

# **Webinar:** Intro to our CSM Course and ARP Workshop

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Jan 3, 2025 — Joe Little

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## Reminder (to me)

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- Do you want a PDF of this slide deck?
- If so, put your email in the chat
- OR: Send me an email...





# Introduction

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- Certified ScrumMaster course
- Agile Release Planning workshop
  
- Some quick basics
- Your questions
- *Let's talk ~30 minutes*





# ONE: CSM Course

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## Why choose CSM?

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- Scrum Alliance's CSM is the best known.
- A great way to start learning about agile-scrum.
- For: SM, PO, Team, Managers, others.
- Scrum seems easy. Big mindset shift. It is actually hard to master.
- It is counter-culture. It is different than LOTS of things in your culture, so you have a lot of explaining to do.
- You need, really, to take the course twice.





## Watch Out

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- Lots of bad Scrum courses out there. (Scrum Alliance and [scrum.org](https://www.scrum.org) are good. The rest, not so much.)
- Also: Lots of inexperienced Scrum teachers. Worth it to get the best.





## Why choose us? - 1

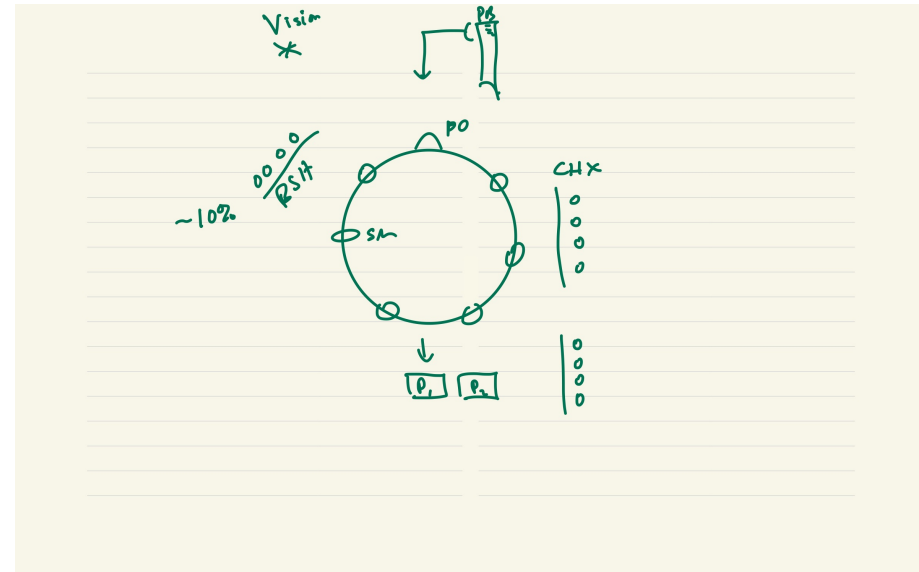
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- Our approach is unique
- We have been a CST for 16+ years. Taught all kinds of people, industries, and organizations
- We co-trained 8 times with Jeff Sutherland
- We took Ken Schwaber's CSM course initially in 2005
- More of "Aggressive Scrum"
- We have an MBA



