



NYLT LEADER'S GUIDE

Bay Area Council, Scouting America #574
National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)
Camp Karankawa – Sweeny, Texas
December 26–31, 2026

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)

Bay Area Council, Scouting America #574

Camp Karankawa

December 26–31, 2026

Course Director: Jason Renz

Assistant Course Director: Jerry Marin

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1. WELCOME LETTER

Welcome to National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) hosted by Bay Area Council, Scouting America #574!

NYLT is a premier leadership experience designed to help youth develop practical leadership skills they can immediately apply in their units, schools, and communities. This six-day immersive course combines hands-on learning, team development, and personal growth grounded in the Scout Oath and Law.

We look forward to an outstanding course at Camp Karankawa.

Yours in Scouting,

Jason Renz

Course Director

Jerry Marin

Assistant Course Director

2. COURSE OVERVIEW

What is NYLT?

National Youth Leadership Training is an action-oriented leadership course for Scouts BSA, Venturers, Sea Scouts, and Explorers. Participants learn leadership skills through activities, games, presentations, and guided reflection.

Course Dates: December 26–31, 2026

Location: Camp Karankawa, Sweeny, Texas

Host Council: Bay Area Council, Scouting America #574

3. KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

Course Director

Jason Renz

Phone: (405) 210-2547

Email: JDRenzSR@hotmail.com

Assistant Course Director

Jerry Marin

Phone: (817) 705-2959

Email: Gerard.marinbsa@gmail.com

Council Office

Bay Area Council, Scouting America #574

Phone: (409) 744-5206

Emergency Contact During Course

Phone: (817) 705-2959

4. SCOUTMASTER LETTER

Unit Leader Recommendation to attend NYLT

The Scoutmaster's recommendation is required in order for a youth to participate in National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT).

Scout, Venturer or Sea Scout requesting to attend NYLT: _____ Unit Type:
 Troop Crew Ship Unit Number: _____

NYLT session – December 26-31, 2026 Scout's age at start of course: _____

The Scout completed the Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops, Crews, or Ships at the unit level on _____ (date of completion). Source: www.scouting.org/training/youth (recommended)

By signing this recommendation and sending it to the Course Director, you agree Scout is mature enough to participate in NYLT and able to understand the servant leadership concepts taught.

You also agree that the Scout will be able to put the leadership skills learned into practice and will be an asset to the unit. (Do not send the form to Council if the Scout is not mature enough to attend NYLT)

(Unit Leader Signature)

Unit Leader Name:

Unit Leader Email Address:

Instructions: Email this form to the Course Director and Backup Course Director listed at the bottom of this form.

About NYLT: National Youth Leadership Training is an exciting, action-packed six-day council-level program designed to provide Scouts with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home units and other situations demanding leadership of self and others. NYLT is filled with activities, presentations, challenges, discussions, and camping in a team and model unit environment.

Since a Scout only takes this course once, it is critical for the youth to get the maximum benefit from this experience; therefore, the Scouts must be able to handle the demands of this advanced course, which requires maturity, experience, and proficiency in basic camping skills.

NYLT Requirements and Expectations. Participants must:

1. Be registered in a troop and be at least First Class rank. Scouts in troops must be at least 13 years of age but not yet 18 by day one of the course. Venturers and/or Sea Scouts must be registered in a crew and/or ship, must be at least 14, or 13 and have completed eighth grade, and fall within the maximum age allowance for their program. No exceptions.
2. Live by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law at all times.
3. Be able to attend the entire course: day one begins at 12:00 pm (check-in starts at noon), and day six ends around 4:00 pm. If a Scout does not attend the full course, they will not receive credit for the course.
4. Have their unit leader's approval in writing to be to attend.
5. Have completed [Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops, Crews or Ships](#), delivered at the unit level.
6. Attend the mandatory orientation meeting with a unit leader or parent.

For more information about NYLT, visit <https://bacbsa.doubleknot.com/nylt-2026/56033>.

Course Director
Jason Renz
405 210-2547
JDRenzSR@hotmail.com

Backup Course Director
Jerry Marin
817 705-2959
Gerard.marinbsa@gmail.com

5. NYLT FACT SHEET

NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

THE COURSE 2026

Course Overview

The NYLT course centers around the concepts of what a leader must BE, must KNOW, and 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.

