

Samoset Council



National Youth Leadership Training

2026 Conference

June 7 - 13, 2026

Hanna Venture Base

Rhineland, WI 54501

Course Information & Guidelines



PARENTS, this booklet contains information you need to know and understand before your Scout comes to the conference.

When you sign & return the NYLT Code of Conduct, both you and your Scout agree to abide by the rules & policies in this booklet. Failure to comply with these procedures may result in your Scout being removed from the course.

As soon as you receive this booklet, please sit down with your Scout and discuss each item.

DOES YOUR SCOUT REALLY WANT TO GO TO NYLT?

Every year we have Scouts come to NYLT because their parents or Scoutmaster “made” them come. They really don’t want to be here, but they were afraid to disappoint someone. It has been our experience these Scouts quickly develop an attitude problem and disrupt the patrol. **Please talk to your Scout.** If they really do not want to come, swallow your pride and let them stay home. Don’t force a program on them if they are not ready for it!

If you have questions, please contact us. Please identify yourself with all calls, texts, or emails, and allow up to 24 hours for a reply.

Course Director

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Mandatory Parent & Scout Orientation

There is a mandatory orientation meeting for you and your Scout. Scoutmasters or Crew Advisors are encouraged to attend if they have questions about the course.

You must attend **ONE** of the following meetings:

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. – **Wausau Area**

Wausau Homes Scout Service Center

3511 Camp Phillips Rd, Weston

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. – **Stevens Point Area**

Holy Spirit Parish basement

2151 Stanley Street, Stevens Point

If you are more than 1 hour away and unable to make one of these locations work, please contact the Course Director for additional options.

Each meeting will last about 1 hour and will start promptly at 7 p.m. Please bring the following:

- This booklet as a reference
- Completed NYLT Code of Conduct form
- Completed Scout Medication Form
- Completed OTC Approval Form

AGENDA

- Opening & Welcome
- Discuss the purpose, goals and expectations of NYLT
- Review portions of this booklet
- Review the schedule for the week
- Discuss fire starter guidelines
- Discuss the Leadership Pin
- Review of Samoset Council policy on Bullying, Hazing & Harassment
- Questions & Answers

NOTE:

- ***Scouts must be in Scout Uniform (a Picture of the SCOUT will be taken at this meeting)***
- ***If you and your Scout do not attend one of these meetings, they will not be able to attend NYLT. If you have any questions, please call the Course Director.***

What to expect from the NYLT course

Your Scout will embark on a “Quest for the Meaning of Leadership!” The week will be an exciting and fun experience that will have lasting impact on your child.

All participants are put into pre-assigned patrols with similar aged Scouts from throughout the area. Scouts from the same troop are purposely assigned different patrols, ensuring that all youth start ‘clean’, no preconceived ideas or behaviors. These patrols work together all week, cooking, cleaning, learning, competing, hiking, having fun and above all, exploring Leadership Skills. Each day is packed with activity - all set in an outdoor setting.

Just like the participants, the staff will also sleep outside in tents. The weather - good or bad, hot or cold, rainy, snowy or sunny, is experienced by all of us. The participants will prepare all of their meals, with about half cooked over open wood fires. They work together to prepare, cook, eat and clean up for each meal. Some staff will be eating meals with each patrol.

Several hours each morning and afternoon are spent in instruction delivered with the Scouting EDGE method. Immediate practice of the instruction helps to reinforce the skill set. Using various ‘games’ and friendly competition, the skills are brought alive.

The best part of the course is seeing the impact on your Scout. Parents and adult leaders have always commented that the Scout that attends NYLT is not the same when they return. An immediate, new enthusiasm is seen as the Scout wants to be one of the leaders in a “Youth – Led” Scout Troop or Crew.

Be ready to witness this change, and be prepared to enable them to continue their life-long journey for the meaning of leadership!

