

Mount Baker Council Executive Board Adopts New Training Policy

As a result of their hard work, the council training committee, led by the council training chair and composed of the various district training chairs, has succeeded in significantly raising the number of scout unit leaders trained for their position. Having currently achieved slightly more than half of our unit leaders being trained, places us in second place among all councils in the Western Region. That is good news. Unfortunately this also means that nearly half of our unit leaders are not trained for their role in working with the youth in the council.

At its November meeting, the Mount Baker Council Executive Board took the position that, despite nearly leading the Western Region in top leaders trained, having nearly half of top unit leaders not trained is unsatisfactory. It was felt by the board that our youth membership and their parents deserve better. In an effort to achieve a higher training rate, the council training committee advised the board to adopt a training model that other councils have had success with and which is gaining some momentum nationally. The board elected to adopt this model but phasing it in over a two-year period and allowing for a means of considering special situations that may arise.

I wish to thank the council training committee for their hard work in considering and adapting this training model. I also wish to thank the council executive board for their diligence in insuring that the youth we serve in Mount Baker council are in the forefront of our considerations.

Bill Griffin
Council President

Training Policy for Unit Level Scouting Volunteers

1. Commencing with the 2008 unit rechartering cycle for the 2009 charter year, all council units must have their top adult leaders (Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Varsity Team Coach, Venturing Crew Advisor, Explorer Post Advisor and Sea Scout Skipper) fully trained in accordance with the BSA training guidelines in effect at that time, in order for the unit to be chartered for 2009.
2. Beginning in 2009, ScoutNET records will be the only valid form of training verification.
3. Commencing with the 2009 unit rechartering cycle for the 2010 charter year, all council units must have all unit adult leaders whose position description defines them to be in direct contact (Tiger Cub den leaders, assistant Tiger Cub den leaders, den leaders, assistant den leaders, Webelos den leaders, assistant Webelos den leaders, Cubmasters, assistant Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, assistant Scoutmasters, Varsity Scout Coaches, assistant Varsity Scout Coaches, Crew Advisors, Crew associate Advisors, associate Post Advisors, Skippers and mates) with youth members of their unit plus the unit committee (committee chairmen and committee members), fully trained in accordance with the BSA training guidelines in effect at that time, in order for the unit to be chartered for 2010.
4. Any requests for waivers or extensions of times beyond the above must be authorized by the council commissioner prior to the unit being chartered.

Policy approved by the Mount Baker Council Executive Board on November 15, 2007.