

University of Scouting

Course Catalog 2026



Welcome Fellow Scouters!

Thank you for taking the time to better yourselves and thus better your units. Your day at University of Scouting is time well spent learning about new topics, furthering your knowledge in areas of interest, and connecting with new friends as well as reconnecting with old. We hope this day helps to spark something in you that helps with your scouting journey.

Our courses of study this year include areas of general Scouting knowledge, Cub Scout studies, Scouts BSA studies, and youth studies as well as a youth merit badge/class area or Cub Scout activities. We also have our midway area set up to provide you with information on program, training, and growth areas within Samoset Council. Please take time to visit these booths throughout the day.

As you attend classes this year please take note of what you do or do not like. We are always looking for new ideas or areas to help expand our offerings. Maybe you might also be interested in sharing something you are knowledgeable about or help us explore an area of knowledge we have not thought about. Feedback is a gift - please fill out a feedback form for each class you attend and if you are interested in helping in the future, please fill out a potential instructor form.

Finally, the staff of University of Scouting 2026 wants to thank you for spending time with us today. We have spent a lot of time getting ready to spend our day with you. “True teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross; then, having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create their own.” — Nikos Kazantzakis.

We hope this day is informative, enlightening and helps fuel the flame in your Scouting journey.

Yours in Scouting,

Gregg Gokey
Chancellor
University of Scouting 2026
Scouting America Samoset Council

Program Areas

There are three (3) categories of registration for the University of Scouting program. Please choose the best approach for your personal needs. **Attendance at University of Scouting is covered as part of the Council fees paid during annual registration.**

Youth Registration

- Available for all youth Scouts
- Merit badges, Youth Studies and other fun and educational courses.
- Every youth will receive a Smiley participation patch.

Adult Degree Program

- Available for all adult Scouters.
- Fun and educational, locally designed courses to help leaders in their role.
- Four degrees available to earn: Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate.
- All Participants will receive a patch corresponding to their degree level.

Adult Instructor Program

- Available for all adult Instructors.
- Four degrees available to earn: Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate.
- All Participants will receive a patch corresponding to their degree level.

Schedule

Description	Time
Registration	8:30 - 9:00
Opening	9:00 - 9:20
Session 1	9:30 - 10:20
Session 2	10:30 - 11:20
Session 3	11:30 - 12:20
Lunch	12:30 - 1:00
Session 4	1:10 - 2:00
Session 5	2:10 - 3:00
Session 6	3:10 - 4:00

Lunch

A box lunch can be purchased (with registration) for \$9.00 per person.

Degree Program Overview

The Samoset Council University of Scouting (UoS) degree program offers adult Scouters the knowledge and skills to build a high-quality Scouting program through interactive classes led by experienced "Professors." Participation is completely voluntary.

Beginning this year, students may submit prior course participation for consideration toward a higher degree. New attendees may apply for the Associate degree if requirements are met. All higher-degree requests will be reviewed by the UoS 2026 Chancellor and a select committee.

Associate Degree (Black Patch)

1. It is recommended that you are fully trained in your registered leader position.
2. Complete 6 classes as an Associate's degree candidate.

Bachelor's Degree (Green Patch)

1. It is recommended that you are fully trained in your registered leader position.
2. Hold an Associate's degree prior to registering for classes.
3. Complete a minimum of 6 classes as a Bachelor's degree candidate.
4. Attendance at the "Earning an Advanced Degree" pre-requisite is recommended.

Master's Degree (Purple Patch)

Pre-requisite: Complete "Earning an Advanced Degree" session.

1. Be fully trained in your registered leader position.
2. Hold a Bachelor's degree prior to registering for classes.
3. Enroll in the UoS Master's Degree program & teach a qualified session at the UoS that year.
4. Complete a minimum of three classes as a Master's degree candidate (in addition to the three earned for teaching a course).
5. With agreement from your advisor, complete ONE of the following:
 - a. Teach BSA training at a district or council training event approved by your advisor (in addition to requirement #3).
 - b. Attend Wood Badge.