## Why choose us? - 2

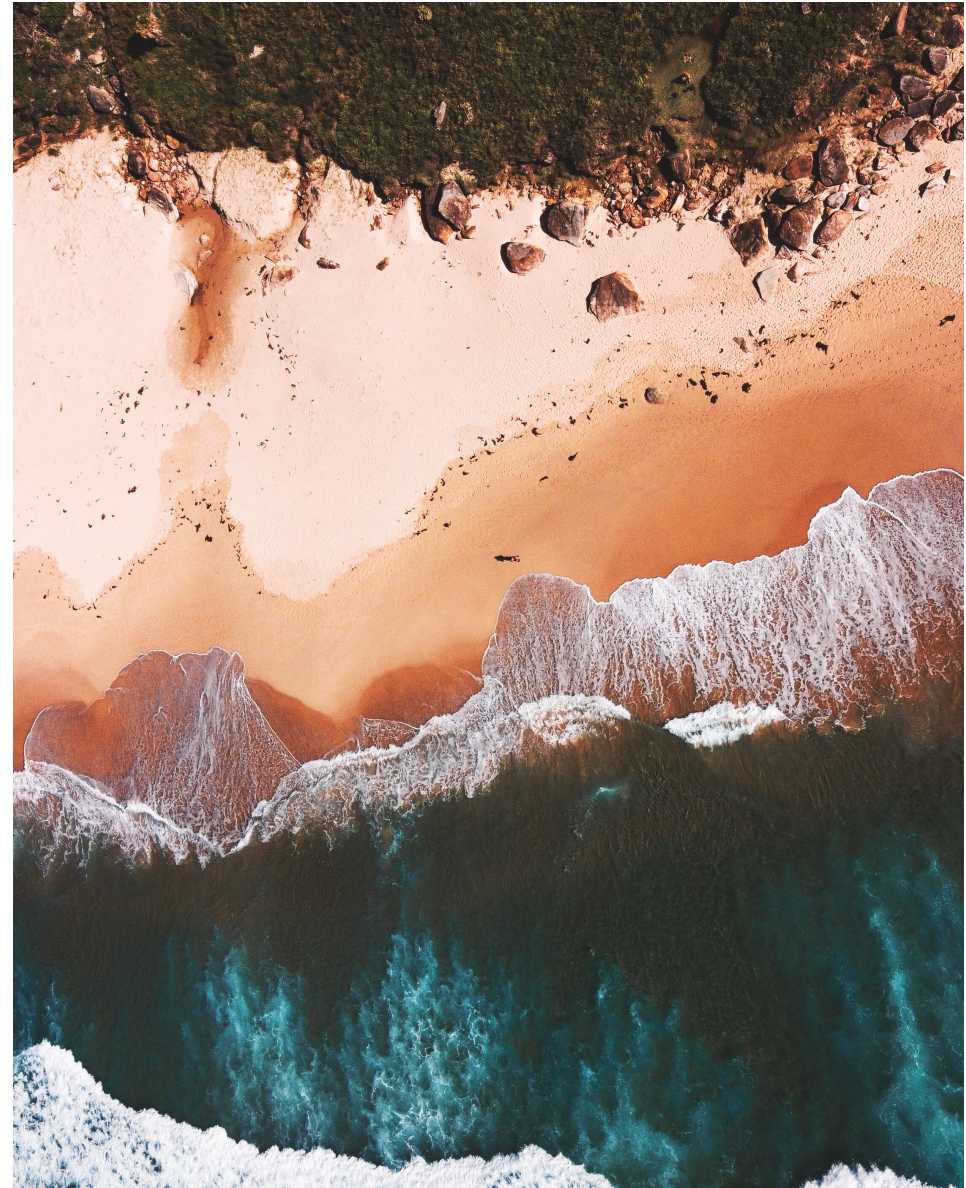
- We teach “Agile Release Planning” (unique)
- We also do, almost every week, an Agile Release Planning workshop. Unique.
- We have 20+ years of experience with all kinds of projects
- We have an overall business viewpoint
- “In theory there’s no difference between theory and practice. In practice, there is.”  
Yogi Berra



## Check out these

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- “A Scrum Introduction” (book)
- “Agile Release Planning” (book)
  - See here: <https://leanagiletraining.com/info-lat/>
- We also have two blogs (and many posts):
  - [The LAT Blog](#)
  - [The LinkedIn Newsletter](#)





# Certified ScrumMaster course

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- Cover the basics
  - Ex: Values and Principles
  - Ex: Scrum Patterns
  - Ex: Roles, Events, Artifacts
- More advanced topics as needed and as time allows
- Some Lean principles & perspectives





# Approaches

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- Many, including...
- Personal
- Conversational
- Exercises
- Interactive
- Humorous
- Straight-forward
- Always on your toes
- Fun



# The Content

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# Content - Basics

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- Agile Manifesto and Principles
- The Empirical Process
- The Roles
- The Events (Meetings)
- The Artifacts



## “Aggressive Scrum”

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- We want you to be successful
- **More fun**
- More Velocity
- More BV for your customers
- Higher quality
- Fewer hours
- More pride in your work
- Making people’s lives better