Check-in

- Check-In begins at 10:26 when they meet their Senior Patrol Leader
- A parent is required to accompany their child through the medical check-in process. Do NOT leave without seeing the Medical Director.
- A noon meal will NOT be furnished, so please eat before arrival

The Check-in / Welcoming process typically takes about an hour. Please arrive no earlier than 10:00 a.m. and no later than 11:00 a.m. After check-in activity, the course program starts promptly at 11:50 p.m.

Late Arrivals

It is expected that all participants arrive on time. A crucial part of the learning process at NYLT involves the experience of living and working with a team of individuals called a patrol. It is vital for this teamwork and spirit to be established immediately on the first day.

Early Departures

There are no early departures. The scheduled departure time is at the completion of the Graduation Ceremony. Please do not plan on picking up your Scout before. Each patrol is responsible for packing up camp equipment and cleaning up their campsite. All Scouts are expected to share equally in this process. When Scouts leave early, they place an unfair burden on the remaining patrol members. The Course Director reserves the right to withhold the patch/graduation certificate from Scouts who fail to complete all requirements of the course, including cleanup.

Leaving During the Week

Upon arrival, Scouts are not permitted to leave and return during the week, unless it is an emergency. This means a Scout may have to make a choice between coming to NYLT and participating in another event. This also includes events that may delay their arrival or hasten their departure!

Cancellations & Refunds

For cancellations, contact the Course Director ASAP so those individuals on the "wait list" may be contacted. For refunds, it is the policy of Samoset Council that NYLT fees are non-refundable as we encourage units to transfer fees to another Scout from the unit. However, we will consider each situation and endeavor to be as fair as possible. All refunds are calculated after the non-refundable deposit. Please reach out to the office for details.

Tents & Equipment

Participants at NYLT are placed in pre-assigned patrols. This placement is done by the Course Directors and is not subject to change. Scouts from the same troop will be placed in different patrols. This allows Scouts to "start fresh" with no reputations or past histories to inhibit them. This also allows them to learn from the shared knowledge and experience of others. It is therefore not possible for Scouts to "share" equipment with another Scout from their home troop. All Scouts must be fully prepared with their own tents & equipment.

Camp Chairs

Each Scout will need a comfortable compact camp chair to sit in. Each day we present several leadership concepts in the outdoor Learning Center. We find that when Scouts are comfortable, they pay attention better.

Fire Starters

Each Scout will need to bring four (4) homemade fire starters. Please see the NYLT Fire Starters document for more information.

Phone Calls

Cell Phones are not permitted for participants. If you need to contact your Scout, call or text the Course Director. Simply ask for your Scout to return your call. They will call back when it is convenient for them. If it is an emergency, we will get them immediately. Please use your Scout's name when leaving a message. If a Scout is found with a cell phone it will be taken away until the end of the week. Parents may pick it up from the Course Director after graduation on Saturday.

Visitations

We do NOT advise visiting during the week! The curriculum at NYLT is highly structured and tightly scheduled. The only “free time” is around meal times or just before bed. Visits tend to disrupt the patrol routine and cut into patrol spirit and unity. An important aspect of this course is to allow young leaders to function with minimal adult oversight.

Annual Health & Medical Forms

This year, Samoset Council is using [HealthForms.io](https://www.healthforms.io) to collect and manage the annual health and medical form process. Please review the “Annual Health & Medical Form Process” documentation online for more details. Your health forms must be uploaded to the site prior to the mandatory parent and Scout orientation meeting.

Personal Hygiene

Due to the outdoor camp setting at NYLT and the “tight” program, daily showers are only possible before 6 am or after 10pm. Twice during the week Scouts will be provided with an opportunity to shower as part of the program. We recommend using prepackaged wipes to remove the daily grime! Washing machine are not available, although Scouts may hand wash their clothes in a bucket. Ideally, they will bring enough clean clothes to last the week.

