

Cub Scouts

Recruit Those Cubs!: It's easy to get boys excited about Cub Scouting, but how do you get their parents to sign them up? We'll tell you how to get those families to join your Pack, and more importantly, turn them into Leaders as well. *~Brian Minsker~*

Running a Den: A Model Meeting (Tiger to Bear): Discover techniques to make your den meetings run smoother and to get the most out of your meeting time. Understand why Tiger to Bear aged boys act the way they do and how to manage their behavior to make your meetings more fun and productive. *~Brian Pianfetti~*

STEM Programming for Cub Scouts: This session is an overview of the BSA Initiative on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. You will learn about the Nova and Supernova Awards and discuss STEM programming ideas for Packs, Dens, and Webelos Dens. Meet people and exchange ideas on how to find resources to help you add STEM activities to your Pack's program plan. *~Bill Reed~*

Map and Compass Skills for Cubs: Discover how to introduce Cubs to the world of maps and how to use a compass. This class will give you activities you can do with Cubs that make it fun and help them learn.

Cub Camping: The new cub program has a lot more emphasis on camping and the outdoors. Before you take your pack into the woods, learn how to have a wonderful (and comfortable) camping experience. In this class we will cover planning your adventure, what to bring (including comfort items for the adults), and some tips for making your adventure fun for you as well as the boys. *~Dakorie McElhaney~*

Outdoor Ethics for Cub Scouts: BSA now embraces Outdoor Ethics which incorporates Leave No Trace with Tread Lightly! (mechanized vehicles). Learn how to introduce Cubs to these ideas in a fun, age-appropriate way so they learn to take care of our environment and earn the Outdoor Ethics Awareness and Action Awards! *~Patrick J. Donnelly, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer AOCS~*

Your Pinewood Derby: Discover the reasons why your pack should run a pinewood derby and how to get the most out of the event. Fast cars are great, but bonding with Mom and Dad is even better. Use these tips to make it a family event.

Cubmaster's Workshop: You're the Cubmaster; now what? This class will evaluate the resources available to help you plan Pack meetings with pizzazz and an active program year to engage your Scouts---while still maintaining your sanity. *~Levi Marrott~*

Moving Cub Scouts Into Boy Scouts: This is a critical transition to keep boys in Scouting and to increase troop membership. Cub leaders learn how to get your boys to all think Boy Scouts is their future. Boy Scout leaders learn the role you play in the process. Working together brings the most success! *~Marion Knight, Scoutmaster~*

Open Forum for Cub Scout Leaders: This is your opportunity to ask all those questions you still have! Led by experienced Cub leaders, you will receive a diverse set of answers and options to your problems. Come with questions! *~Dan Strole, moderator/Prairie Fire District Chairman~*

Boy Scouts

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Being a Merit Badge Counselor: Explore the ins and outs of being a merit badge counselor for Boy Scouts. Learn who can be registered as a counselor and how to run the merit badge sessions. ~*Bob Bantz*~

The Nuts & Bolts of INTRODUCTION TO LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR TROOPS (ILST) (3 hr): Each attending Adult Leader will be provided with an ILST syllabus for reference. All three Modules (chapters) will be reviewed and discussed as to how Adult Leaders can return to their units and put together a ILST course, to help their Boy Scouts in leadership positions within their troop understand their responsibilities and to equip them with organizational and leadership skills to fulfill those responsibilities. ~*Paul Lang*~

Games for Boy Scouts: Baden-Powell called Scouting a game with a purpose. Learn new games to liven up your troop meetings and campouts while having fun and building teamwork. We'll cover games for the whole troop and ones for patrol competitions. *Brian Minsker*~

Boy Scouts and Venturing

High Adventure - the Most Awesome Trips in Scouting: Discover what awaits you beyond the national high adventure bases and the preparation needed for an outstanding trip. This class is taught by an experienced adventurer who will share his secrets on how to get the most out of it. ~*Lawrence Atherton*~

Trail Cuisine: There's more to life than trail mix! Discover easy to prepare meals while on the trail and the best way to carry it all to avoid extra weight. Taught by Scouters proficient in lightweight backpacking techniques. ~*Wes Taylor and Mike Stevenson*~

Lightweight Backpacking: (2 hrs) Get your troop and crew on the extreme trail aimed at older scouts with backpacking experience. Learn advanced techniques, food and water prep, gear selection and care, and how to get your Scouts and Venturers into the remote high country! ~*Wes Taylor and Mike Stevenson*~

