

What makes a trained leader?

A Scouter is considered trained for a Scouting position when he or she has completed the prescribed basic courses for that position. The BSA has long believed a tenured leader does not need to retake basic training every time there is a new course. Through supplemental training; roundtables; Scouting magazine; updates from the National Service Center disseminated through regions, areas, and council leadership; and participation in activities, leaders can stay up-to-date with the current methods and practices of the program.

A Scouter who has completed a previous basic training course for a current role and is current in Youth Protection training may be given credit as trained if in the opinion of the council and district training committee the Scouter has continued to stay up-to-date with the current methods and practices of the program. These Scouters are eligible to wear the “Trained” emblem and to be considered trained for purposes of the unit’s Journey to Excellence progress. Entering the qualifying training courses and proper dates of the courses into the Scouter’s record in the BSA’s membership database will also mark him or her as trained.

The Unit should strive to have all leaders participate in the current training—basic or supplemental—to be sure they have the up-to-date information related to their role. Although it might be a challenge to get tenured leaders to take the time to take a new course, in most cases these leaders can be excellent resources for the training committee to help facilitate or support a course. Course instructors should be given credit for completion of the course as well.

NO PERSON IS EVER FULLY TRAINED. Even the most tenured Scouter can learn something by attending or instructing a course. When was the last time YOU took (or instructed) a BSA training course?