who get homesick and feel a need to call home. If this happens, we will first counsel the Scout to try to overcome the homesickness. If you feel your Scout may be likely to become homesick, discuss the matter with them. As a matter of practice, Scouts will not be allowed to call home except in an emergency [our opinion]. It is our philosophy that to be a good leader a Scout must function with a degree of independence from parents.

Should your Scout become ill during the week they will be removed from the patrol and provided with a bed at our first aid station. Should the illness persist for more than 24 hours, or if it continues to worsen, you will be contacted to take your Scout home. For serious illness or injury, your Scout will be taken to a doctor / emergency room in Rhinelander and you will be contacted.

### **Medicines**

BSA Policy states that at a Scout function, all prescription medicines must be under the control of, and disbursed by, a designated staff member. If your Scout is on any prescription medicines or any other medications when they come to the course, they must be turned in to the Medical Director (MD) at the time of registration. AND, in order that our Medical Director knows what they are disbursing and the quantity to be disbursed, **all prescription medicines and other medications must still be in the original container and accompanied by a copy of the prescription**. The Staff Medical Director will keep each Scout's medicine in a separate labeled container. It will be your Scout's responsibility to contact the Medical Director when it is time to take their medicine. Any questions or concerns should be discussed with the Medical Director at the time of registration.

## **Follow-up**

When your Scout returns home, we encourage all parents and Scoutmasters to discuss the course with them. Ask to see their notebook; all Scouts are asked to take notes and are given many handouts during the week. They are also given a packet of information on Leadership and Scout Skills. Encourage your Scout to keep this information as a resource for future referral. Try to provide your Scout with opportunities to practice their newly learned Leadership Skills. Remember these Leadership Skills can be applied to any leadership role, not just Scouting.

## **Earning a NYLT Leadership Pin**

Every Scout who attends NYLT has the opportunity to earn their Leadership Pin. Upon returning from the course, your Scout should sit down with their Scoutmaster or another designated leader and lay out a plan for your Scout to exercise some form of leadership within their troop or crew. This can be as simple as leading a campfire program or planning a troop campout. Upon completion of this leadership plan, your Scoutmaster should complete a NYLT Pin Application and mail it to the Course Director BEFORE April 20, 2025. The Course Director will make arrangements for someone from the NYLT staff to come and present your Scout with their pin, if possible. See your Scout's home Scoutmaster or Crew Advisor for details.

## **Caffeine / Sweets "Addiction"**

Some youth today drink a lot of soda or energy drinks. Soda and "energy drinks" can become addictive. It has been our experience that youth can have withdrawal reactions when these items are immediately reduced. Therefore, we would appreciate it if you would limit your Scouts intake of these items the week before the course starts, if not sooner!

## **Problems During the Course**

When you get many teenagers together in a program, there are bound to be some problems. We address them as they occur. If your Scout encounters problems of any kind, they must go talk to their NYLT Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster or Course Director. We are here to help. We realize that teenagers are expanding their boundaries and sometimes go too far.

**Your Scout has the right to feel safe at this NYLT course.**

**If your Scout feels uncomfortable for any reason, the SCOUT must go talk to their NYLT Scoutmaster or other NYLT Adult immediately so that we can do something about it.**

They should not fear any retaliation. It is our mission that your Scout has a positive and SAFE experience at NYLT. Please read through, sign and return the NYLT Code of Conduct on the last page of this guide.

## **Graduation Packet**

When the Scout completes the week of Leadership Training, they will receive in their Graduation Packet / envelope the following:

NYLT Graduation Certificate

NYLT Patch

NYLT Trained patch

1 Copy Medical Form

Medicine Log showing all medicine dispensed during course

Unused medicine that was brought to course

NYLT Leadership Pin Letter

NYLT Leadership Pin Application

Scoutmaster Letter for Leadership Pin

NYLT Course DVD – may be mailed at a later date

**Application Letter for Joining our 2025 Staff  
DUE DATE – OCTOBER 17, 2024**

# Participant Equipment List

**ABSOLUTE NECESSITIES -- Must have in order to participate at the NYLT Course**

**Completed Youth Health & Medical Record**

**Scout Uniform (*shirt*)**

**3 - ring binder (*1-1/2 inch or thicker*)**

**Compass**

**Home-made Fire Starters [ 3 ]**

**Daypack [ holds 3 ring binder, water bottle, daily use stuff ]**

Personal first aid kit

Boots/shoes suitable for hiking

Rain gear (*very important*)

Spring/fall jacket (*insulated*)

Mess kit (*or plate, bowl, cup*)

Knife, fork, spoon

Ground cloth (*waterproof*)

Spring/fall rated sleeping bag (*suitable for backpacking--NOT bulky, NOT summer*)

Flashlight (*with new batteries*) or headlamp

Boy Scout Handbook

PJ's or clothes to sleep in

Backpack (*framed*) for packing out

This backpack should be used to pack in all clothes and other items for the week

**2 - Lightweight BACKPACKER TENTS with rain fly [ rough size 8' x 8' or SMALLER ]**

**Tent must have room for 1 Scout plus gear for**

the week (*the ideal tent would be rated as a " 1 or 2-man" tent*)

Long pants (*2 pair*)

