

Roundtable Scouts BSA Breakout

Scouts BSA Roundtable Discussion

Introduction to Leadership Skills (ILST)

Young people in Scouting have many opportunities to grow, learn, develop and prepare themselves for their future. One of the ways Scouting provides these opportunities is through youth holding different leadership positions. The Introduction to Leadership Skills (ILST) training for troops helps give youth tools to succeed in their leadership roles by focusing on these three areas:

1. Troop Organization
2. Tools of Leadership
3. Leadership and Teamwork

Scouts who complete this training, can go on to learn even more at National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)

ILST gives Scouts in troop leadership an opportunity to get to know each other and build relationships and to help make their unit successful. An ILST training should be run after every unit election.

ILST training can be held over a weekend, a single day or broken up into different days based on the training modules. If your troop has not run an ILST before, adult leaders can contact the district training chair to discuss how to hold the training for the first time.



Ask and encourage your experienced youth leaders to help run the event alongside adult leadership. A youth led ILST will help Scouts see themselves in important roles in their troop. For those helping to teach and present modules, give youth enough time to practice and be comfortable with the information.

Make sure to take breaks during the training and check in with participants during the breaks. Breaks allow participants to absorb more of the skills they are learning. Encourage them to think and be reflective during the training, it is a resource to improve the troop and its youth leaders by helping them to develop leadership skills which they can apply to Scouting and their everyday life.

Discussion Questions:

1. How often does your unit run ILST?
2. What are some barriers to running ILST that your unit faces?
3. What are some of the practices your unit has done to make ILST fun?

Resources:

Introduction to leadership skills for troops facilitator guide

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/ILST_IntroSyllabus_9_11.pdf

Training for Youth <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth/>

Aaron on Scouting - ILST is an absolute must for BSA youth

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2024/04/29/this-training-course-is-an-absolute-must-for-bsa-youth/>