Doctoral Degree (Blue Patch)

1. Be fully trained in your registered leader position.
2. Hold a Master's Degree prior to registering for classes.
3. Enroll in the UoS Doctoral Degree program and teach a qualified session at UoS that year.
4. Complete a minimum of three classes as a doctoral candidate.
5. With agreement from your advisor, complete ONE of the following:
 - a. Staff a council leadership training course (such as Wood Badge or NYLT).
 - b. Actively serve on the council training committee for a full year.
 - c. Serve in the role as University of Scouting Dean or Chancellor.
 - d. Staff a national training course (such as Philmont Training Center or National Camp School, WB/NYLT/PH Course Dir. Conf.).
 - e. Staff and teach a national training event (such as a National Jamboree, OA National Leadership Seminar, or OA National Order of the Arrow Conference).

Official Disclaimer: The University of Scouting Degree Program is not affiliated with or recognized by any accredited educational institution. While it may be recognized by some Scouting America councils, the curriculum and degree requirements are reviewed annually and subject to change without notice.

Cub Scout Activities Description

Morning Cub Scout Activities

Cub Scouts will be grouped together in dens with Den Chiefs. They will participate in two activities per hour from our start at 9:30 until lunch at 12:30. All Scouts will participate in activities but all activities will be age and den appropriate.

9:30 to 10:30 Rotation 1
10:30 to 11:30 Rotation 2
11:30 to 12:30 Rotation 3

***All Cub Scouts must be dropped off and picked up by a parent at the beginning of activities and at lunch time. Den Chiefs cannot bring Cub Scouts to the lunch room. Cub Scouts cannot leave without a parent picking them up.**

Afternoon Cub Scout Activities

Cub Scouts will have the choice of participating in round robin programs (like the AM) or choose one of the adventures listed below. Afternoon activities will be larger scale games and group activities with several options for all ages to include an open gym area.

1:10 to 2:10 Period activities	or	LION - Build it Up, Knock it Down
2:10 to 3:10 Period activities		TIGER - Floats and boats
3:10 to 4:00 Period activities		WOLF - Code of the Wolf BEAR - Forensics

***All Cub Scouts must be dropped off and picked up by a parent at the beginning of activities and at the end of the day. Cub Scouts cannot leave without a parent picking them up.**

Cub Scout Studies

Course	Description	9:30	10:30	11:30	1:10	2:10	3:10
CS01	See You In The Summer: Building A Summer Cub Scout Program. Learn how to put together fun events during the summer months to keep your Scouts involved and active.	9:30					
CS02	The Pack Committee: Who Does What? Learn about the responsibilities of the pack committee, and how it works with den leaders, the Chartering Organization, parents, and Cub Scouts.		10:30				
CS03	Fun, Fun, Fun! Pack Meeting Activities. Learn how to keep pack meetings exciting for both Scouts and parents through the use of various activities and events to keep the Scouts involved. They may even tell a friend!			11:30			