Youth leadership training is a three-phase experience, and a common thread will connect all three. The first phase begins in the unit, with the senior youth and adult leader conducting a Troop or Crew Leadership Training course. Phase two is NYLT, conducted by the local council, and the third phase is National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) at all of the BSA High Adventure Camps. NAYLE is a coed program and completion of a NYLT course is required. Kodiak is an optional trek-based experiential course based on the leadership skills acquired during Troop Leadership Training and Crew Leadership Training. Kodiak is not required for participation in NYLT or NAYLE.

The Course models a month in the life of a unit. An NYLT course is set up to represent an activity cycle in the life of a typical Scouting unit. This might be a month in the life of a troop or a series of meetings leading to an activity in a Venturing Crew. The first three full days of the course represent the planning stages, complete with leadership council meetings, unit meetings and planning for a larger event. Participants use the full range of BSA resources for planning and conducting meetings that are interesting, lively, and relevant; a skill participants can incorporate with great effect when they return to their home units. NYLT participants put their preparations to the test with an NYLT Outpost Camp. This experience symbolizes the big event that culminates a typical unit's activity cycle program. We follow the model of others-first leadership that is taught in Introduction to Leadership skills for Troops and Crews.

This powerful concept can be called many things, but the meaning is the same: Put the needs of others and of your team before your own.

During an NYLT course, participants find themselves going through the four stages of team development — Forming, Storming, Norming, and Performing -- that all groups experience when brought together for a single, unified purpose. Their challenges heighten the team development process, enabling them to use their awareness of these team-building stages to construct a highly effective team that can reach its full potential. Along the way they also get to enjoy Scouting fellowship and fun.

NYLT participants discover that leading themselves and leading others requires a vision—a picture of future success. Each team will develop a vision for the course, and each individual will prepare his or her own vision. A constant refrain of NYLT is “If you can see it, you can be it.” Through presentations and positive experiences in goal-setting, planning, and problem-solving, participants learn how to set a clear course toward realizing their team and individual visions; and then how to put themselves in the center of those pictures of future success.

Throughout *The Course*, the staff will be modeling the concepts and skills that are the core content of the course. The focus of each session is not only knowledge but also giving the youth a “Toolbox of Skills” that equips them with the “how.”

Objectives

- Give participants the confidence and knowledge to conduct their own BSA program
- Provide participants with a clear understanding of team and personal development and how those elements relate to being a leader.
- Guide the participants through the stages of team development.
- Create an environment of Scouting fellowship and fun guided by the Scout / Venturing Oath and Scout Law.
- Give participants the opportunity to share ideas and experiences with youth from other troops.
- Have fun and experience the “scouting” program at its best.
- Create a safe environment of learning and fun.
- Provide a clear understanding of servant leadership

Who May Attend?

An NYLT course is ideal for training unit leaders. It is a valuable experience for all older Scouts and Venturers. In order to attend an NYLT course, a youth must have the following qualifications by the beginning of the course:

- Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts must be 13 years of age and fall within the maximum age allowance for their program registration.
- Be a First Class Scout and have completed Troop Leadership Training (TLT).

- Other youth participants must be at least 14 and fall within the maximum age allowance for their program. They must have completed Crew Officer Orientation, the Venturing Leadership Skills Course, or the new Crew Leadership Training.
- Have a unit leader recommendation.

Unit leaders should not allow exceptions to age and rank requirements. **Experience has shown that youth younger than 13 often lack the physical and emotional maturity to benefit fully from the NYLT experience.** Select and invite youth from your unit who you as a leader believe will gain the most from the course and will be the best servant leaders. Make sure that the youth whose names you submit are willing and eager participants. They will be best served by the NYLT experience.

When are the dates?

- **December 26-31st** - *The Course* will begin at 12:00 NOON on December 26th – (participants may not drop off any earlier than noon; they will have to wait in the parking area) and conclude on December 31, 2025. Parents may pick up their youth at 4:00 PM on December 31st. (Course completion time may vary and will be communicated if changes occur.

