



Natchez Trace Council OWL (Outdoor Wilderness Leadership)

Camping overnight is required for both BALOO and IOLS. Therefore, these training programs are outdoor overnight camping activities. All participants need to bring their own tents and camping equipment. Family members and persons from the same Unit may be assigned to different Patrols and may preclude the sharing of camping gear. To receive credit for the program, you must be present for the entire program.

Youth Protection Training is required.

You must bring a copy of your certificate to the course.

Natchez Trace Council OWL (Outdoor Wilderness Leadership)	
December 6, 2025	Campsite Setup is 8:00 am – 10:00 pm Instruction begins at 10:00 am – SHARP
December 7, 2025	7:00 am – 12:00 pm (Noon)

OWL training attendee cost is \$35 if paid before November 30, 2025

OWL training attendee cost is \$50 if paid on or after November 30, 2025

OWL training does not accept walk-up registrations. You must register online!

Anyone who needs to arrive on Friday night due to travel, please contact the Director for arrangements. No food will be available Friday Night.

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) is required training for Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, Crew Advisers, and Associate Crew Advisors. Packs and Webelos Den overnights require a leader that has completed Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO).

The OWL course is recommended for Pack, Troop and Crew Committee Members, Charter Organization Representatives, Den Leaders, Webelos Leaders, Cubmasters and Assistant Cubmasters interested in learning basic outdoor camping skills for the Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA Program and/or Venturing programs.

OWL is an introductory course and does not teach survival skills. It is designed for Leaders to take Packs, Troops and Crews on basic camping trips. Scouts BSA High Adventure and Back Country trips require additional training.

This course will satisfy the requirements for all Scoutmasters / Assistant Scoutmasters and Crew Advisors / Associate Crew Advisors to be certified as “Trained” in Outdoor Leader Skills and will certify Webelos Leaders to lead overnights and to allow leaders to take Cub Packs on Family Campouts.

Course Director:

Trey Wright

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Staff Advisor:

Rick Wise

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IOLS Course Description

- Campsite Selection: basics, tent and sleeping gear specifications
- Cooking and Sanitation: food prep, storage, menu and meal planning
- Fire, Stove, Campfires: fire building, equipment, safety, campfire planning
- Interfaith Service: inclusion, incorporation at campouts, Chaplains Aid
- Outdoor Ethics: Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly, Outdoor Code
- Packing and Hiking: proper use of gear, packing techniques, hike planning
- Plant and Animal Identification: native and invasive species, tracking
- Map and Compass: basics, GPS, geocaching
- Ropes and Knots: whipping, fusing, knots, lashings, pioneering projects
- Wood Tools: knife, saw, ax, proper care and use, sharpening, Whittling Chip, Totin' Chip
- Health and Safety: campout situations, risk reduction, aquatics safety
- Program Planning: age-appropriate activities

BALOO Course Description

In addition to the IOLS topics, the following will also be covered:

- Adventure Loops: tips and tricks for incorporation on campouts
- Large Group Games: tips and tricks, ideas
- Outdoor Ceremonies: recognition, planning

NOTE: In addition to the OWL outdoor training, all participants are required to complete all components of the *Program Safety* training **prior** to the OWL weekend. These are available **online** at www.my.scouting.org, under Expanded Learning → Program Safety and includes the following modules:

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| • Hazardous Weather | • Safe Swim Defense | • Safety Afloat |
| • Climb On Safely | • Drive Safely | |

*****All participants must also complete the BALOO Prerequisite Training*****

BALOO consists of two components: You must complete both the "online" and "practical hands-on" components to qualify as a "Trained" Cub Scout outdoor leader and receive the BALOO recognition patch.

NOTE: Each of the Program Safety training modules will take 15-20 minutes and the BALOO prerequisite training will take 60-90 minutes.

Participants must bring their certificates of completion with them to the first day of training to be allowed to attend the OWL course. We cannot accept emailed certificates.

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| • BSA Medical Health Forms A & B | • Current YPT Certificate |
| • BALOO Prerequisite Training Certificate | • Hazardous Weather Training Certificate |
| • Safe Swim Defense Training Certificate | • Safety Afloat Training Certificate |
| • Climb On Safely Training Certificate | • Drive Safely Training Certificate |

If you have any food allergies or special dietary needs, please contact the Course Director prior to the camping weekend.