2 Brillo / SOS Pads

Tote 'N Chip card

Note paper, pens/pencils

Change of clothing

Extra pair of shoes

Underclothing

Required/prescribed medication

Watch

2 or 3 plastic garbage bags

**HAND SANITIZER 4oz – 8oz**

Towel & washcloth

Extra blanket(s)

Toothbrush & paste

Hand soap & other toiletries

Scout knife (*No hunting, sheath or street knives [ These will be confiscated ]*)

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## OPTIONAL ITEMS:

Scout shorts / socks/pants

Air mattress / foam pad

Pillow

Work gloves

Sunglasses - extra prescription eyeglasses

Handkerchiefs

Camera & film

Seat Cushion to sit on (*during the many presentations*)

Insect repellent (**NO AEROSOL CANS**)

Wind breaker or other light jacket

Sharpening stone

Moccasins or slippers

Sun screen lotion/lip salve

Straps for fastening articles to backpack

Religious book(s)

Metal mirror (**NO GLASS MIRRORS**)

PRE-PACKAGED WASH CLOTHS - disposable

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## SOME ITEMS YOU SHOULD **NOT** BRING:

Radios, tape players, electronic games, cell phones, etc. (*will be "kept" in safe storage until you leave!!*)

Headgear (*strange hats, etc.*)

Pop, food or other snacks

Saws, axes, hatchets, shovels

Fishing gear

Cots/lawn chairs

Coolers

Weapons/fireworks (*You will be sent home!*)

T-shirts with "questionable" messages (*remember the Scout Oath and Law!*)

Troop or local neckerchief (*An NYLT course bolo tie will be provided*)

Bulky suitcases

Any other bulky or unnecessary items

Aerosol cans of anything

**REMINDER!** You will be required to "pack in" and will be living and camping outdoors. Meals will be prepared by you and your patrol members on an open wood fire. You must be able to carry all items in one trip (pack in a good framed backpack). If you can get by without something, leave it home!

**All cooking equipment will be provided by the NYLT course.** You will receive 2 - NYLT T-shirts, an NYLT bolo, and a hat with name tag PLUS an NYLT Water Bottle upon arrival, to wear and use throughout the week.

# Request for Refund

This form must be submitted **PRIOR TO JUNE 1, 2024**.  
Contact Course Director by Cell or email first then Mail refund form to the Course Director.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature for Course Withdrawal \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Course Fee - \$ 335.00**

**Withdrawing from Course Before May 17, 2024**

<i>WITHDRAWAL Date</i>	<i>Refund Adjustment Amount</i>
prior to April 15, 2024	less \$60 of fees paid
April 16 to May 17, 2024	less \$100 of fees paid

**Withdrawing from the course before the start date or non-attendance at the course will also negate the issuance of the hat and tee shirts even though the fees were paid in part or in total.**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Course Director)

Make Check Payable to\*\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* : Any refunds will be issued to the party that has paid the money. If a troop has paid any part of the fee, they will receive the refund first.**

## **NYLT Code of Conduct**

The staff adult leaders are responsible for the supervision of the participants, maintaining discipline, security, and the NYLT Code of Conduct. Participants will be guided by the Scout Oath and Scout Law and will obey all U.S., local, and state laws.

- I promise to obey the Scout oath and law.
- I will be Scout-like in how I act and treat others.
- I will set a good example by keeping myself neatly dressed and presentable.
- I will attend all scheduled programs and participate as required in cooperation with other participants and leaders.
- In consideration of other participants, I agree to follow the bedtime and sleep schedule of the course.
- I will be responsible for keeping my tent and personal gear clean and neat and labeling all personal gear.
- I will adhere to all recycling policies and regulations. I will not litter.
- I understand that the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is prohibited at NYLT.
- I understand that serious and/or repetitive behavior violations, including cheating, stealing, dishonesty, fighting, and cursing, may result in expulsion from NYLT.
- I understand that gambling of any form is prohibited.
- I understand that sexual activity and inappropriate public displays of affection are prohibited.
- I understand that possession of lasers of any type and possession or detonation of fireworks is prohibited.
- I will demonstrate respect for camp and NYLT property and be personally responsible for any loss, breakage, or vandalism of property as a result of my actions.
- Neither the NYLT staff nor Samoset Council, Boy Scouts of America will be responsible for the loss, breakage, or theft of personal items. I will label all my personal items and check items of value at the direction of staff. Theft will be grounds for expulsion.
- I will obey the safety rules and instructions of all staff members.
- I agree to adhere to the “buddy system” at all times.
- I understand that hazing has no place in Scouting; nor do running the gauntlet, belt lines, and similar acts of physical punishment.
- I understand that I can be sent home for bullying, cyberbullying, horseplay, fighting, stealing, off-color jokes, remarks or conduct unbecoming of a Scout, harassment of any kind – sexual, religious, race, cultural, national origin, disability, etc., being a “peeping tom”, being in an off-limits area and/or repeated failure to follow instructions.

Violation of this Code of Conduct, or any other conduct deemed to be inconsistent with the values of Scouting, may result in expulsion from NYLT at the participant’s own expense and could result in revocation of BSA membership.

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Participants Signature

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Parents Signature