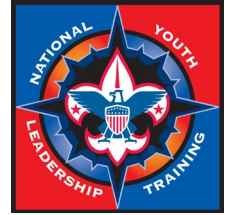


Frequently Asked Questions - 2025

Golden Gate Area Council

National Youth Leadership Training

Winter Course Information



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Revised: 22 January 2025

What is NYLT?

NYLT is run by volunteer staff from GGAC and follows the BSA National Youth Leadership Training curriculum. It is part of the BSA nationally mandated three-part youth training continuum:

- **ILST/ILSC** – Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops/Crews
- **NYLT** – National Youth Leadership Training
- **NAYLE** – National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience

NYLT is a week-long outdoor experience for present and future youth leaders where attendees are presented with training and leadership tools to help them develop as servant leaders within their unit and the community. NYLT attendees are trained to take a leadership role in their home unit, greatly assisting Scoutmasters and Venturer Advisors meet their responsibilities to provide leadership training and maintain a youth-run Program.



The Course focuses on teaching advanced leadership and planning skill in an intense, team-building and collaborative atmosphere. Participants are challenged throughout the week to accomplish time-sensitive tasks using team-building and leadership skills taught during the Course. Participants also have opportunities to improve and apply outdoor skills.

NYLT is open to **BOTH** Scouts and Venturers. Both male and female Venturers may attend. [TOC Return to Top](#)

What is the purpose of NYLT?

NYLT has six major aims:

- To give participants the confidence and knowledge to run the troop/crew program;
- To teach and practice **key leadership skills** and relate these skills to the responsibilities in the participant's home unit;
- To give participants the opportunity to share ideas and experiences that other youth have found to be successful and useful in their home units;
- Give each participant a varied experience with emphasis on the patrol method and demonstrate new ways to teach outdoor skills in a fun atmosphere back in their home unit.
- To create an atmosphere where participants will experience "Scouting at its best".
- To enhance the relationship between the participant and his home unit's scoutmaster/advisor. [Return to Top](#)

Is NYLT complete after the Course?



NYLT is a two-phase program. **Phase 1** is the intensive course totaling 6 days of training. **Phase 2** is the execution phase where each participant applies the leadership skills learned while at the course in his/her home unit by completing three self-set goals. This execution phase can be completed at any time but we strongly encourage that it is carried out upon return from the course. NYLT staff are available to assist participants in achieving their goals if needed.

To aid timely completion, courses usually hold a course recognition meeting four to 5 months after course (each year) where we recognize all participants who have been certified as having completed their goals by their unit leader (unit leaders send the course organizers an email once the participant has completed their goals. The email outlines the activities that have been carried out and certifies satisfactory completion). [Return to Top](#)

Is NYLT like summer camp?

No. NYLT is an intensive leadership training course held in an outdoor [camp] environment. There are **no** rank advancement or Merit Badge opportunities during the week. The purpose of this course is to develop leadership skills that participants will use in their home units and throughout their lives. [Return to Top](#)

Where is NYLT held?

GGAC runs NYLT courses each year at Camp Herms above El Cerrito and at Rancho Los Mochos, south of Livermore, California. Parents or leaders must provide transportation to and from the course for the participant. [Return to Top](#)

Important dates for NYLT?

Please refer to the separate Course-specific information listed as a separate document for details on any Orientation Meetings, exact arrival and departure times and any post-course meetings/recognition events

How can I contact a participant while on course?

Telephone service to the camp is limited. Parents will be provided emergency contact information, mobile phone and email, at the First Troop meeting held in January.



Due to the intensive schedule at NYLT, parents and friends are discouraged from visiting during the course. Adult leaders who want to observe the program are encouraged. Please e-mail us of your intention to visit at (nylt@goldengatescouting.org) so we know when to expect you.

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Who can attend NYLT?

NYLT is open to Scouts and Venturers who meet the following requirements:



Scout participants must be First Class before the Session's Orientation date. They must be at least 13 years of age by the beginning of course. They should have taken part in an ILST course at their home unit.