Smoke and Mirrors: Fire Starting Tools: Learn about Hot Sparks, fire steels, waterproof matches, hurricane matches, magnesium sticks, fire pistons, electrical methods, and many other ways to get your fire going. Learn what chemical methods (exothermic reactions) do work and which ones do not. Learn how to make smoke (and more) with lenses and mirrors. We'll even show you how to start a fire with nothing but a chocolate bar and a Coke can! Be ready for some hands-on time (dress to go outside).~*Flint Pellett*~

Fire Starting for Castaways: Learn how to start a good campfire "no matter what". You will learn about many types of tinder, Fire-by-Friction (including fire stick, plow, bow, and drill), as well as traditional flint & steel fire starting. Please dress for the weather---there will be hands-on time outside. ~*Flint Pellett*~

AdVenturing Can Help Your Troop: Get the latest scoop and all your questions answered about the BSA program for high school and college age young men and women. Discover how the Venturing program can enhance your Boy Scout troop. Boys don't have to choose one or the other. Learn about all the changes coming to the Venturing program whether you are a current Venturing leader or just want to learn more. *~Jim Sample, Crew 25~*

STEM Programming for Boy Scouts and Venturing: This session is an overview of the BSA Initiative on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. You will learn about the Nova and Supernova Awards and discuss STEM programming ideas for Scout Troops and Venturing Crews. Meet people and exchange ideas on how to find resources to help you add STEM activities to your Troop or Crew program plan. *~Bill Reed~*

Basic Knots: Are your Second Class scouts better than you at tying knots? Attend this session and they'll be eating your sisal. *~Gary Summers & Eric Wickizer~*

Lashings (2 hr): Learn the basic lashings required to reach the First Class rank. Other techniques may be included if time permits. This is a must for pioneering projects. Limit of 16 participants. *~Gary Summers & Eric Wickizer~*

Splicings (2 hr): This seminar will explore the basic methods of splicing rope and other materials. End splicing, eye splices, short splices, and long splices will all be demonstrated. Limit of 16 participants. *~Gary Summers & Eric Wickizer~*

Advanced Knots: Scout Leaders and Scouts both benefit from knowing several knots beyond the basic ones required for advancement. Knots will range from useful to decorative for the enjoyment of young and old alike. *~Gary Summers & Eric Wickizer~*

Plant Identification: This course will tell how to identify many of the Illinois plants including trees, wild flowers, and garden plants. The emphasis will be on trees and why it is important to know how to recognize them. *~Tom Taylor, retired botany instructor~*

Animal Identification: This course will tell how to identify many of the Illinois species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians and understand why it is important to know about them. *~Tom Taylor, retired biology instructor~*

General Studies

Understanding Legal and Illegal Drugs in Our Communities, Schools, and Scouting (2 hrs): Our dynamic presenter is a law enforcement educator who will help us recognize and understand the effects of alcohol, legal and illicit pharmaceuticals, their availability, and common sources. If you think you already know about the social temptations and chemical influences our youth are exposed to, then you owe it to them to learn more about the newest illegal, prescription, and synthetic drugs that are infiltrating our downstate communities and what we can do to educate our scouts. *~Josh Bennett, Chief of Police, paramedic and EMS educator~*

Scout Disability Awareness: Education and Understanding: (2 hrs) Every boy deserves the opportunity of Scouting and you can make sure that happens! Learn about physical, medical, social and emotional challenges and the exceptions that the national BSA allows in order to help all Scouts advance. You will be surprised at who they can become with your knowledgeable facilitation! *~Doug Robinson, professional trainer~*

Counseling: Do you have a leader that doesn't want to use the Patrol Method? Struggling to help your unit leaders let the Boys do the work? Learn techniques on how to best counsel others when they need guidance or have concerns. Discover ways to help them without telling them what to do, or doing their job for them!

Introduction to GPS: "I got a GPS for Christmas, now what?" Learn the basics of how a GPS works and how to get the most out of it. Learn what a GPS can and can't do. ~*Ralph Kuchenbrod, Champaign County Search and Rescue Team*~

Advanced GPS Techniques: Learn how to use a hand-held GPS receiver for advanced applications such as geocaching, Garmin's BaseCamp, and search and rescue. After learning UTM you'll never lat/long again. You must have taken "Introduction to GPS" in the previous hour or be proficient with Garmin GPS units. ~*Ralph Kuchenbrod, Champaign County Search and Rescue Team*~