Special Diet Needs

Severe food allergies were to be noted during registration. Contact the Course Director **NOW** if your Scout has severe food allergies that were not noted during registration. The food order is placed in early May and is difficult to change!

Sickness / Injuries

Occasionally we encounter Scouts who get homesick and feel a need to call home. If this happens, we will first counsel the Scout to try to overcome their homesickness. If you feel your Scout may be likely to become homesick, discuss the matter with them. As a matter of practice, Scouts will not be allowed to call home except in an emergency. It is our philosophy that to be a good leader a Scout must function with a degree of independence from parents.

Should your Scout become ill during the week, they will be removed from the patrol and provided with a bed at our first aid station. Should the illness persist for more than 24 hours, or if it continues to worsen, you will be contacted to take your Scout home. For serious illness or injury, your Scout will be taken to the emergency room and you will be contacted.

Medication

Medications must be under the control of, and disbursed by, our medical director. If your Scout takes medication, it must be turned into the Medical Director at the time of registration. All medications must be in the original container and (if prescribed, be accompanied by a copy of the prescription). It will be your Scout’s responsibility to contact the Medical Director when it is time to take their medication. **Please fill-out and bring with you the “Scout Medication & Treatment Form” and the “OTC Medication Approval Form” to the mandatory parent & Scout orientation meeting.**

Bee sting medication, inhalers, insulin syringes, or other medications/devices used in the event of life-threatening situations may be carried by the Scout.

Caffeine / Sugar “Addiction”

It has been our experience that youth who normally drink caffeinated soda or “energy drinks” can have withdrawal reactions when these items are immediately reduced. Therefore, we recommend you start limiting your Scouts intake of these items the week before the course starts, if not sooner!

Problems During the Course

It is our mission that your Scout has a positive and safe experience. When you get many teenagers together in a program, there are bound to be some problems. We quickly address them as soon as we become aware. If your Scout encounters problems of any kind, they must talk to their NYLT Scoutmaster. We realize that teenagers are expanding their boundaries and sometimes go too far, however, your Scout has the right to feel safe at this NYLT course.

Discipline

Because Scouts will perform daily camp chores with minimal adult supervision, all Scouts must be responsible and mature. Scouts will live by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and adhere to the NYLT Code of Conduct at all times! Any Scout who fails to live up to these expectations will be counseled. If it becomes necessary to send your Scout home, you will be contacted and required to pick up your Scout within 6 hours. If you will be unavailable during the week of the course, please note an alternative adult to contact. **Please review the NYLT Code of Conduct with your Scout, and bring a signed copy to the mandatory parent & Scout Orientation meeting.**

Lost / Stolen / Damaged Equipment

Damage (other than normal wear and tear) to any Council property or equipment, or any personal property of another participant or staff member, will be paid for by those responsible. Personal property left unclaimed after the conclusion of the course will be turned in to the Council Office in Weston. If still unclaimed after August 1 it will be disposed. Stealing violates the Scout Oath and Law and will be grounds for dismissal.

Post-Course Follow-up

When your Scout returns home, we encourage all parents and Scoutmasters to discuss the course with them. Ask to see their notebook; all Scouts are asked to take notes and are given many handouts during the week. They are also given a packet of information on Leadership and Scout Skills. Encourage your Scout to keep this information as a resource for future referral. Try to provide your Scout with opportunities to practice their newly learned Leadership Skills. Remember these Leadership Skills can be applied to any leadership role, not just Scouting.



GRADUATION CEREMONY

Saturday June 13, 2026 at 10:00 am SHARP

The graduation ceremony will start promptly at 10 am on the activity field in front of Hanna Venture Base. We advise arriving early to watch the Scouts march into the Activity Field area. At the conclusion of the Graduation ceremony, about 10:30 am, there will be a short time for pictures, conversations, questions and answers (nothing formally organized). Following this we expect participants to depart by 11:00 am as our staff has to complete the teardown and storage of the conference materials and supplies.

