

GUIDE TO SAFE SCOUTING



A GUIDE FOR CURRENT
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Get the Latest Information!

The online version of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is updated quarterly.
Go to **<http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>**.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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The BSA's Commitment to Safety

We want you to know that the safety of our youth, volunteers, staff, and employees cannot be compromised. Health and safety must be integrated into everything we do to the point that no injuries are acceptable beyond those that are readily treatable by Scout-rendered first aid.

The Scouting program itself, activities Scouts participate in on a regular basis, and the outdoor classroom used in Scouting have inherent risks. A challenging program and activities help attract youth and retain them in Scouting. Perceived risk during such ventures heightens awareness and builds confidence and discipline vital to building tomorrow's leaders.

There is a place in Scouting for age-appropriate events that push youth beyond their normal comfort level and stretch their abilities. This is appropriate when risks are identified and mitigated. One should not participate in or promote activities when risks are unknown or ignored. We must protect our youth as part of our program. In a sense, safety is our license to operate.

In particular, Scout leaders are responsible for the physical and mental well-being of everyone under their supervision. Parents who entrust Scout leaders with their children justifiably expect them to return uninjured.

To achieve that goal, everyone must work together to do the following:



The Boy Scouts of America's national Key 3: Commissioner Tico Perez, Chief Scout Executive Wayne Brock, and President Dr. Robert M. Gates.

- Know, understand, and comply with all rules, policies, and procedures.
- Model safe behaviors when participating in Scouting events.
- Encourage staff, volunteer leaders, and youth members to share in the management of risk.
- Promote, provide, and, when appropriate, require health and safety training.
- Communicate the importance of incident and near-miss reporting and hold staff members accountable for implementing reporting procedures at unit, district, and council levels.
- Study incidents that do occur to learn from them, and modify risks where appropriate.
- Support enterprise risk management concepts.

Thank you for being part of the Scouting movement and creating an exciting and safe experience for every participant.



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Preface

The purpose of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is to prepare members of the Boy Scouts of America to conduct Scouting activities in a safe and prudent manner. The policies and guidelines have been established because of the real need to protect members from known hazards that have been identified through 100 years of experience. Limitations on certain activities should not be viewed as stumbling blocks; rather, policies and guidelines are best described as stepping-stones toward safe and enjoyable adventures.

All participants in official Scouting activities should become familiar with the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and be aware of state or local government regulations that supersede Boy Scouts of America policies and guidelines. The *Guide to Safe Scouting* provides an overview of Scouting policies and procedures rather than comprehensive, standalone documentation. For some items, the policy statements are complete. Unit leaders are expected to review the additional reference material cited prior to conducting such activities.

In situations not specifically covered in this guide, activity planners should evaluate the risk or potential risk of harm, and respond with action plans based on common sense, community standards, the Boy Scout motto, and safety policies and practices commonly prescribed for the activity by experienced providers and practitioners.

Versions of the Guide

In addition to this printed version, the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is available online at www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/gss.aspx.

To obtain additional printed copies of this book, contact your local Scout shop, or order online at www.scoutstuff.org.

Don't forget to check Scouting Safely information at www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety.aspx.

Guide to Safe Scouting Updates

April 2015

II. Aquatics Safety

The Safety Afloat section was updated to clarify Cub Scout participation in pack and den events.

VIII. Sports and Activities

The Climbing and Rappelling, and COPE Activities sections were each revised and expanded throughout.

XI. Transportation

Additions to this chapter include the future policy on using 15-passenger vans and guidelines on safe driving.

