

Connecticut Rivers Council will Pilot Required Training for Leaders Working With Youth

The National Council of the BSA will require, as a condition for Unit Charter renewal, that all adult leaders who have direct contact with youth, be fully trained. The Connecticut Rivers Council is one of twenty Councils nationwide selected to pilot the required training initiative, one year before the nationwide roll-out. The pilot will begin January 1, 2010, and will require all Top Unit Leaders to be fully trained when their unit recharter in December, 2010. Top Leaders are Scoutmasters, Cubmasters, Venturing Crew Advisors, Varsity Team Coaches, and Sea Scout Skippers. The pilot will continue through 2011, when all Direct Contact Leaders will be required to complete Basic Leader Training in time for December rechartering. Direct Contact Leaders include Top Leaders, as well as anyone that has direct contact with youth members and include Assistant Scoutmasters, Assistant Cubmasters, Tiger Cub Den Leaders and their assistants, Cub Scout Den Leaders and their assistants, Webelos Den Leaders and their assistants, Associate Crew Advisors, Assistant Varsity Team Coaches, and Sea Scouting Mates. Recognizing the profound impact of required training on units and their Chartered Organizations, the Executive Board passed a resolution in support of the required training initiative.

Required training consists of the Basic Leader Training course(s) specific to the registered leadership position, as well as the supporting on-line courses, *Fast Start*, *Youth Protection*, and *This is Scouting*. Note that *This is Scouting* (WA01) replaces *New Leader Essentials* (A01). Those leaders who completed NLE prior to July, 2009, are not required to take *This is Scouting* to complete the training requirement.

The Basic Leader Training courses are delivered at the District-level by District Training Teams. To ensure that every direct-contact leader is able to complete required training in a timely manner, the Council Training Committee will provide a coordinated schedule of required Basic Leader Training Courses to be offered at least twice yearly in each District during 2010 and 2011. *Cub Scout Leader Specific Training* is also offered at the Pow Wow and at the University of Scouting. Scoutmasters and their assistants can complete both of the required Basic Leader Training courses, *Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training* and *Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills*, as part of the Summer Camp program when they attend a Connecticut Rivers Council Boy Scout camp with their Troop.

Please visit the Training page and your District's event calendar on the Council web site (www.ctrivers.org) for specific Training Course information and on-line registration for the courses you need. Learn more about training opportunities by visiting the National Council website (www.scouting.org/) for descriptions of all BSA training programs and a links to the *Online Learning Center*, where you will be guided in setting up your "My Scouting" account and can take required and supplemental on-line training courses. Contact information for your District Training chair is listed on the Training Page in the Scouter.

To prepare for the pilot, the Council Training Committee will be conducting a training inventory of leaders, and will ask your help in verifying and updating records of your training. We will work with the Commissioners to identify units with untrained leaders and expand modes and venues in which training is delivered, to make training available to all. No effort will be spared to ensure that all direct contact leaders have the opportunity to complete required training.

It has been the experience of those councils that have already adopted required training that trained leaders provide a higher quality program that results in better retention of Scouts and volunteer leaders and that more effectively deliver the values of Scouting to the youth and families that we serve.

Ray Joesten
Council Training Committee Chair