Graduation Packet

- NYLT Graduation Certificate
- NYLT Shield Patch
- NYLT Trained patch
- Medication Log showing all treatments & medications dispensed during course
- Unused medications that was brought to course
- NYLT Leadership Pin Letter
- NYLT Leadership Pin Application
- Scoutmaster Letter for Leadership Pin
- NYLT Course DVD – may be mailed at a later date

Application Letter for Joining our 2027 Staff is due November 1, 2026.

Earning the NYLT Leadership Pin

Every Scout who attends NYLT has the opportunity to earn their Leadership Pin. Upon returning from the course, your Scout should sit down with their Scoutmaster or another designated leader and lay out a plan for your Scout to exercise some form of leadership within their troop or crew. This can be as simple as leading a campfire program or planning a troop campout. Upon completion of this leadership plan, your Scoutmaster should complete a NYLT Pin Application and mail it to the Course Director BEFORE April 20, 2027. The Course Director will make arrangements for someone from the NYLT staff to come and present your Scout with their pin, if possible. See your Scout's home Scoutmaster or Crew Advisor for details.

Participant Equipment List

MUST HAVE ITEMS:

| | |
|--|---|
| Daypack (holds 3 ring binder, water bottle) | Scout Uniform (shirt) |
| Note paper, pencils/pens | Long Pants (2 pair) |
| 3 Ring Binder (1.5 inch or thicker) | Shorts (2 pair) |
| Compass | Underclothing |
| Home-made Fire Starters (4) | Sleep Wear (PJ's) |
| Mess Kit (or plate, bowl, cup) | Insulated jacket |
| Dinnerware (Knife, fork, spoon) | Extra pair of shoes |
| Personal First Aid kit | Medication |
| Rain gear | Toothbrush & paste |
| Flashlight (with new batteries) | Soap, Shampoo & Deodorant |
| 2 or 3 plastic garbage bags | Towel & washcloth |
| 2 Brillo / SOS pads | Hand Sanitizer |
| Scout Handbook | Watch |
| Small Camp Chair (comfortable) | Extra Blanket(s) |
| Ground Cloth (waterproof) | Boots/shoes suitable for hiking |
| Spring/fall rated sleeping bag (<i>suitable for backpacking – not bulky, not summer</i>) | Backpack (<i>framed</i>) for packing out – <i>all cloths and other items for the week</i> |
| 2 - Lightweight BACKPACKER TENTS with rainfly (roughly 8' x 8' or smaller) | Scout Knife (<i>No hunting, sheath or street knives – these will be confiscated</i>) |

Tent must have room for Scout and gear (*ideal tent is rated as a "2 or 3-man"*)

| Optional Items | DO NOT BRING |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Scout shorts, socks | Radios, electronics, games |
| Air mattress / foam pad | Cell phones |
| Pillow | Headgear (strange hats, etc) |
| Work gloves | Soda, food or other snacks |
| Sunglasses | Saws, axes, hatchets, shovels |
| Handkerchiefs | Fishing gear |
| Camera | Coolers |
| Insect repellent | Weapons or fireworks |
| Wind breaker or other light jacketed | T-shirts with questionable messages |
| Sharpening stone | Troop or local neckerchief |
| Moccasins, slippers, shower shoes | Bulky suitcases |
| Sunscreen, lip salve | Anything bulky or unnecessary |
| Straps for fastening articles to backpack | |
| Religious book(s) | |
| Metal mirror (no glass) | |
| Pre-packaged wash cloths (disposable) | |

REMINDER! You will be required to "pack in" your gear in one trip (a good framed backpack is recommended). You will receive the following NYLT merchandise: 2 T-shirts, bolo tie, hat with name tag & water bottle upon arrival. If you can get by without something, leave it home!

All cooking equipment will be provided by the NYLT course. Meals will be prepared by you and your patrol members on an open wood fire.