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Contents

I. Youth Protection and Adult Leadership	1	IV. Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use and Abuse	37
Youth Protection in Scouting	1	Alcohol	37
Frequently Asked Questions	4	Tobacco	37
Youth Member Behavior Guidelines	6	Drugs	37
Digital Privacy	7	Medical Marijuana	37
Leadership Requirements for Trips and Outings	8	V. Medical Information and First Aid	39
Coed Overnight Activities Policy	9	Personal Health and the Annual Health and Medical Record	39
Internet Safety	10	Medical Risk Factors for Your Participation in Scouting	42
Primary Resources for This Chapter	11	Immunizations	45
II. Aquatics Safety	13	Protection Consideration for Blood and Bodily Fluids (Universal Precautions)	46
Resource Material	13	Local Council Membership/ Participation Guidelines Regarding Life-Threatening Communicable Diseases	47
Aquatics Leadership Training Programs	13	Exemptions for Medical Care, Treatment, and Immunizations	47
Responsibilities of Supervisory Personnel	13	Prescriptions	48
Safe Swim Defense	14	First Aid and CPR Training	48
BSA Aquatics Play Structure Policy	18	AED Training	48
Classification of Swimming Ability	19	First-Aid Kits	49
Distance Swimming in Open Water	19	VI. Chemical Fuels and Equipment	51
Snorkeling in Open Water	20	Purpose	51
BSA Scuba Policy	21	Definitions	51
Safety Afloat	24	Storing, Handling, and Using Chemical Fuels and Equipment	51
Tow Sports	28	VII. Shooting Sports	53
III. Camping	29	Cannons and Large-Bore Artillery	53
Age Guidelines	29	Archery, and Knife and Tomahawk Throwing	53
Family Camping	30	VIII. Sports and Activities	55
Cub Scout Overnight Opportunities	30	The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety	55
Boy Scout/ Varsity Scout Camping	31	Caving	57
Venturing Camping	33	Climbing and Rappelling	57
Trek Safely	33	COPE Activities	58
Lightning Risk Reduction	33		
Treated Drinking Water	35		

Slacklining	60	XIII. Animal and Insect Hazards	81
Unauthorized and Restricted Activities	60	Hantavirus	81
Knives	62	Rabies Prevention	81
Parade Floats and Hayrides	62	Lyme Disease	82
Unit Fundraisers	63	West Nile Virus	82
Tractor Safety	63	XIV. Incident Reporting	83
Bicycle Safety	63	BSA Incident Reporting Policy	83
Skating Safety	64	Appendix	85
Horsemanship Activities	65	Annual Motor Vehicle Checklist	86
IX. Inspections	67	Meeting Place	
Meeting Room	67	Inspection Checklist	87
Motor Vehicles	67	Tour and Activity Plan	89
Unit Camping	67	Flying Plan	91
Boats	67	Unit Money-Earning Application	94
X. Insurance	69	Incident Descriptions and Reporting Instructions	96
Comprehensive General Liability Insurance	69	Incident Definitions	97
Automobile Liability Insurance	69	Incident Information Report	98
Chartered Organizations for Scouting Units	70	Service Project Planning Guidelines	100
Accident and Sickness Coverage	70	Age Guidelines for Tool Use and Work at Elevations or Excavations	105
Coverage for Non-Owned Boats Used in Scouting Activities	71	Campout Safety Checklist	108
Unauthorized and Restricted Activities	71	Event Safety Checklist	110
XI. Transportation	73		
Automobiles, SUVs, and Vans	73		
Campers, Trailers, and Trucks	74		
Buses	75		
Commercial Driver's License Compliance	75		
For-Hire Motor Carriers of Passengers (Charter Buses)	76		
XII. Winter Activities	77		
Winter Camping Safety	77		
Winter Sports Safety	78		

I. Youth Protection and Adult Leadership

Youth Protection in Scouting

The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for its youth members. To maintain such an environment, the BSA has developed numerous procedural and leadership selection policies, and provides parents and leaders the following online and print resources for the Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing programs.

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse

All persons involved in Scouting shall report to local authorities, any good faith suspicion or belief that any child is or has been physically or sexually abused, physically or emotionally neglected, exposed to any form of violence or threat, exposed to any form of sexual exploitation including the possession, manufacture, or distribution of child pornography, online solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material. No person may abdicate this reporting responsibility to any other person.

Notify your Scout executive of this report, or of any violation of BSA's Youth Protection policies, so that he or she may take appropriate action for the safety of our Scouts, make appropriate notifications, and follow-up with investigating agencies.

How does the BSA help prevent child abuse in Scouting?

The Boy Scouts of America has adopted a number of policies aimed at eliminating opportunities for abuse within the Scouting program. These policies focus on leadership selection and on placing even greater barriers to abuse than already exist today in Scouting.

Youth Protection training is a requirement for all BSA registered volunteers, *regardless of their position.*

The BSA's Youth Protection training has been in existence long enough for it to be understood and accepted as a mandated training for **all** registered and new BSA adult volunteers.

Youth Protection training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer's Youth Protection training record is not current at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be reregistered.

