

July 2010

Dear Volunteer:

The Simon Kenton Council has some very exciting training information to share. We are participating in a pilot program with the National office to improve the experience of our Scouts by instituting required training for our volunteers.

The program will be instituted in tiers. The first tier is taking place right now in 2010, requiring all Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Venturing Advisors, and Varsity Coaches to be completely trained by the end of the year.

2011 will launch Tier II- (however, please do not wait until 2011 to begin), which will add Assistant Cubmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, Den Leaders and assistants, and Associate Advisors and Coaches to the required list. All of these positions will need to be fully trained by the conclusion of 2011.

Tier III will encompass ALL scouting volunteers. So at the end of 2012 we will have 100% of our volunteers fully trained.

This program is in addition to the new National policy on youth protection. Please note: The youth protection policy is currently being enforced and no volunteer will be able to renew their registration without having youth protection training within the last 2 years.

All together, this is an exciting opportunity for our Scouts and Scouters.

Below you will find the frequently asked questions about the required training program. A complete list of training required to be considered a “trained” leader can be found in the document *What Makes a Trained Leader*.

The Online Learning Center www.myscouting.org offers Youth Protection, Fast Start, and This is Scouting. Don't have an account? Log on and create one today. Instructions can be found on the main page.

Sincerely,

Karen Richeson-Dull
Training Chair
Simon Kenton Council

FAQ'S TO PILOT COUNCILS OF REQUIRED TRAINING

Q-How do we update our training records?

A-You will find a volunteer training record on the council website, as well as on the program CD. Simply complete this form, and return it to the council office or your district training chair.

Q-Define Top Leaders?

A- The top leaders are Scoutmasters, Varsity Coaches, Cubmasters, Crew Advisors, and Sea Scout Skippers.

Q-The pilot year begins January 1, 2010. Do untrained leaders have all year to complete training?

A-Yes

Q-What is the next phase of the pilot program.

A-Beginning January 1, 2011, all direct contact leaders will be required to complete training. Direct Contact leaders are anyone who comes into direct contact with youth members, and includes Assistants to the Top Leaders and all Den Leaders.

Q-What about the tenured leader who has never completed training?

A- They have probably been trained on the job. Designate a mentor or coach to work with the tenured leader in a one-on-one session. The Scout Executive or his designee should be the person to determine if the person is trained.

Q-What about training Scouters who are in remote areas?

A. Some districts have a portable / mobile training squad who will go to the remote areas to train. Consider using Pack Trainers as a resource for training all Cub Scout Pack Leaders.

Q-What about the person who refuses to take training?

A-The unit belongs to a Chartered Organization. Ask the Chartered Organization to appoint someone who is trained or is willing to take training in the top leader position.

Q-What about teaching Introduction to Outdoor Skills?

A- All Scoutmasters and Varsity Coaches must complete Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills to be considered trained. Also, all Venture Crew Advisors of crews who have an outdoor program must complete Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills. If one of these leaders can demonstrate the outdoor skills to a member of the training team, it is not necessary they attend a formal training course.

Q-Most of the training courses are on line, but everyone does not have access to a computer. How do we handle this?

A-All of the online courses are also available as a DVD to allow for group training. In a worst case scenario, volunteers can go to the council office or their local library to complete on-line training. Consider setting up a "Training Blitz" at a community college or a business with a bank of computers.

Q-How will we know that required training will make a difference?

A-A process to measure success is being developed. Past history has shown that council who have required training have shown improved retention, improved advancement and camp attendance, and even participation in product sales/popcorn sales and other council fundraising efforts!