What is Bushmaster NYLT?

NYLT stands for National Youth Leadership Training. It is a weeklong co-ed leadership-training course for Scouts BSA, Venturers and Sea Scouts. The Bushmaster NYLT course is set up to represent a month in the life of a 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 or Sea Scout Ship.

Participants experience the various stages of team development. They discover that leadership requires vision, goals, and planning. They learn how to define a vision, set goals for achieving it, and plan for accomplishing those goals. Built on the legacy of past youth leader-training courses, Bushmaster NYLT integrates the best of modern leadership theory with the traditional strengths of the Scouting experience.

A wide range of activities, events, games and adventures will cause the Bushmaster NYLT participants to work and play together as they put into action the best that Scouting has to offer. Bushmaster NYLT participants put their preparations to the test with a Bushmaster NYLT Outpost Camp on the night of day 5.

The course is led and taught by some of the best youth leaders in the Council; all of who are graduates of the Bushmaster NYLT program and typically have staffed multiple courses. The adult leaders who assist the youth staff are Wood Badge trained with extensive experience in training programs.

Bushmaster NYLT is the most advanced youth leader training that Scouting offers in the Pacific Harbors Council. It is fun, intense, and challenging.

Who can attend Bushmaster NYLT?

In order to attend a NYLT course, a youth must have the following qualifications by the beginning of the course:

- Must be a registered member of a Scouting unit.
- Must have a current BSA Health and Medical Record form parts A, B, and C.
- Scouts BSA members (male and female) must be at least 14, or 13 and have completed the eighth grade. They must have completed Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops.
- Members of Scouts BSA are required to earn the First-Class rank before attending NYLT.
- Venturers and Sea Scouts (male and female) must be at least 14, or 13 and have completed eighth grade, and fall within the maximum age allowance for their program. They must have completed Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews or Ships. It is recommended that they have had at least one year of camping experience. While NYLT is not an outdoor skills course, it is important that each participant have basic camping and outdoor cooking experience.
- Have a unit leader recommendation.

Bushmaster NYLT is designed for a participant of about 14+ years of age. A unit leader, at their discretion, may approve a participant at 13 years of age to attend Bushmaster NYLT (if the participant is mature and is an outstanding performer). Since a participant only takes this course once, we want him or her to get the maximum benefit from this experience. Therefore, it is essential that he or she be able to handle the demands of this advanced course, which requires both maturity and experience. We have found that in almost all cases, having the Scout wait a year before going to Bushmaster NYLT is more beneficial to both them and their unit.

What is the course fee?

The course fee is $285, due and payable in full no later than May 21st, 2020.
After May 21st, the course fee is $315.
What is the refund policy?

The first $50.00 paid is non-refundable. To continue providing quality Scouting programs at affordable prices, we have instituted the following refund policy for programs offered by the Pacific Harbors Council. All cancellations and/or refund requests must be submitted in writing to Creighton Scout Service Center, 4802 South 19th St, Tacoma, WA 98405. Or emailed to dianne.irwin@scouting.org. Refunds are based on the date the written request is received at the Creighton Scout Service Center. Requests received two weeks (10 business days) or more prior to an event will receive a full refund. Requests received from 5 to 9 business days before the event will receive a 50% refund. No refunds are available 4 or fewer business days prior to an event.

Are there Council scholarships available?

There are limited Council/private scholarships for Bushmaster NYLT, however many units gladly sponsor their youth to attend Bushmaster NYLT by paying all or part of the course fee. Units should also contact their Chartered organization as many set funds aside to assist the Scouts in matters such as these.

When does registration close?

The last day to register for the course is June 7th, 2020. After that date, participants are taken only if space is available. The current enrollment limit is 84 participants and we expect the courses to fill-up this year. Register as early as possible to avoid problems and potential disappointment.

Our unit has never sent anyone before... why should we now?

Sending participants to Bushmaster NYLT helps them develop their leadership potential. This results in a smoother running unit. If your Troop/Crew/Ship is really committed to having a truly youth run unit, then your youth leaders need the skills presented in this course.