Leadership Selection

The Boy Scouts of America takes great pride in the quality of its adult leadership. Being a leader in the BSA is a privilege, not a right. The quality of the program and the safety of youth members call for high-quality adult leaders. We work closely with chartered organizations to help recruit the best possible leaders for their units.

The adult application requests background information that should be checked by the unit committee or the chartered organization before accepting an applicant for unit leadership. While no current screening techniques exist that can identify every potential child abuser, we can help reduce the risk of accepting a child abuser by learning all we can about an applicant for a leadership position—including his or her experience working with children and why he or she wants to be a Scout leader.

Youth safety is of paramount importance to the Boy Scouts of America. It is important to implement this training at all levels of the organization. BSA continually seeks to increase awareness of this societal problem and to create even greater barriers to abuse than already exist today in Scouting to provide the most secure environment possible for its youth members.

Scouting's Barriers to Abuse

The BSA has adopted the following policies for the safety and well-being of its members. These policies are primarily for the protection of its youth members; however, they also serve to protect adult leaders.

Two-deep leadership on all outings required. Two registered adult leaders, or one registered leader and a parent of a participating Scout or other adult, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required for all trips and outings. There are a few instances, such as patrol activities, when the presence of adult leaders is not required and adult leadership may be limited to training and guidance of the patrol leadership. With the proper training, guidance, and approval by the troop leaders, the patrol can conduct day hikes and service projects. Appropriate adult leadership must be present for all overnight Scouting activities; coed overnight activities—even those including parent and child—require male and female adult leaders, both of whom must be 21 years of age or older, and one of whom must be a registered member of the BSA. The chartered organization is responsible for ensuring that sufficient leadership is provided for all activities.

One-on-one contact between adults and Scouts prohibited. One-on-one contact between adults and youth members is not permitted. In situations that require personal conferences, such as a Scoutmaster's conference, the meeting is to be conducted in view of other adults and youths.

Separate accommodations for adults and Scouts required. When camping, no youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his or her own parent or guardian. Councils are strongly encouraged to have separate shower and latrine facilities for females. When separate facilities are not available, separate times for male and female use should be scheduled and posted for showers. Likewise, youth and adults must shower at different times.

Privacy of youth respected. Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp, and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.

Inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, or digital devices prohibited. While most campers and leaders use cameras and other imaging devices responsibly, it has become very easy to invade the privacy of individuals. It is inappropriate to use any device capable of recording or transmitting visual images in shower houses, restrooms, or other areas where privacy is expected by participants.

No secret organizations. The Boy Scouts of America does not recognize any secret organizations as part of its program. All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.

No hazing. Physical hazing and initiations are prohibited and may not be included as part of any Scouting activity.

No bullying. Verbal, physical, and cyber bullying are prohibited in Scouting.

Youth leadership monitored by adult leaders. Adult leaders must monitor and guide the leadership techniques used by youth leaders and ensure that BSA policies are followed.

Discipline must be constructive. Discipline used in Scouting should be constructive and reflect Scouting's values. Corporal punishment is never permitted.

Appropriate attire for all activities. Proper clothing for activities is required. For example, skinny-dipping or revealing bathing suits are not appropriate in Scouting.

Members are responsible for acting in accordance with the Scout Oath and Scout Law. All members of the Boy Scouts of America are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Physical violence, theft, verbal insults, drugs, and alcohol have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of a Scout's membership.

Units are responsible for enforcing Youth Protection policies. The head of the chartered organization or chartered organization representative and the local council must approve the registration of the unit's adult leader. Adult leaders of Scouting units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and interceding when necessary. Parents of youth members who misbehave should be informed and asked for assistance. Any violations of the BSA's Youth Protection policies must immediately be reported to the Scout executive.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can parents help protect their children?

Parents participate in the protection of their children in a variety of ways. The BSA recognizes the need for open lines of communication so that children are encouraged to bring any troubles to their parents for advice and counsel. In addition, parents need to be involved in their children's Scouting activities. All parents receive important information concerning the Scouting program as part of their children's membership applications. This information is provided so that parents can detect any deviations from the BSA's approved program. If any deviations are noted, parents should call these to the attention of the chartered organization or the unit committee. If the problems persist, parents should contact the local council for assistance.

Parents also need to review the booklet, *How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*, inserted in every Boy Scout and Cub Scout handbook. The information in this booklet should be the subject of discussions between Scouts and their parents prior to joining a pack or troop.

Why do most child victims of sexual abuse keep the abuse secret?

