



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers Regarding AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) for Boy Scouts of America

Why do we need AEDs? Can't we just call 911?

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is the No. 1 cause of death in the United States, taking more than 365,000 lives each year. The American Heart Association (AHA) recommends a specific four-step “chain of survival” for SCA. The hallmarks of this sequence which are well documented as dramatically increasing survival rates are:

- 1) Early 911 access
- 2) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- 3) Early defibrillation with an AED
- 4) Early advanced life support (ALS)¹

Survival is directly linked to the time interval between the SCA and the first AED shock delivered to the victim. Statistics validate that when a shock is delivered within one minute, survival rates can increase 18-fold from 5 per cent (by relying on EMS only to respond) to levels as high as 90 per cent in some cases.²

Time is the most important element in saving an SCA victim. Even the best EMS systems have difficulty arriving “in time.” They average 9 to 12 minutes, which is often too late. Because AEDs can be used by nearly anyone, widespread deployment in public places, including schools, community centers, and camping and recreational facilities, gives SCA victims the best chance of survival.

Who can operate an AED?

Trained clinicians use manual defibrillators. The relatively untrained can use an AED. Today's AED analyzes the victim's condition and (only if warranted) delivers an electric shock to the heart to restore a patient's heart rhythm.

It's worth repeating: AEDs ONLY provide a shock if the victim's heart rhythm meets SCA characteristics. So AEDs help those in that unique situation—and provide therapy (or “shock”) only if the patient requires it.

A Powerheart® AED G3 Plus by Cardiac Science™, in particular, is popular for its fully automatic operation. There are no buttons to push to deliver therapy. There are clear voice instructions for CPR and AED use.

The AED is remarkably effective. A 2007 University of Pennsylvania study showed that adult volunteers with no prior CPR training were able to deliver CPR of a quality often similar to trained professionals when using the G3 Plus AED, with its appropriate, real-time CPR voice prompts and built-in metronome.

¹ <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3012016>

² <http://www.sdprojectheartbeat.com/pages/aboutus.htm>



Who can help my council office or camp implement an AED program?

Cardiac Science is a leading provider of comprehensive AED program management services. Contact [Cardiac Science](#) for help with:

- Purchasing your devices
- Arranging training
- Medical prescription and oversight
- Determining the optimal number and placement of your AEDs
- Developing an ongoing quality assurance program.

What is the cost to purchase and maintain an AED?

A Power heart AED costs about the same as a well-equipped laptop computer. With its industry-leading 7-year device warranty and 4-year unconditional replacement guarantee on its standard industrial-grade battery, the Power heart AED offers a very low cost of ownership throughout the life of the AED. Contact your Cardiac Science representative for pricing.

What is the “useful life” of an AED?

An AED is “useful” and appropriate as long as the device parts are replaced as necessary. Electrodes (pads) need to be replaced every two years and are purchased in pairs (one for the unit and one for backup). The battery needs to be replaced every four years and comes with a full unconditional replacement guarantee, as above.

Power heart G3 AED products have software upgrade capability (via CD) for simple improvements that may occur occasionally as a result of evolving protocols in the areas of CPR, technology, algorithms, etc.

Are AEDs easy to use?

Extremely. Designed for use by virtually anyone with minimal training, the Power heart AED G3 Plus from Cardiac Science has fully automatic operation, preconnected electrodes, and a helpful text screen that runs in tandem with the voice prompts. This is especially useful for noisy and chaotic environments.

Additionally, the RescueCoach™ voice prompts guide you through every step of the rescue. The AED prompts for CPR with a built-in metronome that sets the pace for proper chest compressions.

Are AEDs reliable?

The patented Rescue Ready technology makes the Power heart AED among the most reliable AEDs in the industry. Every day, to ensure anytime functionality, the Power heart AED self-checks all main components (battery, hardware, software, and electrode pads). Every week, the AED completes a partial charge of the high-voltage electronics. And every month, the AED charges the high-voltage electronics to full energy. If anything is amiss, the Rescue Ready status indicator on the AED handle changes from green to red and emits an audible alert to service the unit. In sum, a Power heart AED is Rescue Ready to perform when a life depends on it.



What training is required?

In most cases, simple CPR and AED training is all that is required.

For example, the American Heart Association offers the Heartsaver™ AED course, which can be completed in less than four hours. Training requirements vary from state to state. Your Cardiac Science representative can provide information on state-specific training requirements and review all training options to accommodate your council office or camp.

What liability do we incur by deploying AEDs?

If the Powerheart AED is used in accordance with the directions in the manual, proper training and usage protocols and medical direction, the user is indemnified from liability. Signed by President Clinton in 2000, the [Cardiac Arrest Survival Act](#) provides AED users and acquirers with liability protection. In fact, with AEDs becoming common safety devices, organizations are now at risk for **not** having these devices on site.

Each state has Good Samaritan laws with language about AEDs. These laws typically involve three main elements: medical direction (a licensed physician to oversee your program), training (as described above), and record keeping/tracking (of device serial numbers and locations, battery expiration dates, etc.). Ask your Cardiac Science representative about AED Program Management Services. Cardiac Science specializes in managing all three components for you to ensure legal compliance.

How do we implement an AED program for our scouting unit?

Cardiac Science can assist you with its Quick Response program. It provides the three primary elements (medical direction, training, and record keeping) to minimize extra work, confusion, and risk regarding the deployment process. Cardiac Science manages all these steps for your properties and has a well-documented track record of reliability, quality, and delivery in this area.

We recommend you leverage the program since AEDs have unique features, training has to be provided, and programs need to conform to state law for liability protection purposes. Cardiac Science will also help determine optimal device placement and develop ongoing quality assurance programs for you.

What if we can afford only one AED but have multiple locations?

Upon request, Cardiac Science will work with you to best deploy your AEDs based on your specific needs and budget. Of course, even one AED is much better than having none or not enough. We strongly encourage you to have one or more AEDs on hand.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Where would we place our AEDs?

Your Power heart AED should be as visible and easily accessible as possible. Some areas you might consider are:

- Near the front desk at your council office
- Centrally located where most Scouts, staff, and visitors gather
- Within quick access to stairways and exit doors
- Near your trained responders
- Near your other first-aid and emergency response equipment

Contact your Cardiac Science representative for more information.

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