

**Robin Wilson**

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**Subject:** Additional Comments on "Trained" Status from GYC Training Chair

Hello Scouting Volunteer,

By now many of you have seen and read an email that was sent out from the National Office on training status. If you haven't, I have copied the communication through the Training Times on the national website and the followup email from the national office. The clarification emailed was in response to an article that was published in the "Training Time", a national newsletter published 4 times a year giving the latest updates in training to all those that are interested. It is available on the training page of the volunteer section of the national website (link: <http://scouting.org/training/trainingupdates>).

As the Greater Yosemite Council Training Chair I would like to add a few comments. We are working here in Greater Yosemite Council to make sure as many leaders are trained as possible. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or any of the district training chairs. We are working to make sure we communicate all the recent news that is available. Training is important to providing a vibrant and current program to the youth in our programs. Please take the time to make yourself aware of the current training topics and make sure you and the other leaders in our program are trained.

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**From Training Times on the national website Fall 2011**  
**([http://scouting.org/training/trainingupdates.aspxTrained or Trained](http://scouting.org/training/trainingupdates.aspxTrained%20or%20Trained))**

There is a difference in Scouting between being "trained" and being "trained." Confusing? Yes! So what is the volunteer training team trying to do to help?

A Scouter is considered trained for his or her position in the BSA's ScoutNET system when they have completed a prescribed course, or sequence of courses. This could be the current course set, or even a course or courses that they took in the past. For example, *Scoutmastership Fundamentals* if they took it back when it was the current "basic" training.

But to be able to wear the trained patch, and for the unit to qualify under the unit Journey to Excellence (JTE) standards, trained means that they have taken the *current* training set for their position.

Why the difference?

The BSA has long believed that a tenured leader does not need to take "basic" training every time there is a new course - because the assumption is through supplemental training, roundtables, *Scouting* magazine, and participation in activities, they stay up to date with the current methods and practices of the program. We know this is not always the case.

There may be a challenge getting tenured leaders to take the time to take a new course. In most cases these leaders can be excellent resources for the training committee to put on *Specifics* or an outdoor skills course. (Be

sure to give them credit for taking the course when they do!) But the hope is that leaders will take - or teach - the latest course to be sure that they have the up-to-date information related to their role.

At our October committee meeting we took some steps to help make the criteria for being trained in ScoutNET, for earning the trained patch, and the unit JTE match. More on that in the next issue of *Training Times*.

We are also conducting a thorough review of all of the training web sites and all of the literature available, and are working to make them consistent. As you can imagine, that is a big undertaking!

We can never be “fully trained.” There is always something to be learned. Take advantage of training opportunities whenever they are available.

A Message from the Volunteer Development (Training) Team Leader, Mark Griffin:

A Scouter is considered trained for his or her Scouting position and eligible to wear the “Trained” emblem when they have completed the currently prescribed courses for that position. At this time this includes Youth Protection Training, *This is Scouting*, and the *Specific* training for their role. For Scoutmasters, Coaches, and Advisors of outdoor program crews, *Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills* is also necessary. These courses are also included in the unit Journey to Excellence.

The BSA desires that leaders take the current training because as BSA program, policies, and practices evolve it is important that leaders stay current to provide the best, safest, and most consistent Scouting program for youth. However, the BSA has long believed that a tenured leader does not need to retake “basic” training every time there is a new course - because through supplemental training, roundtables, *Scouting* magazine, and participation in activities, they can stay up to date with the current methods and practices of the program.

With the approval of the district training committee, Scouters who were fully trained under a previous “basic” training for their current role (and of course have completed Youth Protection Training within the past two years) may be given credit as “trained” if, in the opinion of the training committee, the Scouter has continued to stay up to date with the current methods and practices of the program.

These Scouters would be eligible to wear the Trained emblem, be considered “trained” in the unit Journey to Excellence, and would meet the training criteria of the various training awards for their position. Entering the qualifying training courses and proper dates taken into the Scouter’s record in ScoutNET will also mark them as trained.

It is the desire of the National Training Committee that leaders take the current training to be sure that they have the up-to-date information related to their role. While there may be a challenge getting tenured leaders to take the time to take a new course, in most cases these leaders can be excellent resources for the training committee to help put on *Specifics* or an outdoor skills course. As an instructor they should be given credit for completion of the course.

We can never be “fully trained.” There is always something to be learned, so we urge you to take advantage of training opportunities whenever they are available.

**Mark Griffin** | Team Leader | Volunteer Training  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
Council Operations/Program Impact