A victim of child sexual abuse is under a great deal of pressure to keep the abuse secret. In many cases of child molestation, the molester has threatened to harm the child or a member of the child's family. The molester might have told the child that he would not be believed even if the child did tell. Another common situation is that the molester will tell the child that if the child tells about the abuse, he will get into trouble. The clear message is given to the child that if another person finds out, something bad will happen to the child. This pressure to maintain silence can often be successfully overcome by establishing open communication between children and adults through a proper educational program for children.

What should I do if a child tells me that he has been sexually abused?

How an adult responds to a child who tries to disclose abuse can influence the outcome of the child's victimization. By maintaining an apparent calm, the adult can help reassure the child that everything is going to be OK. By not criticizing the child, we counteract any statements the molester made to the victim about the child getting into trouble. Reassure the child that you are concerned about what happened to him and that you would like to get him some help. Allegations by a Scout concerning abuse in the program must be reported immediately to the Scout executive and the authorities. Since these reports are required, the child should be told that you have to tell the proper authorities but that you will not tell anyone else. Because the allegations have been referred to the authorities for investigation, you should not discuss the details of the allegations with others or make any accusations.

What Youth Protection educational materials does the BSA have for youth members?

How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide is a tear-out booklet bound with BSA youth handbooks. It is designed for parents or guardians and young people to use together for Youth Protection training.

The Power Pack Pals comic books, available in English and in Spanish, are for Cub Scout-age boys. They include *Power Pack Pals* (No. 33980)/*Los Superamigos del Pack* (No. 46-33979), *Power Pack Pals: Be Safe on the Internet* (No. 33981)/*Power Pack Pals: Seguridad en la Internet* (No. 46-34464), and *Power Pack Pals: Four Rules for Personal Safety* (No. 46-34750)/*Power Pack Pals: 4 Reglas Para Seguridad Personal* (No. 46-34465).

These and other resources can be found at www.scouting.org/training/youthprotection.

The BSA has bilingual, age-appropriate videos for all youth age groups to address the problems of sexual abuse. *It Happened to Me/A Mí Me Pasó* (No. AV-09DVD11) should be used annually by Cub Scout packs or dens, but only for Cub Scouts accompanied by a parent or other adult family member. The video for Boy Scouts, *A Time to Tell/Hora de Contarlo* (No. AV-09DVD04), introduces the “three R’s” of Youth Protection, and should be viewed by troops annually. *Personal Safety Awareness/Concientización Sobre la Seguridad Personal* (No. AV-09DVD33) is the video for Venturing-age young people.

How can Scout leaders who are not social workers teach children about youth protection?

The BSA recognizes that many of our leaders feel unprepared to talk to children about preventing sexual abuse. For this reason, the BSA has meeting guides online for all of the videos produced to be viewed by youths. The guides address everything from scheduling the meeting, contacting the police or social services for assistance, and notifying parents (a sample letter is provided), to questions and answers for discussion after the video has been viewed.

What are the “three R’s” of Youth Protection?

The “three R’s” of Youth Protection convey a simple message to youth members.

Recognize situations that place you at risk of being molested, how child molesters operate, and that anyone could be a molester.

Resist unwanted and inappropriate attention. Resistance will stop most attempts at molestation.

Report attempted or actual molestation to a parent or other trusted adult. This prevents further abuse and helps to protect other children. Let the child know he or she will not be blamed for what occurred.

Youth Member Behavior Guidelines

The Boy Scouts of America is a values-based youth development organization that helps young people learn positive attributes of character, citizenship, and personal fitness. The BSA has the expectation that all participants in the Scouting program will relate to each other in accord with the principles embodied in the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

One of the developmental tasks of childhood is to learn appropriate behavior. Children are not born with an innate sense of propriety and they need guidance and direction. The example set by positive adult role models is a powerful tool for shaping behavior and a tool that is stressed in Scouting.

Misbehavior by a single youth member in a Scouting unit may constitute a threat to the safety of the individual who misbehaves as well as to the safety of other unit members. Such misbehavior constitutes an unreasonable burden on a Scout unit and cannot be ignored.

Member Responsibilities

All members of the Boy Scouts of America are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, theft, verbal insults, and drugs and alcohol

have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of a Scout's membership in the unit.

If confronted by threats of violence or other forms of bullying from other youth members, Scouts should seek help from their unit leaders or parents.

