Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) training is part of the required basic training for all Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters. Normally this training is completed by participating in an IOLS course. However, if an adult can demonstrate that he or she has good command of the outdoor skills that are required for a Boy Scout to achieve the rank of First Class Scout, and more importantly has the ability to teach those skills to a Boy Scout, then that adult may be credited with completion of IOLS training.

Adults who are approved by the MCBSA Training Committee may conduct a certification review for such a demonstration. The review is to be based on the IOLS Personal Record form, which is included in the IOLS syllabus and is reproduced here.

The form is to be populated as follows:

**First page**

- Name: the name of the person to be credited with completion of IOLS training
- District: the district of the above person
- Course date: the date of the certification review
- Location: the location of the certification review

**Second page**

- Training Course Chair: signature of the person conducting the certification review
- Council Training Chair: signature of the Council Training Chair
- Course date: can be left blank – same information as on first page
- Location: can be left blank – same information as on first page

The certifier is to submit the completed form to the District Training Chair, who will bring it to the Council Training Chair for approval and updating of the council training records.

Further guidance for IOLS Certification Trainers is posted on the Training page of the MCBSA website.

Any questions regarding the implementation of this procedure should be directed to the Council Training Chair.
Presenter’s Tips for the Orientation Session

Before the Orientation:
Distribute (preferably in electronic format) the IOLS Personal Record Sheets.

During the Orientation:

- Have participants fill out an attendance sheet (use the standard attendance form that is posted on the Training page of the MCBSA website under the link Tools for MCBSA Trainers).
- Explain the purpose of IOLS training.
- Show this slide show and encourage discussion.
- Discuss the need for IOLS training as a group, working toward a consensus of what makes for consistent quality control.
- Have copies of the IOLS Personal Record Sheets available for distribution.

It should be possible to conduct this session in less than one hour, so it could be held during a Boy Scout Roundtable meeting.
Learning Objectives

As a result of this orientation you should:
• Understand the need for IOLS training
• Be able to conduct an IOLS certification
• Know how to report the results
Outline

- The background for IOLS
- The need for IOLS
- Certification Trainer qualifications
- The IOLS certification process
- Punch line
Point out that the IOLS syllabus is posted on the Training page of the MCBSA website.

The following is excerpted from the Introduction section of the IOLS syllabus:

“Imagine having hands-on knowledge of setting up a campsite, pitching a tent, hiking, outdoor cooking—all the skills necessary to see the Outdoor program of the Boy Scouts of America come to life.

“The skills sessions presented in Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills closely follow the *Boy Scout Handbook* and are meant to serve as an adult training outline. By using these skills sessions in conjunction with the *Boy Scout Handbook*, trainers can be sure new leaders are proficient in the basic outdoor skills through First Class rank. Each skills session references specific chapters in the handbook.

“Hands-on participation makes the best learning tool, so participants should leave the training experience knowing they can show their Scouts how to accomplish outdoor skills while fulfilling rank requirements. Back home, we want leaders to feel comfortable working with and instructing their Scouts. From pitching a tent to starting a cooking fire, they should feel confident in helping their youth leaders plan and carry out their own unit campouts and exciting troop programs using these skills. With that comes great satisfaction.”
What is IOLS? (cont’d)

- IOLS addresses the outdoor skills needed for a Boy Scout to achieve the rank of First Class Scout
- IOLS focuses on teaching outdoor skills to youth members

Emphasize the focus on the ability to teach outdoor skills.
Why is IOLS Training Required?

- The current national trend is toward adult leaders with shorter tenure and less of a command of outdoor skills than was had by their previous counterparts
- We should not generalize, though

The key take-away here is that what’s important is having the skills and the ability to teach them, not taking a training course. Our goal is to have adult leaders who can provide a high-quality Scouting program to their youth members, not just make them jump through arbitrary hoops.
Actually, SMs and SAs should be teaching those skills to the troop’s youth instructors, then provide mentoring as the instructors teach the skills to the rest of the troop, but that’s another topic (which should be covered in Boy Scout Leader-Specific Training).