CS04	Basic Cub Scout Leader Training. Complete your position-specific training in person. Upon completion of this three hour session, participants will leave with the knowledge and skills to serve with excellence and will be able to wear the "trained" patch on their uniform.	9:30			
CS05	Cub Scout Advancement. Ensure every Scout crosses the stage at the Blue & Gold banquet! Get the latest advancement requirements, ideas for how to integrate requirements into Den meetings, how to handle "at-home" adventures, and strategies for keeping your Den on track for rank completion.			2:10	
CS06	Knot Just for Scouts BSA - Basic Knots. Master the essential bends and hitches every Cub Scout leader needs. This hands-on workshop covers the foundational knots required for rank advancement and a few extras, just because they're fun.				3:10
CS07	Akela's World 2026. First time heading to Akela's World? This session covers everything you need to know for a successful weekend at Samoset's premier Cub camp. We will ensure you and your Scouts are prepared for the best adventure of the summer.			2:10	
CS08	Scoutbook+ for Cub Scout Leaders. Yes, Scoutbook can smell your fear—but it doesn't have to. Join us as we wrestle this tool. We'll show you which buttons to click, which ones to ignore, and how to successfully record an adventure without needing a degree in computer science.	10:30			
CS09	Scoutbook+ for Cub Scout Leaders. Yes, Scoutbook can smell your fear—but it doesn't have to. Join us as we wrestle this tool. We'll show you which buttons to click, which ones to ignore, and how to successfully record an adventure without needing a degree in computer science.		11:30		
CS10	Successful Pack Program Planning. The secret to a great Pack program isn't a "Super-Leader"—it's a solid plan. Learn how to engage your Pack Committee and parents in the planning process to create a balanced calendar of outdoor adventure, community service, and advancement that keeps Scouts coming back.	9:30			
CS12	Making the Most of Popcorn Sales. "Welcome to Scouting! Now go sell popcorn." Timing of the fundraiser could be better, but it is also an opportunity for Cub Scouts to learn to present themselves, speak with confidence, and be a contributing part of a team! Come learn tips and suggestions for record-breaking popcorn sales.			1:10	
CS13	How and Why to do Training. Learn about Cub Scout training options and why adult leaders should prioritize them.			1:10	
CS14	Cub Scouting Best Practices. What separates a "good" Pack from a "great" one? This session explores the proven strategies used by high-performing units to increase				3:10

	retention, engage parents, and deliver a high-quality program. We will share actionable tips on communication, meeting structure, and building a sustainable leadership culture.						
CS15	Integrating AI in your Pack Planning. Learn how to make the most of your time by using free AI applications for planning and correspondence. Best practices and lessons learned will be presented, along with basic prompt writing guidance.				1:10		
CS16	How to Add the "Fun" to all Cub Scout Adventures. Some mandatory Cub adventures are heavy on learning and light on fun. Join this discussion-based class to learn how to make them more engaging and memorable.				2:10		

Scouts BSA Studies

Course	Description	9:30	10:30	11:30	1:10	2:10	3:10
BS01	Fundraising Round Table. Join a roundtable discussion about fundraising best practices and lessons learned from fellow Scouters. This session will be an open forum to discuss fundraising from the viewpoint of units.	9:30					
BS02	Program Planning: Program is what drives Scout units. Learn how you can assist your PLC in making sure your Scouting year is planned and ready for 12 or more months.		10:30				
BS03	Role of the Troop Committee: The Troop committee role is much different than that of the Pack committee. What are the various roles and how do they support what your scouts want to do during their scouting journey?			11:30			
BS04	Eagle Paperwork Best Practices! The Eagle Scout paperwork process can feel overwhelming—but it doesn't have to be. Join two experienced Council professionals as they walk you step-by-step through the process. This session covers required forms, timelines, common errors, and best practices to ensure a smooth path from project proposal through Board of Review.				1:10		
BS05	Keeping the Troop Fresh - How to Retain Older Scouts. How do you keep older Scouts interested in Scouting? In this session, you will learn how to utilize high adventure trips and various leadership positions to keep youth interested and engaged in Scouts.				2:10		
BS06	Trailer and Patrol Box Organization. Are your patrol boxes and trailer always in a state of disarray? In this session you will learn techniques and templates to help make your unit an organizational machine.					3:10	
BS07	Totin Chip- Train the Trainer. Some of the first skills a Scout learns is how to use knives, axes and saws. Attend a train the trainer session on making sure these skills are taught correctly to set your Scouts up to succeed.	9:30					