Unit Responsibilities

Adult leaders of Scouting units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and interceding when necessary. Parents of youth members who misbehave should be informed and asked for assistance.

The BSA does not permit the use of corporal punishment by unit leaders when disciplining youth members.

The unit committee should review repetitive or serious incidents of misbehavior in consultation with the parents of the child to determine a course of corrective action including possible revocation of the youth's membership in the unit.

If problem behavior persists, units may revoke a Scout's membership in that unit. When a unit revokes a Scout's membership, it should promptly notify the council of the action.

The unit should inform the Scout executive of any violations of the BSA's Youth Protection policies.

Each Cub Scout den and Webelos Scout den and each chartered Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, and Venturing crew shall have one leader, 21 years of age or older, who shall be registered and serve as the unit or den leader. The head of the chartered organization or chartered organization representative and the local council must approve the registration of the unit or den leader on the appropriate form.

Primary reference: *Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America*

Digital Privacy

A key ingredient for a safe and healthy Scouting experience is the respect for privacy. Advances in technology are enabling new forms of social interaction that extend beyond the appropriate use of cameras or recording devices (see "Scouting's Barriers to Abuse"). Sending sexually explicit photographs or videos electronically and "sexting" by cell phones is a form of texting being practiced primarily by young adults and children. Sexting is neither safe, nor private, nor an approved form of communication, and can lead to severe legal consequences for the sender and the receiver. Although most campers and leaders use digital devices responsibly, educating them about the appropriate use of cell phones and cameras is a good safety and privacy measure.

Leadership Requirements for Trips and Outings

It is the responsibility of the chartered organization of any Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, or Venturing crew or ship to inform the committee and leadership of the unit that sufficient adult leadership must be provided on all trips and outings (coed overnight activities require both male and female adult leaders).

1. Two-deep leadership. Two registered adult leaders, or one registered leader and a parent of a participating Scout or other adult, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required for all trips and outings. There are a few instances, such as patrol activities, when the presence of adult leaders is not required and adult leadership may be limited to training and guidance of the patrol leadership. With the proper training, guidance, and approval by the troop leaders, the patrol can conduct day hikes and service projects. Appropriate adult leadership must be present for all overnight Scouting activities; coed overnight activities—even those including parent and child—require male and female adult leaders, both of whom must be 21 years of age or older, and one of whom must be a registered member of the BSA. The chartered organization is responsible for ensuring that sufficient leadership is provided for all activities.

2. During transportation to and from planned Scout outings,

- A. Meet for departure at a designated area.
- B. Prearrange a schedule for periodic checkpoint stops as a group.
- C. Plan a daily destination point.

A common departure site and a daily destination point are a must. If you cannot provide two adults for each vehicle, the minimum required is one adult and two or more youth members—*never one on one*.

3. Safety rule of four: No fewer than four individuals (always with the minimum of two adults) go on any backcountry expedition or campout. If an accident occurs, one person stays with the injured, and two go for help. Additional adult leadership requirements must reflect an awareness of such factors as size and skill level of the group, anticipated environmental conditions, and overall degree of challenge.

4. Male and female leaders must have separate sleeping facilities. Married couples may share the same quarters if appropriate facilities are available.

5. Male and female youth participants will not share the same sleeping facility.

6. Single-room or dormitory-type accommodations for Scouting units:

Adults and youths of the same gender may occupy dormitory or single-room accommodations, provided there is a minimum of two adults and four youths. A minimum of one of the adults is required to be Youth Protection-trained. Adults must establish separation barriers or privacy zones such as a temporary blanket or a sheet wall in order to keep their sleeping area and dressing area separated from the youth area.

7. When staying in tents, no youth will stay in the tent of an adult other than his or her parent or guardian.**8. If separate shower and latrine facilities are not available, separate times for male and female use should be scheduled and posted for showers. Likewise, youth and adults must shower at different times.** The buddy system should be used for latrines by having one person wait outside the entrance, or provide “Occupied” and “Unoccupied” signs and/or inside door latches. Adult leaders need to respect the privacy of youth members in situations where youth members are changing clothes or taking showers, and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults also need to protect their own privacy in similar situations.**9. Two-deep adult leadership is required for flying activities.** *For basic orientation flights, the adult licensed pilot in control of the aircraft is sufficient for the flight, while two-deep leadership is maintained on the ground.*

