

The Quest

Planting the Seeds for Building
World Class NYLT Programs



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Check out the NYLT Doctor for more great content for NYLT staff.

Also, ask a question and get an answer from experienced NYLT staff members.

SPL's Corner by Paul Rule

As we enter this new year, we have the opportunity to look back at a great year for leadership training. This year's Alpine Conference was a major success and we provided one of the best Youth Staff Development Courses (YSDC) I have ever staffed. As with all NYLT courses, this year's YSDC staff dynamic is truly unique. I would like to review some of the things the YSDC staff does in an effort to give NYLT staff some new ideas for your NYLT staff developments.

The YSDC staff only meets a few days before the course in July. Thus communication outside of meeting in person is key. I am looking forward to this year's staff development. As our course draws closer, we will be preparing ourselves to work as a single cohesive staff unit.

We start by reviewing last year's vision and begin thinking about how we see this year's YSDC unfolding. We reread the syllabus, and come up with

aspects of the course we would like to see improved or continued. We ask ourselves: "What do we want to see improved from last year?" As SPL, I encourage every YSDC staff member to ask themselves this question and bring their ideas to Staff Development.

It is most important, to get the staff pumped for the next event, be it a staff development meeting or the NYLT course itself. The YSDC staff is known for our unrelenting spirit and this year is no different. I am eager to see everyone gather once again at Yards Creek, and I hope everyone is as thrilled as I am for their own staff endeavors. My message to all leadership training staff: is to focus on having fun, prepare yourself for a thrilling course, and work hard to make your staff the best staff possible!

I hope everyone has great start to the New Year, and take time, whenever you can, to focus on staff development.

NYLT Doctor's Corner

Closing Campfire Tips

The closing campfire is one of the last times to inspire participants and encourage them to use the tools they have just learned. Having the campfire go off without a hitch can be challenging after one of the longest days of the course. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- **Make sure all staff know their role in the ceremony**
- **Have all the materials set up and working**
- **Light the fire before the participants arrive to avoid any delay**
- **Personalize the Be Know Do presentation by incorporating unique experiences from the course**

Also in this Issue:

Applying New Ideas: NYLT SPL at Den Chief Training

The Troop Guide at NYLT

Applying New Ideas by Kenneth Tinsley

At this year's 12th Annual National Youth Leader Training (NYLT) leader's Conference in October at the Alpine Scout Camp, Douglas Fullman, NER Regional Program Director, challenged course directors and Scoutmasters to think about using the NYLT youth staffers within other training platforms. I thought this was a great idea and immediately looked over to Pat Kelly, a previous NYLT Course Director and the current Suffolk County Council Training Chairman. With a quick nod he thought it was a great idea as well. We decided to ask the Senior Patrol

Leader (SPL) of our weeklong August NYLT Course to assist with our council Den Chief Training Course.

Life Scout Daniel Krolikowski had staffed NYLT as both a Troop Guide and a Senior Patrol Leader. In his home troop his servant leadership as a Den Chief and Troop Guide for the new Scouts had been and continues to be outstanding. I met with "Dan the Man," as he is known throughout the Suffolk County Council, and we discussed the Den Chief syllabus and assignments.

After our collaboration and Daniel's execution of Douglas Fullman's suggestion, I'm pleased to report that the training went far better than expected. Thirty-eight Scouts throughout our district took Den Chief Training. He was well received by the participants, including some who had completed NYLT while Dan was SPL. He conducted the opening and led the activity session. He assisted in the closing and in giving the Den Chief Pledge to our district's newly trained Den Chiefs. The Scouts who completed this Den Chief training in December left with a tool box filled with the "Be-Know-Do" of Den Chief leadership. They are now well equipped and enabled to successfully follow the EDGE™ method in their duties.

Where are you on your Quest?

NYLT staff are always refining and applying their skills to make a world of difference, be it inside and outside of Scouting. We would like to hear about your experiences. Send your stories to newsletter@nylt-ysdc.org, and we'll feature some in each issue.

The Troop Guide by Bryan Poston

In my eyes the troop guides represent the heart and the soul of any NYLT course. During staff development the focus is usually on the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and the Scoutmaster due to course planning and rehearsal. Once the course begins the SPLs, spend more of their time, as they should, behind the scenes. From registration to the closing ceremony, participants in the course work continuously with their troop guide looking for both education and guidance. In some forms the troop guide represents a safety net for the participants; someone that they can always use as a resource during the course. It is up to the troop guide to establish both a fun and safe learning environment for their patrol.

Reflecting now on my experience serving as an NYLT SPL I firmly know that the secret to a successful course lies in the trust and confidence the SPL has in his troop guides. It is impossible for the SPL to monitor every patrol throughout

the day so he relies on his troop guides to execute the program in a professional and timely manner. This idea is not exclusive to NYLT as it traces back to the era of Lord Baden Powell himself. In 1920 he compiled a series of notes, many about the patrol method, in Aids to Scoutmasters. "The Patrol is the unit of Scouting always, whether for work or for play, for discipline or for duty. An invaluable step in character training is to put responsibility on to the individual. This is immediately gained in appointing a Patrol Leader to responsible command of his Patrol. It is up to him to take hold of and to develop the qualities of each boy in his Patrol." NYLT troop guides all accept this responsibility giving knowledge and leadership to their patrol. They humbly emulate Baden Powell's beliefs by representing a model patrol leader the first day, and then by stepping aside to allow others to take the lead. The troop guide is the most visible position that teaches leadership by doing. This makes them an excellent

example to the participants of Be, Know, and Do and more importantly how to incorporate EDGE™ in one's leadership style.

Other positions have their own significant roles and purposes, but it is unique to the troop guide to act as a mentor to participants. When participants see your troop guides as the epitome of what they would like to be as a leader, you know that your course has been extremely successful. It is a way of showing that participants recognize much more than the skill presentations given to them throughout the course. They should notice that the troop guides not only teach the course but also how to apply the course's meaning in one's life. For this reason, troop guides are invaluable to any course.

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