Venturer participants should have taken part in an ILSC course at their home unit. *Both male and female Venturers are welcomed and encouraged to apply for NYLT.*

All applicants must want to attend NYLT and have the enthusiasm and desire to participate in this learning experience. Because NYLT requires some camping skills, participants should have had at least one long-term camp experience (such as summer camp) before coming to NYLT.

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Who should not attend NYLT?

- Youth with significant homesickness issues,
- Youth who have discipline/behavioral problems,
- Youth who have no camping experience, or
- Youth who have never camped without a parent in attendance.

NYLT is run by a caring and attentive staff of volunteer instructors. It is not designed to change the attitude of a youth that does not want to learn or participate. NYLT will nourish the

leadership ability of the youth that you count on to run your troop. NYLT will likely not help youth with discipline problems.

Participants with discipline issues who are disruptive during the course will likely be sent home without refund. Removal of a participant from the program is not done lightly and is reviewed thru a multi-level process and ultimately thru the Course Director. If a participant is removed from the program, his/her parents will be called and they will need to pick the youth up, that day, at camp.

If you have any questions about the appropriateness of any youth attending NYLT, please contact the Course Director at nylt@goldengatescouting.org. [Return to Top](#)

When does registration close?

The Council offers two different Sessions – a February Session limited to 48 participants and a June Session, with a limit of 192. Once those limits are reached, all other applicants are placed on a waiting list and will be offered a place should one open up. With strict limits per session, early registration is important. ***Register as early as possible to avoid disappointment.***



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What happens after I register?

You will receive an e-mail acknowledgement. This is your receipt. Approximately 4-6 weeks before course, you will get an e-mail from nylt@goldengatescouting.org or your course-director with the following information.

It will alert you of several items that we will need:

- A current [BSA Medical](#) parts A, B, and C and insurance identification card (i.e.: less than a year old at the time of NYLT)

Your Unit Leader will also be sent an email asking him/her to confirm if they approve of the youth participant for NYLT attendance. Participants should confirm with their unit leader that they will approve the Scouts participation in NYLT before they register.

Approximately 2 weeks before a Participant Orientation Meeting, an e-mail will be sent to youth, parents and unit leader as a reminder that the Orientation Meeting is coming up. The email will re-confirm that the Scout is registered for a particular



session. It will remind participants of the required information needed at Orientation.
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What Paperwork is due and when is it due?

For planning purposes, the last day of open registration is two weeks prior to Orientation for the particular session, although we do accept on-line registration up to a few days before Orientation. After that date, applications are accepted IF additional participants can be accommodated. If the session fills earlier, we will close them with some youth on the wait-list. At Orientation, an [Annual Health and Medical Record](#) valid through the date of the course is due. **Do NOT E-Mail, Fax, or mail the medical.** It is due at Orientation. Those who fail to turn the Medical in at Orientation must bring it to the first day of their course.

The [Annual Health and Medical Record](#) form you bring to orientation must have parts A, B, and C completely filled out. A copy of the front and back of the Scout's Medical Insurance Card is also required. A copy of the form kept by your home unit is acceptable. PLEASE TELL US ABOUT ALL FOOD RESTRICTIONS, MEDICAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING ALLERGIES AND ANY CONCERNS/ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR YOUTH AT ORIENTATION. All prescriptions must be in their original containers for camp. Please send only the amount needed for the week. THANKS. [Return to Top](#)



What is the cost?

The course fee is **\$450 for registration before January 15 for the February Course and \$475 before May 1 for the June session.** A late fee of \$40 is charged after those dates. There is a \$30 sur-charge for out-of-council participants. On-line Registration is set up for Paypal or credit card payment. [Return to Top](#)

Are there camperships available?

We routinely have people ask us this question. There are 3 options.

