



**Scouting U's new online training courses will help volunteers learn what they need when they need it.**

At your Scout's pack meeting, a parent hands you a red, blue, and white registration form. Before you know it, you've agreed to take the place of a retiring den leader. There's one problem: You know very little about Scouting, except for how *awesome* it is, according to your 8-year-old. When you're faced with getting trained for a new leadership role or expanding your Scouting knowledge, how do you make time for it all without skimping on the details you need to be successful?

Here's where the BSA's Scouting U comes in. Listening to feedback from volunteers, Scouting U redesigned its online training for adult leaders, making it more convenient than ever to earn your Trained badge. The new Web-based courses deliver high-quality online learning experiences tailored for each volunteer's role. Whether you're a new leader or a seasoned Scouter, your mission remains the same: providing Scouts or Venturers with the best possible Scouting experiences.

Here's how you can harness these new training tools and make this your unit's best year yet. If you're a new-to-Scouting leader, the first step to getting trained is completing Youth Protection training at [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org). Next, choose how you'd like to complete your training. Are you the type of person who thrives on learning in a group setting? Check the Hawk Mountain Council website ([www.hmc-bsa.org](http://www.hmc-bsa.org)) and sign up for the next available face-to-face leader training. This type of training isn't going away. A leader position-specific training session typically takes three hours, often on a Saturday, and it gives you a chance to learn from and interact with an experienced instructor and other volunteers.

If you prefer completing this work on your own time (and in your pajamas), tap into the new training courses available at [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org) from your home computer or tablet. In conjunction with the release of the new Cub Scouting program, Scouting U revised new leader training on [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org) to be even more convenient without sacrificing the knowledge you need. (Revised Venturing leader training will be available in this new format by the end of the year and new Boy Scouting training will be released in the spring of 2016. The existing online leader training can be accessed at [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org).)

Web-based courses are not new to the BSA. Leaders have been completing Youth Protection training, leader position-specific training, and much more online for years. But these courses were delivered in one all-encompassing session, taking about 30 to 40 minutes to complete. The experts at Scouting U found that today's adult learner prefers to consume smaller chunks of knowledge versus a "one and done" class, says Steve Yackel, team leader of Instructional Design at Scouting U. Adults also retain more knowledge, he says, if they are given the chance to put their newfound skills into action.

If you decide to complete leader position-specific training online, you'll enter the new LearnCenter at [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org). There you will see your assigned learning plan based on your registered volunteer position. You can choose to start this learning plan immediately after you complete Youth Protection training. On your learning plan dashboard, you'll see three sections of lessons: Before the First Meeting, Within 30 Days and Position Trained. Each section contains four to eight lessons focused on specific training topics that build on each other as you go. For instance, the first section includes lessons that help you prepare to get started, such as Venturing Getting Started, Cub Scouting Ideals, and more. Each training video is organized by topic, which means you can go back and revisit subjects that apply to challenges or questions you might face down the road. In all, the new online leader position-specific training takes about three hours to complete — unlike past Web-based training, which took about 30 minutes or longer. The system also helps volunteers stay on pace to complete their training. Once you start a learning plan, you will receive reminder emails to complete lessons before each due date. Your profile will show you're officially "trained" once you complete all three sections. The goal is to accomplish your learning plan within 90 days of registration.

Just donning a Trained patch on your uniform sleeve doesn't mean you're done learning. You can find sessions on Weather Hazards, Safety Afloat and more on [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org). These learning opportunities prepare you for leading Scouts or Venturers on campouts and outdoor activities. When you're ready to take your Scouting knowledge even further, reach out to the HMC Training Team for face-to-face courses like Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO), Powder Horn, Outdoor Leadership Skills courses, Wood Badge, and others. Not only will these courses add depth to your leadership skills, but you'll also meet and network with other Scouters in your area.