



Unit Leaders:

National Youth Leadership Training is an exciting, action-packed program designed for councils to provide youth members with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home troops and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others.

The NYLT course centers around the concepts of what a leader must BE, what he/she must KNOW, and what he/she must DO. The key elements are then taught with a clear focus on HOW TO. The skills come alive during the week as the patrol goes on a Quest for the Meaning of Leadership.

NYLT is a six-day course; GGAC does offer a two-weekend course but it has the same commitment as the normal week-long course. Through activities, presentations, challenges, discussions, and audio-visual support, NYLT participants will be engaged in a unified approach to leadership that will give them the skill and confidence to lead well. Through a wide range of activities, games, and adventures, participants will work and play together as they put into action the best Scouting has to offer.

GGAC offers multiple NYLT courses each year at Camp Herms and Rancho Los Mochos. The courses are youth lead, with each course troop staffed and led by eleven fully trained youth. Adult leadership in the form of SM's and ASM's are present at all times and oversee progress. In this peer-to-peer environment, the course syllabus is delivered in a troop and patrol outdoor setting (similar to the Wood Badge course) with an emphasis on immediate application of learning in a fun environment. Interconnected concepts and work processes are introduced early, built upon, and reinforced with the use of memory aids, which allows participants to understand and employ the leadership skills much faster.

For NYLT to be effective, we need your help in several areas as your youth apply for, progress through, and complete NYLT.

1) Youth Selection

We ask you to discuss the NYLT program with each applicant to establish expectations of attendance, ultimately approving their attendance as part of the registration process. NYLT is full time training course, it is not summer camp. Participants should be mature enough to remain attentive during the week and participate in the course's activities and sessions. At the end of course and in order to build upon the skills they will have learned there, it is expected that they will be ready to assume a meaningful leadership position within the unit and demonstrate their understanding and use of the material presented during the NYLT course. A couple of general pointers that seemed to have worked for the majority of unit leaders in the past:

- **DO** encourage a youth that you expect to take on a leadership position in your unit to attend NYLT.
- **DO** recommend scouts and venturers that have sufficient maturity; sometimes having a youth wait a year before going to NYLT is better for him/her and for the unit.

- **DO** approve NYLT attendance for youth that will be a credit to your unit.
- **DO NOT** recommend someone that you need to routinely keep an eye on during your meetings and outings.
- **DO NOT** send someone that has not had at least one multi-day camp experience.
- **DO NOT** approve an NYLT registration for a youth who does not particularly want to attend.

2) **Demonstrating their Expertise**

For the learning at course week to be most effective, the skills need to be applied. This, in addition to the selection process, is where the Unit Leader helps most. We ask each NYLT participant to develop some ideas on how to make their home Unit better. When they return from course, we ask that you discuss these ideas with them and establish some goals to implement them over the course of a couple of months. We recommend that each youth participant should have 3 goals to complete post-course.

3) **Final Course Completion**

We ask all Leaders to monitor the progress of these agreed goals within the unit until their completion. Goals should be sized so that they are possible to complete within the timeframe or 3 to 5 months after the course. Each NYLT course may hold a Course Reunion meeting and recognize all participants who have completed their goals and demonstrated to the satisfaction of their unit leader that they are using their leadership skills and knowledge. When the participant has completed their goals, we ask you to email us at nylt@ggacbsa.org with confirmation and a short description of what the youth has done to demonstrate leadership.

NYLT staff can help you with any questions or concerns. Please send an email to nylt@ggacbsa.org with your questions, comments or to set up a discussion.