



Bear Claw National Youth Leadership Training

RECOGNITION OF SCOUTS FOR POST COURSE ACTIVITY

Bear Claw was started as an intensive Junior Leader Training (JLT) program in 1974. Phil Bevelaqua, a Scouter in our Council (Nassau County Council until 2000) identified the claw of a bear was used as a talisman by Native Americans during their hunts and in battle. Council training leaders selected this symbol to award and recognize those Scouts who would successfully complete the new JLT program and apply their learning in meaningful post-course activities. The name of the program, Bear Claw Training for the Junior Leader Training Conference, was formally adapted in 1985. In 2004, Theodore Roosevelt Council adapted the new National Youth Leadership Training syllabus for youth leadership training and changes the name of the course to Bear Claw NYLT.

Scouts who participate in Bear Claw NYLT develop a personal vision with specific goals. The Scout has a year from the completion of the course to fulfill the vision and goals. Upon review and concurrence from the Scoutmaster, the Scout is entitled to a Bear Claw certificate and Bear Claw necklace. The certificate and necklace should be presented at a troop court of honor.

POST COURSE EVALUATION

Download the post course evaluation from the NYLT page at www.trcbsa.org. The Scoutmaster will review the Scout's post course vision and goals, determine they were achieved, complete and submit the report to the Council Service Center. The Course Director will review and process the evaluation, and authorize the issue of the necklace and Bear Claw certificate to the Scout.

THE CEREMONY

The Scoutmaster recognizes the Scout for his accomplishment by explaining the symbolic qualities of the necklace. (Scoutmaster holds up the necklace)

The Leather Thong: The Native Americans believed it protected the wearer from evil spirits.

Knots: Fisherman's knots are used for adjustment

Beads: There are 6 beads, 2 green, 2 blue, and 2 red.

- Green beads represent Our Mother Earth, providing us with life
- Blue beads represent the sky, providing a protecting blanket above.
- Red beads represent the glow of our campfires, uniting all Scouts and Scouters in a worldwide brotherhood.

A Scout wearing the necklace with additional White beads indicates he has served as a course staff member. A necklace bearing Yellow beads indicates the wearer is a Course Director/Scoutmaster.

(Scoutmaster shows the lower portion of the necklace)

The Red Block: The wood block, which was once part of a living tree, is colored Red for Scouting and bears the universal Scouting pin.

The Bear Claw: Native Americans believed the bearer would possess strength and intelligence.

Square Knot on Bear Claw: The knot symbolizes our bond to Scouting, Brotherhood, and Service to all.

(Scoutmaster presents the necklace and certificate to each Scout individually.)