We need to acknowledge that some of the adults who are currently registered as SAs probably have minimal involvement in mentoring Scouts in the use of outdoor skills, and therefore should more properly have a position on the troop committee. So, we need to remind our troop-level colleagues that every registered adult leadership position is important, and that there is no stigma associated with moving from one position to another (either SA to MC or vice-versa).
We should encourage all SMs and SAs to participate in an IOLS course. Even those who have a good command of the skills that are covered can benefit from the interaction with other participants. It is also acceptable to have someone serve on the staff of an IOLS course and simultaneously complete the course. Now we know that attending an IOLS course is an excessive burden for some adults, so that’s where the IOLS certification program comes in. Also, there are Eagle Scouts who have aged out of the program as youth members and are now only eligible to serve as an SA, some of whom are well equipped to teach outdoor skills in their new leadership position (and likely have already done so), who would benefit from an IOLS certification program.
Since we do not have enough trainers to meet on an individual basis with everyone who might want to participate in an IOLS certification program, the responsibility for IOLS certification of adults can be delegated to individual troops. In order to make that work, each troop would need a trainer who has been approved by the Council Training Committee, and who would conduct IOLS certification sessions for the troop and report the results to the Council Training Committee. That would ease the burden on our council-level trainers, who would conduct certification sessions for those adults who are registered in a troop that does not have a qualified IOLS trainer, and for those adults who are not associated with a troop but wish to complete the training via the personal coaching method.

This orientation session is intended to ensure that all IOLS Certifiers are on the same page, and that IOLS certification reviews are done in a consistent and reasonable manner.
Conducting an IOLS Certification

- Use the IOLS Personal Record to review the outdoor skills
- Simply put, you need to become comfortable that the person you are certifying has the ability to teach those skills to youth members

Show the IOLS Personal Record form. Briefly discuss the items in each of the categories and solicit feedback from the participants about how to determine whether or not a person whom they are reviewing has the ability to teach those skills to youth members.
Show the participants where to put the above information on the form, and emphasize the need to write legibly so that proper credit may be recorded. If the participant is affiliated with a troop, indicate the troop number and the participant’s leadership position.

Processing the Paperwork

- Fill in the participant’s personal information on the IOLS Personal Record
- Sign the form on the line identified as Training Course Chair
- Submit the form to the Council Training Chair for approval and processing
Learning Objectives Review

Now you should:
- Understand the need for IOLS training
- Be able to conduct an IOLS certification
- Know how to report the results
Remind the participants that the job of the Training Committee is not running training courses. It is training leaders. Similarly, the job of an IOLS Certifier is not just filling out paperwork. It is helping to ensure that our youth members get the high-quality Scouting program that they deserve.

Punch Line

• Every youth member deserves a trained leader
• Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters need to be competent in outdoor skills to be trained
• Thank you for helping our youth members
Thank you for your participation!

Questions and Open Discussion

Allow ample time to answer questions and get feedback from the participants.

As soon as possible after the session, submit a report to the Council Training Chair that includes the following information:

- The date, time, and location of the IOLS Certification Trainer Orientation Session
- The names and contact information for all participants and staff for the session (use the standard attendance form that is posted on the Training page of the MCBSA website under the link Tools for MCBSA Trainers)
Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

Personal Record

Name ________________________________ District ________________________________

Course date __________________________ Location ________________________________

THE AMERICAN FLAG

_____ Raise, fold, display

TENTS AND SHELTER

_____ Pitching a tent

ROPEs AND LASHING

_____ Whip and fuse ends
_____ Taut-line hitch
_____ Clove hitch
_____ Shear lashing
_____ Bowline

_____ Two half hitches
_____ Timber hitch
_____ Square lashing
_____ Diagonal lashing

WOODS TOOLS

_____ Knife
_____ Ax—methods

_____ Camp saw
_____ Sharpening tools

CAMP FIRES

_____ Tinder
_____ Fire fuel

_____ Kindling
_____ Extinguishing

COOKING

_____ Menu planning
_____ Clean-up

_____ Backpack stove
_____ Compass reading

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

_____ Map reading
_____ Measuring
_____ Camp and pack basics
_____ Plant identification

_____ Orienteering
_____ Hiking basics
_____ Animal identification
_____ Leave No Trace camping
## TENDERFOOT FIRST AID
- Cuts and scratches
- Minor burns and scalds
- Identify poisonous plants
- Nosebleed
- Frostbite and sunburn

## SECOND CLASS FIRST AID
- Serious bleeding
- Object in the eye
- Puncture wounds
- Heat exhaustion
- Heatstroke
- Hypothermia

## FIRST CLASS FIRST AID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bandages</th>
<th></th>
<th>Transport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head injury</td>
<td></td>
<td>Smoke-filled room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collarbone</td>
<td></td>
<td>Five signs of heart attack</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Upper arm
- Sprained ankle

- Internal poisoning
- Rabid animal bite
- Serious burns
- Shock
- Dehydration
- Hyperventilation

- Explode basic CPR

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TRAINING COURSE CHAIR

COUNCIL TRAINING CHAIR

COURSE DATE

COURSE LOCATION