Which and how many participants should a unit send to Bushmaster NYLT?

The real answer to the question of who and how many participants to send is more a question of who you think is mature enough to take part in a weeklong intensive training course and who you believe the future leaders of your unit will be. It is always best to remember the benefits of the buddy system and send two or more participants to share the information and support each other upon returning to their unit.

Can I attend Bushmaster NYLT if I am not a member of the Pacific Harbors Council?

Absolutely! Please contact the Pacific Harbors Council to get more information. Applications are available on the Pacific Harbors Council website.
Isn’t the unit or adult leader training enough?

Bushmaster NYLT builds on and enhances the skills and ideas introduced at the other levels of training. Bushmaster NYLT is not designed to replace the training done by the unit adult leaders, it is designed to provide additional leadership skills and enhance the youth leader’s ability to lead within their unit. In addition, a major ingredient of Bushmaster NYLT is the interaction amongst participants from all over the Pacific Harbors Council. That is why it cannot be provided at the unit level alone.

Does Bushmaster NYLT teach Scout craft skills?

Our primary focus at Bushmaster NYLT is on the leadership skills and providing an opportunity to use and strengthen those skills. Although some Scout craft skills are used to reinforce the leadership concepts taught. A youth does not have to be proficient in these skills to enjoy and attend Bushmaster NYLT.

When do I take my son/daughter to Bushmaster NYLT?

Participants should arrive at Camp Thunderbird at 12:00 noon on Sunday, June 21st, 2020 for check-in. Because the Bushmaster NYLT Staff will be very busy making final preparations for the course, participants who arrive before noon will be expected to wait until registration opens. No exceptions! All participants should have any remaining paperwork ready for the Registrar, have all medications in original containers ready for the Medic, have a copy of both sides of the medical insurance card, and have rain gear ready to protect themselves and their gear.

Should they eat before arriving?

The 1st meal will be served at approximately 5:30PM Sunday so please make sure your son/daughter has had lunch before arriving at Camp.

What if I cannot get my son/daughter to Camp Thunderbird by the registration time?

We cannot allow participants to arrive on course late as the course starts immediately after registration and they will miss very important classes and team building exercises. Participants may not leave the course for any reason so plan on them being there all 6 days without interruption. Registration starts at noon...no exceptions, no late arrivals.

What should my son/daughter wear to Bushmaster NYLT?

Participants should arrive wearing their Field uniform, which is comprised of the official pants or shorts, shirt (with patches properly sewn as described in the uniform inspection sheet), belt and socks. Neckwear, epaulettes and course-hat will be provided at registration.

Although Venturing Crews typically determine and design their own uniforms, per BSA policy, if any Crewmember attends a Council or National event where specific BSA uniforms are expected (i.e. Bushmaster NYLT) then they are required to wear the official Venturing uniform with proper insignia placement. The official Venturing uniform is comprised of the forest green Venturing shirt, charcoal gray shorts or pants, gray belt, and socks.
When do I pick up my son/daughter from Bushmaster NYLT?

The course is officially over at 9:00 PM Friday June 26th and all participants must leave camp at that time. Family, friends and Scout Leaders are invited to attend the graduation ceremony at 7:30 PM in the main fire bowl. Those planning to attend the graduation should arrive in time to walk to the fire bowl however do not arrive any earlier than necessary as the participants are continuing through final ceremonies and camp cleanup until then.

What medical forms are required?

A valid Annual Health and Medical Record and a copy of both sides of your medical insurance card is required. Both must be valid thru the end date of the course.

**Bushmaster NYLT Staff will not allow a Scout on course without these forms.**

You can download a copy of the Medical form at:


Sections A, B, and C of the medical form must be completely filled out. We ask that all parents ensure that they list all food and medical allergies or any other concerns about your son/daughter on this medical form.

Do course participants wear their unit uniform at all times during the course?

Yes, wearing the proper uniform is a part of the Bushmaster NYLT course. The Field uniform is worn at all times, unless participants are specifically told to wear their Activity uniform. The following table describes the Field and Activity uniforms for the Bushmaster NYLT course.