# Change Agent

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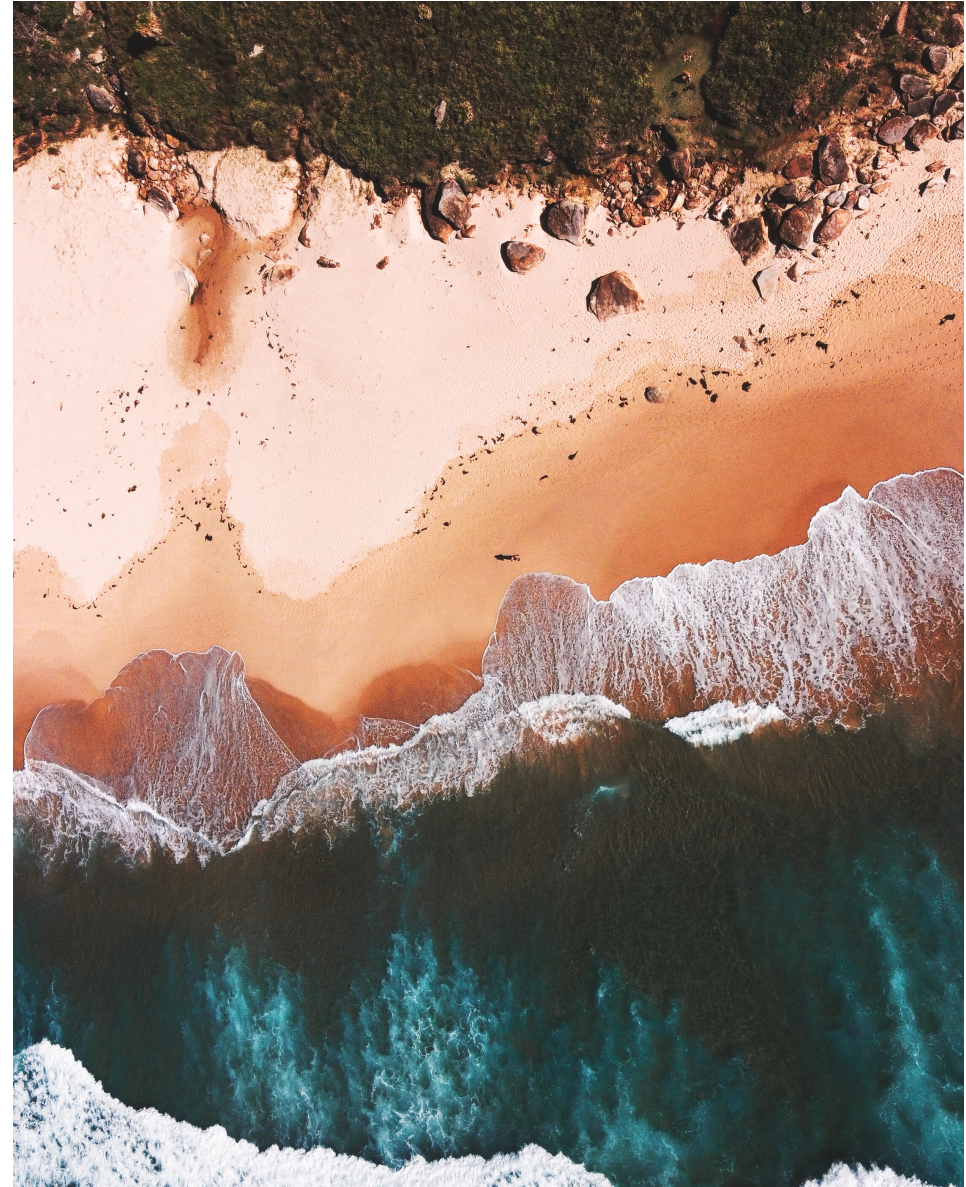
- You become a change agent
- We teach the basics of this



# Scrum Patterns

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- See “A Scrum Book” by Sutherland, Coplien et al & [ScrumPLOP.org](https://www.scrumplop.org)
- 94 patterns
- They explain why Scrum works, what problems each pattern is trying to help you with
- Give you ways to make Scrum better and to add to basic Scrum





# Self-managing

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- In the Scrum Guide 2020...
- What does it mean?
- Why?
- How do we do it in practice



## ARP included in CSM

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- “Agile Release Planning” is my name for a set of basic patterns (ideas and practices)
- Adaptive planning
- Revise the plan continuously, as we get smarter
- We always are missing a lot up-front.
- Planning > Plan
- But: The date is important.