Where is the location?

Bay Area Council will hold *The Course 2025* at Camp Karankawa.

3249 FM 1459, Sweeny, TX 77480

What is the cost?

The cost for the 6-day training conference is \$250.00 per Scout. This includes all food, camping equipment (except for a few items needed for the overnight hike), and training materials.

Who can we contact for more information?

Course Director: Jason Renz JDRenzSR@hotmail.com

Assistant Course Director: Gerard Marin gerard.marinbsa@gmail.com

Course Name: National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)

Council: Bay Area Council #574

Dates: December 26–31, 2026

Location: Camp Karankawa, Sweeny, TX

Eligibility:

- Registered Scouts BSA, Venturers, Sea Scouts, or Explorers
- Completed unit-level leadership training
- Meets age and rank requirements per BSA policy

Uniforms:

- Field uniform required for ceremonies
- Activity uniform for daily program

Cost: \$250

(Includes meals, lodging, program materials)

Medical Forms Required:

- BSA Annual Health and Medical Record Parts A, B, & C

6. Tentative Schedule

(Times can be adjusted based on arrival, camp resources, and staffing)

Dec. 26 — Arrival / Orientation

Time	Activity
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12:00-2:00 PM	Participant Check-In & Medical Re-check
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4:00–5:00 PM	Gear Setup / Campsite Assignments
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5:30–6:30 PM	Dinner
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7:00–8:30 PM	Opening Ceremony / Expectations
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8:30–9:30 PM	Team Building Games
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9:30 PM	Taps / Quiet Time
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Dec. 27 — Foundations

Time	Activity
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7:00 AM	Reveille
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7:30 AM	Breakfast
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8:30 AM	Opening Assembly
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9:00 AM	Leadership Concepts: Purpose & Values
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10:30 AM	Break
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11:00 AM	Teaching EDGE
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12:30 PM	Lunch
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1:30 PM	Patrol Games / Practice EDGE
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5:30 PM	Dinner
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7:00 PM	Skill Sessions / Campfire Planning
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Time Activity

9:30 PM Reflection & Taps

Dec. 28 — Communication & Team

Morning	Communication Skills
Afternoon	Patrol Activities / Initiative Games
Evening	Leadership Challenges

Dec. 29 — Ethics, Planning, & Problem Solving

| All Day | Scenario Workshops, Ethical Dilemmas, Project Planning |
| Evening | Patrol Presentations |

Dec. 30 — Celebration & Review

Morning	Goal Setting / Service Project
Afternoon	Final Patrol Activities
Evening	NYLT Recognition Ceremony & Campfire

Dec. 31 — Departure

8:00–9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00–10:30 AM	Campsite Breakdown
4:00 PM	Checkout & Farewell

7. PACKING LIST

Uniforms & Clothing

- Field uniform (Class A)
- Activity uniform (Class B)
- 5–6 T-shirts
- Long pants & shorts
- Jacket or coat
- Rain gear
- Sleepwear

Camping Gear

- Sleeping bag (winter-rated)
- Ground pad or air mattress
- Pillow
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Refillable water bottle

Personal Items

- Toiletries
- Towel
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Prescription medications

DO NOT BRING

- Alcohol, drugs, vaping products
- Firearms or fireworks
- Electronics not approved by staff

8. STAFF & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Staff Positions

- Senior Patrol Leaders
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
- Quartermasters
- Instructors
- Troop Guides

Adult Staff Roles

- Course Director
- Assistant Course Director
- ASM of Logistics
- Scoutmasters
- Assistant Scoutmasters
- Medical Officer
- Quartermaster
- Safety Officers
- Facilities
- Administrative Support

All staff must complete Safeguarding Youth, Peer on Peer Abuse Training, and Fundamentals Part 1, Science of Training. Adult Staff must complete Hazardous Weather Training.

9. CAMP KARANKAWA INFORMATION & MAP

Address:

Camp Karankawa
 477 Camp Karankawa Rd
 Sweeny, TX 77480

Facilities Include:

- Campsites
- Dining facilities
- Waterfront access
- Program fields