**Field Uniform**

- Scout shirt with all the proper insignia
- Sturdy athletic shoes or boots
- Scout shorts or pants
- Scout socks
- Scout belt (web or leather)
- Name badge (received at Bushmaster NYLT)

**Activity Uniform**

- Scout Tee-shirt (one is provided in the Bushmaster NYLT fee)
- Sturdy athletic shoes or boots
- Scout shorts or pants
- Scout socks
- Scout belt (web or leather)
- Name badge (received at Bushmaster NYLT sign-in)
Knowing that cost can be a factor for many scouting families, consider these options for getting official Scout pants. Check eBay or other online sources for “experienced” pants at minimal cost or think about borrowing these items from another scout in your unit.

Do I need a backpack?
Yes! Participants will be expected to carry all of their equipment to and from the campsite and will need it for the outpost experience later in the week. No trunks or suitcases allowed. There will be other times during the week when the backpack is essential.

What type of footwear should the participants have at Bushmaster NYLT?
“Sturdy” athletic shoes or hiking boots are required for the health and safety of the participants and staff. Please be advised that sandals and tennis shoes are not acceptable footwear. The participants are encouraged to bring shower shoes for the showers, however, during any other time of the week “sturdy” athletic shoes or hiking boots are required. No open toed shoes except for shower shoes.

How will participants live during Bushmaster NYLT?
Participants will be placed into a patrol consisting of six to seven participants from throughout Pacific Harbors Council. Each patrol has its own site with its own stoves and cooking equipment. Participants will prepare their own meals as patrols.

Does every participant need to bring a tent?
Yes! For the outpost portion of the course, participants will need to bring a backpacking tent. Participants may either bring their personal tent or borrow a tent from their home unit.

Is any special equipment needed?
An equipment list will be sent to each participant after his or her reservation is received. Please note that each scout should have 2 full scout uniforms (if possible but not required) with shorts/switchbacks pants.

Participants should not bring electronics such as cell phones, MP3 players, electronic games, laptops, etc. (stand-alone cameras are acceptable.) Participants will have limited access to communication and will not be able to call home etc. except in case of emergency via one of the adult staff. Participants should not bring junk food, extra snacks, weapons, fireworks, drugs/alcohol/tobacco, or any other items unbefitting a Scout. The Bushmaster NYLT Staff reserves the right to confiscate any items that do not contribute to the environment we want to create. All confiscated items will be returned to the participants on day 6.

Do I need to bring any money to Bushmaster NYLT?
Yes! We plan to make available snacks, personal hygiene items, and Bushmaster memorabilia. All proceeds from the sale of these items will be deposited back into the Bushmaster NYLT course.
Do the participants get to take showers?
YES! The participants are strongly encouraged to take a daily shower. Remember, a Scout is CLEAN! Camp Thunderbird has separate shower facilities for both male and females. Shower time is placed in the schedule and the showers are indoors with plenty of fresh hot water. Shower shoes are strongly suggested.

Is there free time at Bushmaster NYLT?
Bushmaster NYLT is a fast-paced course and as such, there is no free time scheduled. However, if a team works together and stays focused on the tasks at hand, then the team could earn patrol time by accomplishing the scheduled tasks early.

Can the participants earn Merit Badges or other advancement?
NO! Bushmaster NYLT is not summer camp. The objective of Bushmaster NYLT is to train leaders, and not to earn merit badges and rank advancements. However, the skills the participants will learn at Bushmaster NYLT will help them advance back in their home units. The purpose of this course is to develop leadership skills that participants will use in their home unit and throughout their lives.

What about the food at Bushmaster NYLT?
Participants should not bring any food with them to Bushmaster NYLT! All the meals are provided for them. If the participants are hungry in between meals, the Trading Post will have snacks (fruit, crackers, other healthy snack items). If your son/daughter has any food allergies it is vital the Bushmaster NYLT Staff be informed before the course starts! Part of Bushmaster NYLT includes the preparation of some of the daily meals. Although all the food is provided to the participants, it is not prepared. Bushmaster NYLT provides all the cooking supplies needed to prepare the meals including eating utensils. The Bushmaster NYLT Staff, working with each patrol, oversees food preparation however participants prepare all meals.