Discover Why Men and Women are Different (Gender Talk): Take this class to finally understand why men and women do things differently. Based on differences in our brain structures, you'll discover why men are better at navigation and why women can talk circles around them. Improve your interactions and relationships with the opposite gender immediately. This funny, entertaining, and enlightening class is guaranteed to give you at least one ah-ha moment and you'll laugh while you do it! ~*Ellen Kuchenbrod, DVM.*~

Sting, Bite, Itch: Play it Safe in the Outdoors Discover the dangers lurking in the wilds and learn how to keep you and your Scouts safe. Did you know that raccoons can carry a worm that's deadly to people? Do you know the correct way to remove ticks to avoid getting diseases? Let's look at ticks, parasites, and poisonous plants and learn how to keep you and your Scouts safe. ~*Ellen Kuchenbrod, DVM.*~

Emphasizing Duty to God: The first BSA *Handbook for Boys*, published in 1911, says "no boy can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing his obligation to God." The purpose of this session is to be informative: to explain how and why Scouting encourages youth to be Reverent and fulfill their duty to God. Scout Leaders can and should coach youth to use existing resources so that the youth understand their duty to God, and incorporate it into their lives. ~*James Dieker*~

Get a Tax Deduction!: Can my Scouting expenses be deducted? If so, what can be deducted and what form does it go on? You might be surprised! Learn from a professional what expenses for Scouting and other charitable work you can deduct from your taxes to save money. Know what receipts and documents you need to save. You volunteer your time: this class will show you how to save more of your money. ~*Kent McMahan, Accountant*~

Service Projects: Scouting is about service and giving back. Discover the wide variety of service projects your Scouts can do to earn service hours and to benefit the community. Don't forget to record all hours online!

Driven to Distraction (ADD/ADHD): Don't let ADD/ADHD become a barrier for youth to enjoy Scouting. Understand these disorders and how they can impact your unit. Learn how to guide these youngsters through a successful voyage in Scouting. A retired pediatrician will moderate the class discussion. ~*Linda Atherton, MD*~

Understanding Autism: (2 hrs) Many of our Scouts are affected by the autism spectrum. Learn from a professional what autism is, its range of challenges, and how to help your Scouts be successful. Tips on how to work with youth will give you more tools to make meetings and outings run more smoothly.

Girlye Knots: We all know that knots are useful and that knowing how to tie them can come in handy, but did you know that you can make some very cool things with knots? Come discover the artistic side of knot tying. Everyone will have the opportunity to see a wide selection of knotted creations from decorative items to jewelry and critters to useful items. Each member of the class will also have the opportunity to make a small knot project. **Guys are welcome despite the title of the class. ~Dakorie McElhaney~

Bullying Prevention: Discover some of the causes of bullying and how you can help Scouts avoid it or stop it. Learn from a professional the techniques you can share with Scouts on how they can protect themselves. ~CPD Resource Officer~

Conflict Resolution: Everyone will encounter conflict at times. How you deal with it will determine whether it's a successful outcome for everyone. Discover how to resolve conflict with others so everyone can feel good about it. This class will help you deal with conflicts among adults in your unit as well as with other units. ~Marion Knight, Scoutmaster, Asst. District Commissioner~

Decision Making: How do professionals in high-risk situations make critical decisions when there are only seconds to take action? Discover how to make decisions when the stakes are high. Practicing these techniques will help you make effective decisions quicker. *Ralph Kuchenbrod, Master's thesis "Decision Making in High-Risk Environments"*

Communication: We all talk every day and we all think we are communicating. Discover ways to make it more effective so your message is received correctly the first time. Speaking is not the same as communicating and listening is not the same as hearing. Learn how to do it better! *Jim Dieker, Attorney*

Leadership: Discover the qualities that make a true leader. Learn how to interact with others to bring out the best in them and, in turn, be the leader they need. The speaker will draw upon two decades of US Army leadership experience. ~Charles Walters~

NRA Range Safety Officer Certification (full day): The Boy Scouts of America National Shooting Sports Manual states: "For proper Range supervision a certified Range Safety Officer (RSO) is to directly supervise live fire on the Range". Additionally, "The (RSO) is a separate person from certified Instructors or certified Coaches on the Range firing line". This RSO course includes ensuring a Range is safe to use, conducting range safety briefings for shooters, handling ammunition and gun malfunctions safely, supervising safety aspects of shooting activities and handling emergency procedures as set by the Range management. An additional fee of \$15 will be collected at the first session to cover the required NRA/RSO materials. ~Tony Martin, Prairielands Shooting Sports Chairman~

VOA Courses

The Venturing Officers Association will be conducting a full day of leader training at St. Thomas More. VOA room assignments appear on the schedule but are not open to PTC registrants.