# ARP things - 1

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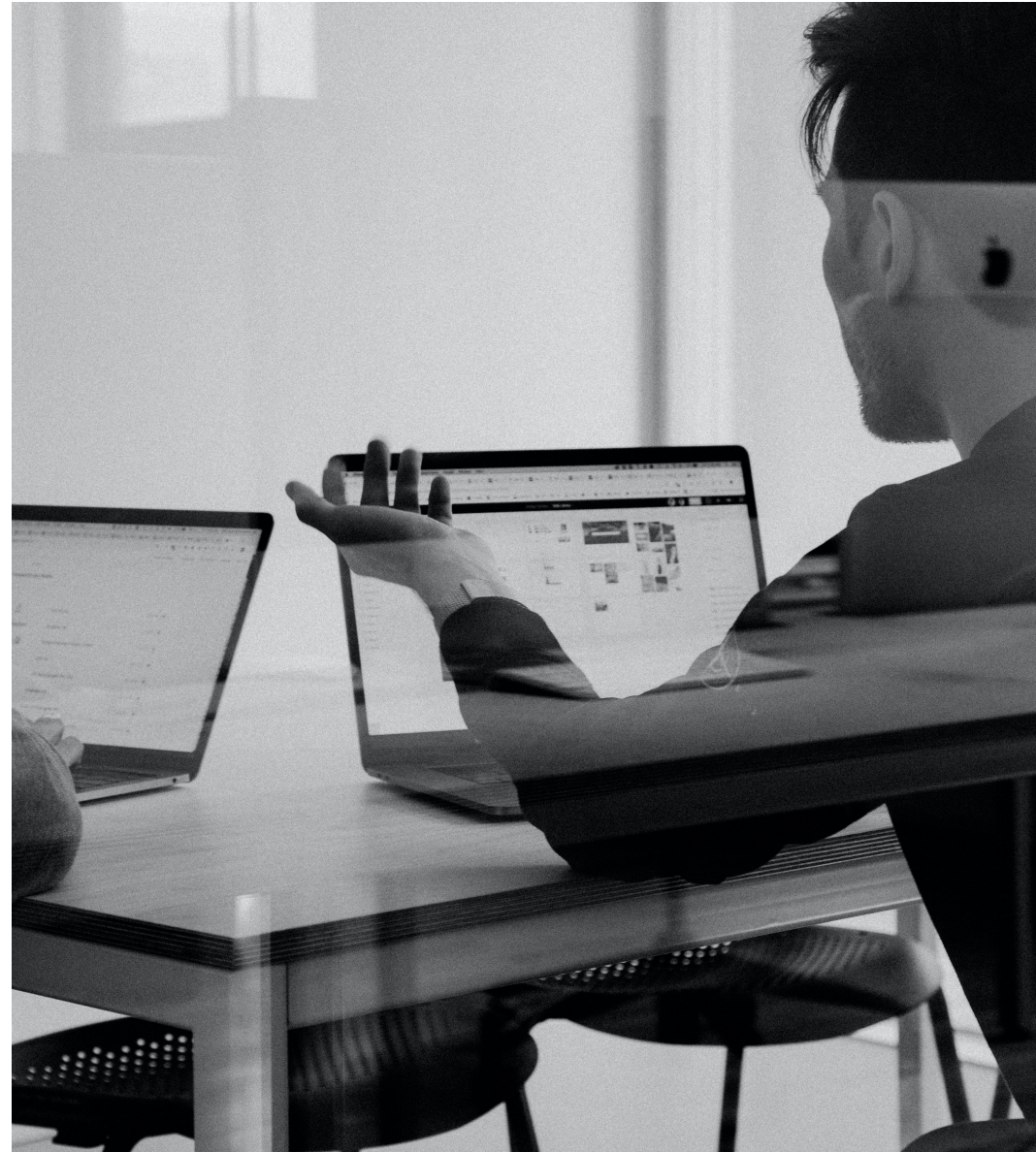
- Vision
- User Stories
- Drivers
- BV Points
- Story Points
- ROI
- Other factors (for ordering)
- Using Velocity