How are medications handled?
Bushmaster NYLT has a qualified staff member who serves as a medic. When the participants check into camp they will also check in their medications with the medic. Medications must arrive in their original containers with clear instructions on dosage. The medic will hold all medications during the week except for bee sting kits and asthma inhalers. It will be the participant’s responsibility to get his/her medications when needed. Bushmaster NYLT does this for Health and Safety reasons. If you have more questions about this, please contact the Course Director. At the end of the week when the participant is picked up from camp their medications will be in their graduation packet.

What does the Staff do?
The Staff spends at least 6 months preparing for course. They plan classes and activities based on the National Youth Leadership Training Syllabus. They arrive at Camp Thunderbird three days before the participants to set up the camp. It is the youth staff that does all of the work. They are the ones planning and teaching the leadership skills to the participants. The adult staff is there mostly for health and safety, but also to mentor the youth staff. The youth staff consists of a Senior Patrol Leader, two Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, several Quartermasters and Instructors, and one Troop
Guide for each patrol. The adult Staff consists of the Course Director, Course Adviser, several Assistant Course Directors and several Quartermasters.

What training is available after Bushmaster NYLT?

The National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) offered by the Philmont Training Center and based at the Rocky Mountain Scout Camp. NAYLE is designed to provide you with a Philmont based wilderness encounter that motivates them to follow a life of helping others succeed based on the values expressed in the Scout Oath and Law.

The NYLT Leadership Academy is offered in Long Beach California and is the premier leadership training for NYLT youth staff nationwide. The NYLT Leadership Academy trains youth staff to be world-class leaders, presenters and evaluators of their council National Youth Leadership Training course.

How do I become a member of the Bushmaster NYLT Staff?

At the end of the week, the participants wishing to be on staff are asked to fill out a staff interest form. All participants who filled out a form will be considered for an interview for a staff position some time before the end of October 2019. Accepting the invitation is the only way they will have the chance to become a staff member.

What about the Adult Staff?

If you are a registered adult leader, we need you to help with Bushmaster NYLT too! We are always looking for adult leaders. Please contact us and tell us who you are and why you want to be an Adult Leader for Bushmaster NYLT. Although Bushmaster NYLT exists to teach youth how to be leaders, the Adult Leadership at Bushmaster NYLT is an opportunity to learn. Bushmaster NYLT also provides a great opportunity for Wood Badge participants to complete their ticket!

How can I get additional information?

Please e-mail or call the Course Directors or the Course Staff Adviser. Their contact information is listed on the last page of this document. You may also call the Pacific Harbors Council Office at (253) 682-2217.
Final Thoughts

Some may think that one-week isn’t long enough to teach a youth how to become a leader. Others believe one week is just too long. Neither is correct and both are right.

Becoming a leader is an evolutionary process. The more practice they get using their leadership skills the better leaders they become. The Bushmaster NYLT course gets participants started on the right path by presenting leadership skills, helps identify and strengthens the skills they already possess and gives them an opportunity to try out and hone those skills in a controlled, training environment. The participant really learns leadership by applying the skills he or she learns back in their home unit under the guidance of his or her unit Leader.

The training of youth leaders is the responsibility of the unit leaders. Bushmaster NYLT is designed to support, not replace, the unit leader’s role in the training process. Each participant who attends will do so as a representative of his or her home unit and will wear the uniform and insignia of their home unit.

To quote a past graduate of a Bushmaster NYLT course, “Bushmaster NYLT provided me with an unfair advantage in Scouting and in life”. We wholeheartedly agree!

Course Director: Dave Gallagher
Contact: NYLTOrca@gmail.com
Phone: (253) 376-5837

Course Director: Rich Hilliker
Contact: NYLTChinook@gmail.com
Phone: (360) 269-2015