

IV. LFC Youth Protection Protocol – Youth Participants in NYLT and Other Council Youth Training

“In all NYLT courses ... *culture* is key to success.” Throughout the course, participants should observe the staff following the same guidelines, expectations, and consequences that are asked of them. All staff and participants are expected to model the highest standards of behavior, particularly that of servant leadership.

In this protocol, material in quotation marks is quoted directly from the 2019 NYLT syllabus.

A. Basic course protocols for participants

1. Before the course starts, parents and Scouts BSA/Venture/Sea Scout/Exploring participants will be required to sign a course contract accepting the zero-tolerance policy, and the consequences of failure to comply. Any infractions must be communicated and enforced, just as with other potential problems such as drugs or alcohol. In addition, on Day 1 of the course, there will be a mandatory and appropriate review session of youth-on-youth abuse protection guidelines for all participants.
2. Patrols should consist of participants of similar age, if possible with no more than two years age difference within a patrol.
3. With respect to the assignment of mixed gender patrols (if any), the National NYLT syllabus guidelines will be followed.
4. For a course with participants of both genders, two registered adult leaders, one male and one female (both of whom must be age 21 or older), will be designated as the “go-to” persons for any participant who, for any reason, has been made to feel uncomfortable by the words or action of anyone else in camp. The male and female leaders so designated will be identified to the participants as the individuals who are available to anyone, at any time of the day or night, in the event that any Scout needs to talk with an adult about a personal issue or problem.
5. For protection against inappropriate use, participants are asked to leave cell phones at home; otherwise, staff will collect them at check-in. If collected at check in, cell phones will be available throughout the week if the Course Director finds it necessary for the Scout to call home or to use the phone in an emergency. Phones will be returned to participants in their packets on the final day of course. Adults are encouraged to use their cell phones as seldom as possible so as not to distract from the camping experience.
6. If youth members of both genders will be participating in camp, then registered adult leaders of both genders must be available (in camp and ready to go to the health lodge on short notice) to staff the health lodge. Regardless of the gender of any youth member needing the services of the health lodge, at

least two registered adults must be present in the health lodge when a youth member is in the health lodge. Adult leaders – including those responsible for staffing the health lodge – should be alert to situations in which the nature of the health-related need of a youth member is such that it is advisable for an adult of the same gender to be present in the health lodge when the youth member is in the health lodge. It is expected that, in those situations, an adult member of the appropriate gender will be available on short notice to staff the health lodge.

7. Participants and their parents may be asked to sign a photography waiver allowing the NYLT course and Last Frontier Council to use their photographs for advertising and course promotion through social media.

B. Camping/sleeping arrangements for participants

1. Rather than tenting alone, patrol members are strongly encouraged to share a tent with another patrol member of the same gender. If there is an odd number, then three to a tent or a single will be allowed. There should be no more than two years difference in tent mates as specified in BSA Youth Protection guidelines. Youth participants over 18 years old (e.g., Venturers, Explorers or Sea Scouts) may only tent with other youth participants of the same gender, over 18 years old.

2. The NYLT course enforces the buddy system for all participants, at all areas, and at all times, day or night. Buddies must be of the same gender. In other words, no mixed gender, one-on-one contact is permitted at any time. Consequently, mixed groups of campers will under no circumstances be less in number than four (two males/two females).

3. Campsite arrangements will be coordinated by the Course Director as needed to accomplish the separation of the genders with respect to sleeping arrangements and tent locations. If both male and female participants are camping in the same campsite, (whether in same patrol or otherwise), then, each night of the course, beginning at the time designated for lights out and continuing until reveille, two registered adult leaders, one male and one female (both of whom must be age 21 or older), will camp close enough to that campsite to be within easy earshot and a short walking distance from the tents in the campsite. The adult leaders' tent(s) need not be in the campsite as long as it is close enough to be within easy earshot and a short walking distance from the tents in the campsite. These adults will be the "go-to" persons as defined in #5 Basic course protocols. Participants camping in the campsite will be informed of the presence and availability of the adult leaders. (Alternatively, "in a course that is predominantly male or predominantly female, *i.e.* only one or two of the minority in each patrol, all of the minority may camp in one area away from the patrol sites.") A campsite will not be considered to be a mixed-gender campsite if the sleeping areas of male and female youth participants are far enough apart that, in the judgment of the Course Director, the likelihood of attempted inappropriate contact is clearly minimal, considering such factors as distance, physical barriers, visibility, and proximity of an adult sleeping area.

4. Most Council camps have shower and toilet facilities with separate compartments and locking doors. All participants should enter and exit the compartments dressed appropriately per youth protection guidelines. If separate facilities are not available, then the latrine should be equipped with (and all campers, adult or youth, should use) either (i) a male/female "Occupied" sign, or (ii) if the latrine does not have a closable doorway, a provision for visibly indicating, with a rope across the doorway or otherwise, that the latrine is occupied.