

## Troop 40 Expectations of Assistant Scoutmasters

This document is intended to inform prospective Scout Leaders as to what is expected of an Assistant Scoutmaster so that they can determine if it makes sense for them to become one. There are no specific requirements other than wearing the uniform. There are also other ways adults can contribute to the Troop and to Scouting: Serving on the Committee, assisting with a specific activity (fundraiser / Court of Honor, etc), driving, or becoming a Merit Badge Counselor. *Note: Our Troop often uses the title Scoutmaster generically to refer to ASM's. We have one SM and many ASM's.*

***As with the Scouts, the more active a leader is the more their son, other Scouts, and ultimately the Troop will benefit - and they will more get out of it. However, It is understood that they have other obligations and adults are not expected to attend every meeting or event. Active leaders will be more comfortable working with Scouts and find it easier to plan events. Typically new leaders will work with experienced ones when working with Scouts. Leaders should encourage their sons to commit to attending Troop functions as far in advance as possible so that they can also plan their own participation as well. Troop 40 is very active and it takes many hands to make it work.***

- 1) **Wear the Scout Uniform.** Scout Leaders must set the example for Scouts by properly wearing the uniform.
- 2) **Attend Meetings.** Scout Leaders are needed at meetings to work with Scouts on advancements and for Scoutmaster Conferences for the lower ranks (Scout through First Class).
- 3) **Attend Events.** Scout Leaders are needed, both for transportation and supervision, on all Troop events. Adults should sign up just as the Scouts do so that the SMIC (SM In Charge) knows if parents are needed to drive and if there is sufficient adult coverage.
- 4) **Plan an event.** When the calendar for the year is planned if at all possible each SM should take on the planning of an event (SMIC). Plenty of help and advice is available from the SM and other experienced ASM's.

There are tools available on the Troop website to help:

- [Event Planning Guidelines](#) lists steps for planning an event including time frames.
- [Information Sheet Template](#) includes things to consider / questions to answer / etc., when preparing the information sheet for an event.

5) **Training.** There are a variety of training courses appropriate for Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters. The more basic ones can be done online and should be taken ASAP. Scoutmasters are encouraged to take advantage of the training offered. A Scoutmaster is considered "Trained" after completing SASLST and IOLS and will be recognized with the "Trained" patch at a COH. The training courses are listed below and more detailed descriptions follow.

***Every boy deserves the best trained leaders.***

### Required Training

- **Youth Protection:** All adults are required to take Youth Protection. This is a requirement of BSA. Our chartering organization also requires training to protect children. They accept the BSA Youth Protection as an alternative to their own training.

### Expected

- **Fast Start.**
- **New Leaders Essentials.**
- **Weather Hazards Training.**
- **Safe Swim Defense.**
- **Safety Afloat.**

Note: Youth Protection, Safe Swim Defense, and Safety Afloat are usually arranged for all the Troop leaders every 2 years.

### Encouraged

- **Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training (SASLST).**
- **Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS).**

### Also Encouraged

- **Woodbadge.**

# Training Course Descriptions

## Youth Protection Training \*\*

Youth Protection Training accomplishes the following objectives: Informs leaders and parents of BSAs Youth Protection policies and materials, including It Happened to Me, a video for Cub Scout-age boys and their parents, and A Time to Tell, a video for Boy Scout age boys. Increases the protection of children by discussing the procedures for prompt reporting of suspected abuse. Enables Scouting's leaders and parents to recognize indicators of abuse. Youth Protection Training can be completed online. First time leaders are encouraged to take the Youth Protection Training "live".

**Prerequisite: None**

## Boy Scout Leader Fast Start Training \*\*

This is the first step and covers the organization of a pack or a troop. Participants may choose to take the course by an interactive web based program or by video at home. For more information or upon completion, the participant needs to contact his or her district training chairman or district executive.

**Prerequisite: None**

## New Leader Essentials Training

New Leader Essentials covers all adult leaders serving youth in the Boy Scouts of America. The course presents an overview of Scouting, including the organization's mission, aims, and methods. It also provides new leaders with a look at the resources available to them through the Boy Scouts of America, and a clear understanding of Scouting's expectations of its adult leadership. All new adult leaders in all Scouting programs should participate in this course as soon as possible upon volunteering.

**Prerequisite: Fast Start Training, Youth Protection and Leader Specific Training**

## Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Specific Training (SASLST)

Following new Leader Essentials training, this course is the next phase of a new Scoutmaster's introduction to the Boy Scouts of America and to the responsibilities, opportunities, and resources that will ensure a successful troop leadership experience. Course covers: Role of the Scoutmaster, Troop Organization, Troop Meetings, Working with Boy Leaders/The Patrol Method, Patrol Leaders Council, The Outdoor Program, Program Planning and Troop Administration.

**Prerequisite: Fast Start Training and Youth Protection training**

## Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS)

The Outdoor Leader Skills portion familiarizes the leader with the skills that a Scout must learn from Tenderfoot through First Class and includes such areas as woods, tools, map and compass, ropes, cooking, plant identification, campfires, first aid, and camping and hiking.

**Prerequisite: Fast Start Training, Youth Protection and SASLST**

## Woodbadge for the 21st Century

Woodbadge is considered the ultimate in Scout Leader training. It is a leadership training program immersed in the methods of Scouting. Participants come away from the course inspired to realize their personal vision of their role in Scouting. Woodbadge trained leaders can be recognized by the Woodbadge beads on a lanyard worn with their mauve neckerchief with plaid patch and the leather woggle slide.

**Prerequisite: SASLST & IOLS**

# Supplemental Training Courses

## **Safe Swim Defense \*\***

Before a group may engage in swimming activities of any kind, a minimum of one adult leader must complete Safe Swim Defense training, have a commitment card (No. 34243) with them, and agree to use the eight defenses in this plan.

**Prerequisite: None**

## **Safety Afloat \*\***

Safety Afloat has been developed to promote boating and boating safety and to set standards for safe unit activity afloat. Before a unit may engage in an excursion, expedition, or trip on the water (canoe, raft, sailboat, motorboat, rowboat, tube, or other craft), adult leaders for such activity must complete Safety Afloat Training, No. 34159A, have a commitment card, No. 34242A, with them, and be dedicated to full compliance with all nine points of Safety Afloat.

**Prerequisite: None**

## **Weather Hazards Training \*\***

Weather Hazards Training is designed to help you and your troop plan and prepare for hazardous weather—to make you “Weather Smart.”. Effective for tours on January 1, 2009, at least one adult must have completed Planning and Preparing for Hazardous Weather training.

**Prerequisite: None**

**\*\* Available online. Visit [www.olc.scouting.org](http://www.olc.scouting.org).**