## ARP things - 2

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- Laying out in Sprints
- Contingency
- Landing Strip
- Setting the date
- PB Refinement
- Revising the Plan
- Changing the culture





## Why important

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- The culture must change. And must accept that change happens
- Planning is about learning. Learning is very useful. Learning means the plan will change
- To protect the Team
- To help the Team achieve more success





# Other Information

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# Three thoughts

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- We want you to understand the basics, and be ready to do them
- We want you to have a feeling for what it will be like
- We want you to want to do it
- Note: I think Scrum is not everyone's cup of tea.





## Two formats

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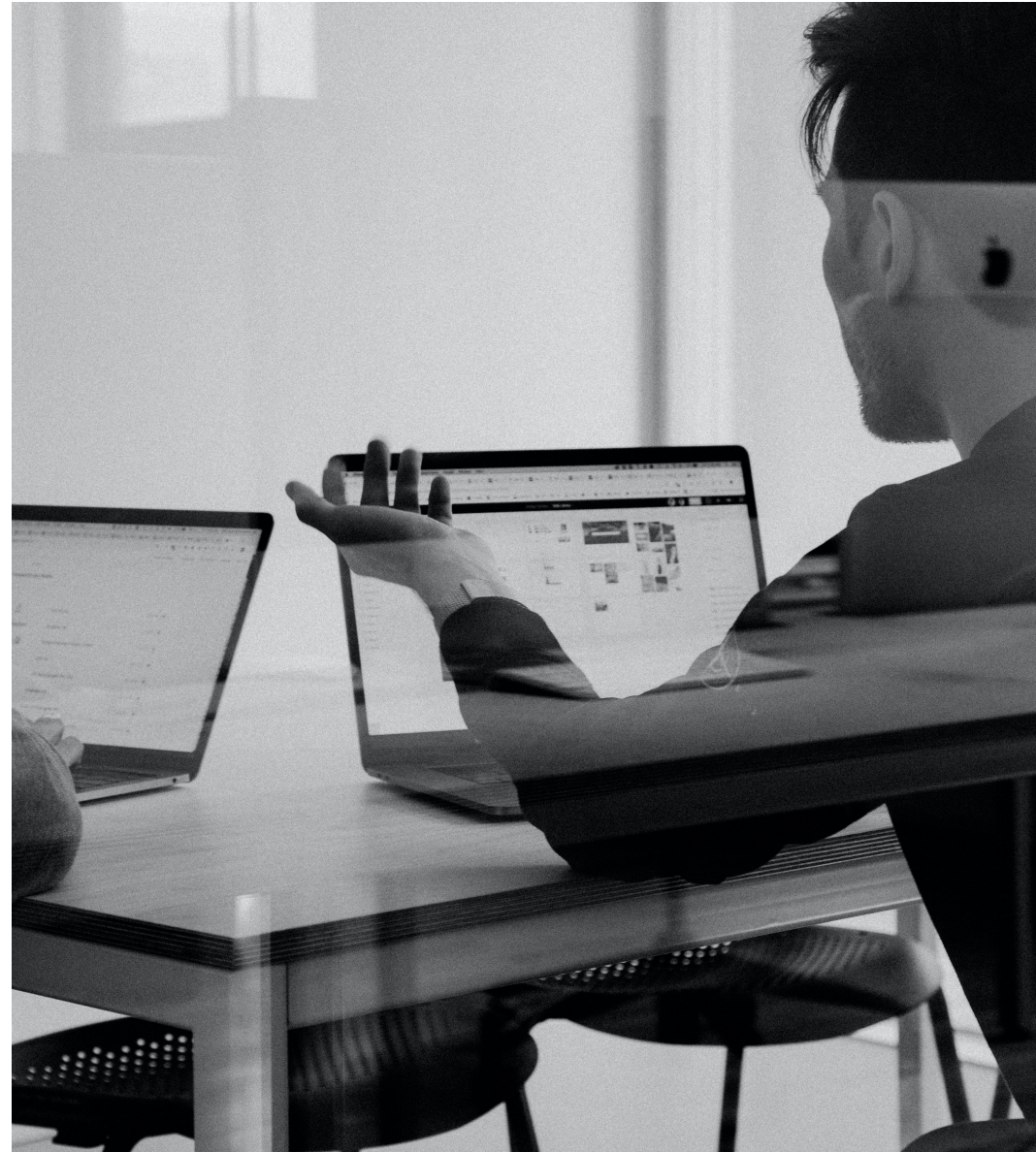
- 16-ish hours
- H-H-F or F-F
- Online or in-person