BS08	Fireman's Chit- Train the Trainer. Some of the first skills a Scout learns is how to build fires safely. Attend a train the trainer session on making sure these skills are taught correctly to set your Scouts up to succeed.		10:30				
BS09	Basic Knot and Lashings for the Adult Leader. Learn skills for teaching older Scouts how to teach knots to younger Scouts.			11:30			
BS10	How to Run a Meaningful Eagle Court of Honor. This session will help you look at how other units approach planning ECOH and what they do to make this a meaningful experience.				1:10		
BS11	Ask your SPL. You have graduated from Cub Scouts now what? Learning how to step back and facilitate being a youth-led organization.						3:10
BS12	How to be an Adult at Camp - For the newly crossed over adult. What am I supposed to be doing at camp with my Scouts gone to activities? How should things be in our campsite? What should I do with my time at camp? Come learn from adults that have been there and done that.				2:10		
BS13	Orienteering/Topo Map for Adults and How to Teach your Youth. How to use a map and compass to navigate is a critical Scout skill. This session will prepare you with additional orienting skills and how to use a topographical map to teach your youth to navigate confidently.	9:30					
BS14	Small Asks - Getting New Adults Engaged with the Troop Without Asking Them to be the SM, CC or AC How do you get adults to help with the small tasks it takes to make things happen? Not every adult needs to be SM or CC. Learn how to make these asks of your unit adults.		10:30				
BS15	How to Welcome New Scouts & Parents to the Troop - Joining a new Scout unit can be overwhelming. Thankfully there is someone who can help make new members feel right at home. Learn about the role of a New Member Coordinator. It can be a game-changer for membership retention as well as recruitment.			11:30			
BS16	Merit Badge Counselor 101. Learn the ins and outs of being a merit badge counselor. What is expected of you and what is the best way to work with youth.				1:10		

General Studies

Course	Description	9:30	10:30	11:30	1:10	2:10	3:10
GS01	Coffee with the Samoset District Executives. Start your day with good coffee and great conversation! Join the District Executives for an open, energizing chat where you can ask questions, share ideas, and offer input on the future of Scouting in Samoset Council. Whether you come with suggestions or simply want to connect, your voice matters—and this is your chance to make it heard.	9:30					

GS02	Wood Badge: Growing Leadership for Stronger Units. Wood Badge is a leadership course with critical life skill lessons that adults will find valuable. Learn an overview of the Wood Badge course and how it will help you and your adult leaders become more effective in implementing the Scouting America program.	10:30				
GS03	Earning an Advanced Degree. Thinking about earning your Master or Doctoral Degree next year? This required session explores why pursuing an advanced Scouting degree can elevate your leadership, strengthen your skills, and deepen your impact. This course will show you how to begin!		11:30			
GS04	Confident Leadership: Navigating Mental, Emotional & Social Health. MESH is part of every Scouting activity. Learn key behaviors to watch for, how to communicate with care, and where to find guidance to create a safer, more supportive environment.	9:30				
GS05	Safety Tools at Your Fingertips. "Be Prepared" is the foundation of every great Scouting adventure. Learn about safety tools and resources that help you plan exciting, age-appropriate, and risk-aware activities that are both safe and memorable.		10:30			
GS06	Unit Fundraising: Making Scouting Affordable for All. Effective fundraising is key to keeping Scouting accessible. In this collaborative forum, leaders will share proven strategies, explore new ideas, and address common challenges to strengthen unit budgets and expand opportunities for every Scout.	9:30				
GS07	Dutch Oven Cooking: Campfire Culinary Skills. Transform your campouts with the flavor and fun of Dutch oven cooking! This session covers techniques for preparing tasty, crowd-pleasing meals in the outdoors. Walk away with practical tips and recipes that make cooking over a campfire simple, safe, and a highlight for your Scouts.		10:30			
GS08	Camp Cooking: Mastering Outdoor Meals. Take your campouts to the next level by learning how to cook delicious meals using a variety of outdoor methods—campfires, stoves, foil packs, and more. Learn meal planning, safety tips, and practical techniques to make cooking outdoors simple and fun.			1:10		
GS09	Scoutbook+: Streamlining Unit Management. Learn how to use this tool to track advancement, manage rosters, and communicate with families. Learn practical tips and best practices so you can spend more time focusing on fun and meaningful Scouting experiences.					3:10
GS10	Scouting America Online Tools. Ask your questions and learn more about Scoutbook+, My.Scouting, and MyCouncil.			1:10		
GS11	Realistic First Aid: Hands-On for Better Training. Take your unit's first aid training to the next level by learning the art of moulage. This hands-on session teaches you how to create realistic injuries to boost Scout engagement and make first aid instruction more effective and memorable.				2:10	