- The **first option** is to see if your home troop can underwrite some or all of the expenses. There are a few Troops that underwrite the entire cost; some underwrite 50% of the cost. Some assess financial need and supply a campership based on this.
- **Second**, each Scout may apply for one campership per year **if he is registered in the Golden Gate Area Council and the family can demonstrate financial need.** This may go towards summer camp or any other long-term camp, including NYLT.
- In exceptional circumstances, we may be able to help. Please contact us at nylt@goldengatescouting.org with details so we can work with you to make it possible for your youth to attend NYLT. [Return to Top](#)

Is there any extra charge for registering using a credit card?

No. The registration fee is all inclusive. [Return to Top](#)

Is the home Scoutmaster/Advisor involved in the NYLT training?



Absolutely! NYLT is designed to enhance the youth's relationship with his home Scoutmaster/Advisor. As part of the second phase of NYLT, the home unit leader coordinates and encourages the completion of the NYLT experience by working with each participant to identify 3 goals that will benefit the unit and where the learned NYLT skills can be put to use. See [Taking NYLT Home](#) on the GGAC-NYLT [Home Page](#). [Return to Top](#)

What accommodations are provided at NYLT?

Participants are placed in a patrol/team consisting of six to eight youth from many Districts and even from other Councils. Per Scouts BSA troop structures, the Troops are divided by gender, males in one troop and females in another troop. There are no Coed Troops nor Patrols. These troop structures were updated in 2021 for NYLT to reflect the Scouts BSA troop organization.

NYLT provides a full, well-balanced menu during the week – no one goes hungry. Meals are provided cafeteria style and served by the quartermaster team. We have a limited trading post on camp and discourage the bringing of candy or snacks to course. [Return to Top](#)

Do I need to bring a tent?

Each participant is expected to bring a 2-person tent and ground cloth for the February Camp Herms Session – please, nothing larger because space is limited. Participants will be expected to share tents with fellow members of their patrols; if all participants bring tents, only 1/2 the tents will be used. We recommend that each participant ask to borrow a tent for the week from their home unit – we do NOT expect a participant to buy a tent specifically for NYLT. [Return to Top](#)



Is any special equipment needed?

There is no special equipment required for NYLT at Camp Herms. Please check for the latest equipment list off of the Session page for the Camp Herms course. This page will be provided to the participants after they register. [Return to Top](#)

What about meals and special dietary needs?



Meals at Camp Herms are prepared and served cafeteria or family style by the quartermaster staff.

During registration, the participants are asked to complete an on-line **food restriction form** to inform us of any specific dietary needs or restrictions. If we are unclear on your food restrictions, we will contact you but you may also e-mail us. We try to accommodate most dietary needs but do require **advanced** notice.

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Do I need a uniform?

Scout or Venture Uniforms are absolutely required at NYLT. We are a uniformed organization and wear our full uniform for various activities every day. Since the Camp Herms course is held over two-weekends, a second uniform is optional. However, in anticipation of cold and wet weather, we recommend fleece jackets, warm layers, and rain gear as well. [Return to Top](#)

Do I need a backpack?

Yes. You will be expected to carry all of your personal equipment to and from your campsite and all personal clothes, toiletries and sleeping gear should be contained in your backpack. A backpack cover or large plastic bag will help keep your backpack and contents dry in the event of rain or morning dew. [Return to Top](#)



Do I really need hiking boots?

You will encounter wet and frosty conditions in February at Camp Herms. Hiking boots will help keep your feet dry and protect you and your ankles from injury. If you do not have access to hiking boots, lug soled hiking shoes are an acceptable alternative. Sneakers or skate shoes are not adequate and, at no time, is open toed footwear permitted (including “Crocs”).

You will be at a disadvantage if your footwear is not up to the task and, depending upon conditions, may result in your participation in some activities being limited for safety reasons. This may impact your ability to complete the NYLT course. If you have specific questions about what footwear to bring, please email us at nylt@goldengatescouting.org. [Return to Top](#)



How can I get additional information? E-mail us at nylt@goldengatescouting.org.
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