

Six-Day Training Course Preps Tucson Youth for Leadership Roles
Nearly 50 Scouts from 13 to 17 years old participated in the event.



Youth staff leader presents Scout with blue NYLT neckerchief.

TUCSON, ARIZ (July 20, 2023) – Catalina Council, Boy Scouts of America (BSA) engaged 42 Scouts from age 13 to 17 in a six-day leadership development program at Camp Lawton, based on Mt. Lemmon. The National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) curriculum enhances leadership skills, character development, and personal growth through a combination of classroom instruction, team-building exercises, and practical application in an indoor and outdoor environment. Scouts are recommended by a Unit Leader to participate in the event.

“NYLT plays a critical role in shaping the next generation of leaders by providing them with the skills, values, and experiences necessary for personal and societal development,” said Rebecca Lester, Course Director and Female Scoutmaster for Catalina Council, BSA. “It empowers our Scouts to make a positive difference around them, in their Troop, home, and community.”

Several Scouts that completed last year’s course were elected to leadership positions within their Troop, such as Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Many NYLT alumni landed internships within engineering companies, while others were selected to be on the Catalina Council staff.

“Whether they are leading community service projects, organizing events, or taking on leadership roles in their school, church, or other organizations, NYLT alumni play an important role in strengthening and

improving the community,” Lester said. “Those who attend NYLT lead by example and create a ripple effect that extends beyond their own personal growth and have an impact on their peers whether they’re a part of Scouting or not.”

The six-day National Youth Leadership Training course was managed by 19 staff: 13 youth and 6 adults. All staff completed mandatory “Youth Protection Training” and “Youth on Youth Abuse Prevention Training” several months prior to the event; the staff also implemented “Safety Moments” every day to promote risk awareness and cultivate a safety-oriented mindset.

About Catalina Council, BSA

The Catalina Council, BSA, is a nonprofit organization that has been serving youth in Southern Arizona for over 100 years and offers development programs for young people from Kindergarten to age 21. For additional information, visit catalinacouncil.org.

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Media Contact:

Marielle Babb

Email: mbabb@nupointmarketing.com