GS12	Take Your Leadership to the Next Level. Discover how advanced leader training programs—BALOO, NYLT, NAYLE, OWL, IOLS, and Wood Badge—can strengthen your skills and benefit your unit. Learn what each program offers and how it can help you create a richer Scouting experience for youth.	9:30					
GS13	It's Popcorn Time: Maximizing the Sale. Ready to boost your unit's popcorn sales? This session shares practical tools for managing inventory, tracking sales, and increasing event success—plus proven tips to maximize the sale.					3:10	
GS14	Interactive Campfires. Bring your campfire program to life with tried-and-true games from experienced Scouts and leaders. Learn by playing and leave with clear instructions and fresh ideas to make your campfires fun and unforgettable.		10:30				
GS15	How You Can Use Spreadsheets to Organize Your Unit. Learn how spreadsheets can simplify your Scouting activities in this hands-on beginner workshop. Explore essential tools for organizing finances, improving records, planning events, and leave with the confidence to use spreadsheets effectively. Participants will explore features like formulas, tables, formatting, and collaborative editing.			11:30			
GS16	Advancement for Members With Special Needs. Scouting welcomes youth and adults of all abilities, and this session explores ways to make advancement accessible for everyone. Learn strategies, accommodations, and resources to help Scouts with special needs achieve rank and recognition.				1:10		
GS17	Why You Should be a Commissioner. Considering your next role in Scouting? Learn why becoming a unit commissioner is a rewarding way to support units, districts, and the council, and hear firsthand about the impact and fulfillment the role provides.					2:10	
GS18	Angler Education. Angling Educator teaches leaders and older youth (15+) how to effectively teach fishing skills, run successful fishing events, and boost recruitment/retention through engaging, successful fishing experiences.				1:10		

Merit Badges & Youth Studies

Course	Description	9:30	10:30	11:30	1:10	2:10	3:10
MB01	Chess Merit Badge		(Half Day)				
MB02	Game Design		(Full Day Program)				
MB03	Coin Collecting		(Half Day)				
MB04	Cybersecurity		(Full Day Program)				
MB05	Citizenship in the Nation		(Full Day Program)				

MB06	Crime Prevention				(Half Day)
MB07	Engineering				(Half Day)
MB08	Lifesaving	(Full Day Program)			
MB09	AI	(Full Day Program)			
MB10	American Business	(Full Day Program)			
MB11	Automotive	(Full Day Program)			
MB12	Art	(Full Day Program)			
MB13	Scouting Heritage	(Full Day Program)			
MB14	Theater	(Full Day Program)			
YS01	What is the LEC and why should I join? Learn what the LEC is, what it does, and how to get involved. Discover the benefits of serving and explore the many roles members can play in supporting the OA and council.	9:30			
YS02	More than the sash, what can I do in the OA? Learn about the many things you can do as an arrowman beyond getting your brotherhood. This session will discuss section concourses, council of chiefs, training, OA high adventure, and service at the section, region, and national levels.		10:30		
YS03	Campfire programs that will keep them coming back. It's a time honored tradition! A Scout campfire. What are the skits, songs and activities that make people keep coming back time and time again?		11:30		
YS04	Brotherhood Clinic. Learn more about the OA and what you need to know to become a Brotherhood member.			(Half Day)	
YS05	What the heck does the OA Troop rep do anyway? The role of Troop representative is a vital conduit from the chapter and lodge level to the unit. How can you make sure that you are meeting your unit's needs, the chapter needs and lodge needs? Come learn about how the Lodge and Chapter can support you.				3:10
YS06	SPL- Lessons learned from those that have been there. A frank discussion about the experience of being a senior patrol leader. Lessons that were learned along the way by former SPL's and advice they want to pass on to the next generation. Resources that helped them become the leader they are today.			2:10	
YS07	Board Games (available every session)				