Bay Area Council
Boy Scouts of America

3020 53rd Street
Galveston Texas 77551

Dear Unit Leader:

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) is an exciting, action-packed program designed to provide all 13 to 20 year old youth members of the Boy Scouts of America with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home units and in other situations that demand leadership of self and others. Training of our youth leadership is important in helping the youth and their units to grow. Over the years the Boy Scouts of America has refined and developed this week-long training experience. Select youth from your unit are invited and highly encouraged to participate.

In 2009 and 2010 the program was updated to include Venturing participants in addition to Boy Scouts. This new version of the program addresses issues that an inclusive NYLT course poses along with solutions to these challenges. This format has now become the standard NYLT course, beginning in 2011. Why did BSA make this change?

In all NYLT courses – in ALL of our leadership courses – culture is key to success. Please look over the Vision and the Mission Statements of the BSA (as included here). Whether the color of a participant's shirt is green or tan is irrelevant – every young person in all of our programs deserves as much age appropriate, quality leadership training as we can provide them.

> **Vision Statement of the BSA:** The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.
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> **Mission Statement of the BSA**: The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

An NYLT course is ideal for training youth unit leaders. It can also be a valuable experience for other older Scouts and Venturers. In order to attend an NYLT course, a youth must possess 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 years of age 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. Extensive experience has shown that youth younger than 13 often lack the physical and emotional maturity to benefit fully from the NYLT experience. Please select and invite youth from your unit whom you as a leader believe will gain the most from the course and will become the best servant leaders. Make sure that the youth whose names you submit are willing and eager to participate, because they will be best served by the NYLT experience.

The course is scheduled to begin at Noon on Sunday, June 8, 2014, and conclude Friday evening, June 13, 2014 at Camp Karankawa. The Course Director for this year's course is Bill Griffin. Mr. Griffin is working with the council training chair and professional scouting advisor to assemble an exceptional staff of experienced youth and adult leaders to serve as the course faculty.

Enclosed is an information sheet with full details concerning the course. It is recommended that you discuss NYLT participant selection with the other leaders of your unit (both adult and youth leaders) as soon as possible. It is the Council's objective that youth from each unit is represented at NYLT. However, registration will be filled on a first come – first served basis. Once 48 positions are registered, additional registrations will be placed on an alternate list. Therefore it is important to register as soon as possible.

So that we can do the best job possible of advance planning, it is extremely important that your unit's reservation be entered on-line at www.bacbsa.org or provided to the council service center, together with the registration fee of $175, as soon as possible. As an adult leader of previous courses, and as this year's course director, I know that the program makes a positive difference in the lives of the youth who participate. Without question, it will help in your unit's quest for a truly "Youth Led Unit".

Sincerely,

Bill Griffin

2014 NYLT Course Director