## Two types

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- Public
- In-House (with group from your organization)





# CSM Test

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- Online, after the course, at your convenience
- 1 hour time box
- 50 questions, pick from 4 possible answers
- Questions and answers fairly short
- Everyone passes the test \*

\* Everyone who wants to, and puts a bit of time into it. (I suppose there is a special situation sometimes.)



# TWO: ARP Workshop

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# Agile Release Planning workshop

- 8 hours (H-H or F)
- Real work
- Real work from one of the participants in your “Team”
- The “PO” usually linked to the real work



## Ideal...

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- More than 1 “table” in the room
- The 2 (or 3 or 4) teams learn from each other





# Comments

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- Very active with your Team, most of the time
- AND...plenty of opportunity to ask questions
- Questions often: “How do I get my team to do [X]...?”



## Attendees say...

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- “Should be required”
- “Essential”
- “This is when everything came together for me”
- Learning by doing
- Attendees strongly recommend





# In-House

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- We do the ARP workshop as an in-house workshop



## Links:

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- The full **Schedule** is here:
- <https://leanagiletraining.com/lean-agile-and-scrum-courses/>
- The next courses, with **more details**:
- Cities: Charlotte, Columbia, Montreal, Ft. Lauderdale, Charleston, YOUR CITY?
- <https://leanagiletraining.com/courses/scrummaster-charlotte-2025-0107/>
- Online: Tell me if you are interested; probably one in February.
- **Write-ups**:
- <https://leanagiletraining.com/lean-agile-and-scrum-courses/scrum-and-agile-course-descriptions/>





## Let's talk

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- We want your feedback on where and when you want a course.
- And even, to some degree on its content. (Ex: What “flavor” of CSM course you want.)
- Please give us this feedback.
- Also: if you have 3+ people, it starts to make economic sense.



# THREE: Online

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# Online

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- Some courses/workshops are online now.
- Note: If you need a course a specific week, and you have 3+ people, let's talk.
- For Online:
  - We recommend the Half-day format. It's tough to be on Zoom all day
  - Sometimes Half-day fits families better (eg, baby sitting or doing other work that same day)
  - We also offer Full-day format (for those who need/prefer that)



# Online

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- Zoom
- Break-out rooms
- [mural.co](https://mural.co) - an online simultaneous collaboration platform
  - Mainly for “stickies”
  - “Steal” it for your remote team
- Hand drawn pictures and notes. Via GoodNotes on iPad Pro with Apple pencil.





# FOUR: Discussion / Questions

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## Next Webinar Sessions...

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- Which topics or problems do we need to discuss?
- What are the best topics for the next sessions?
- Please contact me with suggestions.  
[jhlittle@leanagiletraining.com](mailto:jhlittle@leanagiletraining.com)
- Next webinar sessions (free):
- <https://leanagiletraining.com/lean-agile-and-scrum-courses/>
- Or: [https://www.meetup.com/lat\\_webinars/](https://www.meetup.com/lat_webinars/)





# CLOSING

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- Thank you!
- I'm always happy to discuss further.

Joseph Little

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