Coed Overnight Activities Policy

All Venturing activities shall conform to the ideals and purposes of the Boy Scouts of America. In order to ensure that all coed overnight activities for Venturers and invited guests at crew, district, council, regional, or national levels meet proper moral standards, the national Venturing Committee has established the following policy:

1. The crew Advisor (or Skipper) or council Scout executive must give careful consideration to the number of adults necessary to provide appropriate leadership for both male and female participants. The number of adult leaders required by the hosting facility or organization (such as a BSA national high-adventure base) must be provided.
2. Adult leaders must be 21 years of age or older and be approved by the committee chairman and chartered organization.
3. Separate housing must be provided for male and female participants.
4. An adult male leader must be housed with the male participants. An adult female leader must be housed with the female participants.
5. Written parent or guardian approval is required for each Venturer or guest under 18 years of age.

Internet Safety

It is recommended that the following personal protection rules be shared with all youth members.

When you are online, you are in a public place, among thousands of people who are online at the same time. Follow these personal protection rules and you will have fun:

- Keep online conversations with strangers to public places, not in email.
- Do not give anyone online your real last name, phone numbers at home or school, your parents' workplaces, or the name or location of your school or home address unless you have your parents' permission first. Never give your password to anyone but a parent or other adult in your family.
- If someone sends or shows you email with sayings that make you feel uncomfortable, trust your instincts. You are probably right to be wary. Do not respond. Tell a parent what happened.
- If somebody tells you to keep what's going on between the two of you secret, tell a parent.
- Be careful to whom you talk. Anyone who starts talking about subjects that make you feel uncomfortable is probably an adult posing as a kid.
- Pay attention if someone tells you things that don't fit together. One time an online friend will say he or she is 12, and another time will say he or she is 14. That is a warning that this person is lying and may be an adult posing as a kid.
- Unless you talk to a parent about it first, never talk to anybody by phone if you know that person only online. If someone asks you to call—even if it's collect or a toll-free, 800 number—that's a warning. That person can get your phone number this way, either from a phone bill or from caller ID.
- Never agree to meet someone you have met only online at any place off-line, in the real world.
- Watch out if someone online starts talking about hacking, or breaking into other people's or companies' computer systems; phreaking (the "ph" sounds like an "f"), the illegal use of long-distance services or cellular phones; or viruses (online programs that destroy or damage data when other people download these onto their computers).
- Promise your parent or an adult family member and yourself that you will honor any rules about how much time you are allowed to spend online and what you do and where you go while you are online.

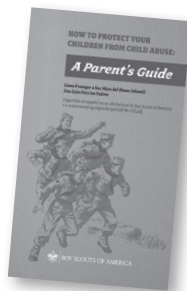
Primary Resources for This Chapter

- Youth Protection Facilitator's Guide, No. 100-023

Topics covered include the BSA's Youth Protection policies, kinds of abuse, signs of abuse, how to respond to disclosure of abuse, and proper reporting procedures.

- *How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*

A booklet, included in the printed youth handbooks, providing tips to help parents talk with their children about child abuse.



The following materials may be obtained through your local council service center or at www.scouting.org/training/youthprotection.

The Power Pack Pals comic books, available in English and in Spanish, are for Cub Scout-age boys.

- *Power Pack Pals*, No. 33980
- *Los Superamigos del Pack*, No. 46-33979
- *Power Pack Pals: Be Safe on the Internet*, No. 33981
- *Power Pack Pals: Seguridad en la Internet*, No. 46-34464
- *Power Pack Pals: Four Rules for Personal Safety*, No. 46-34750
- *Power Pack Pals: 4 Reglas Para Seguridad Personal*, No. 46-34465

Resources also include the following:

- *It Happened to Me/A Mi Me Pasó*, No. AV-09DVD11.

This DVD should be used annually by Cub Scout packs or dens when Cub Scouts are accompanied by a parent or other adult family member.

- *A Time to Tell/Hora de Contarlo*, No. AV-09DVD04.

Introduces the “three R’s” of Youth Protection and should be viewed by troops annually.

- *Venturing Leader Youth Protection Training*, No. AV-03DVD14

Topics covered include the BSA's Youth Protection policies, kinds of abuse, signs of abuse, how to respond to disclosure of abuse, and proper reporting procedures.

- *Personal Safety Awareness/Concientización Sobre la Seguridad Personal*, No. AV-09DVD33

Includes a sample letter to parents and guardians as well as English and Spanish meeting guides for facilitators' use when showing the age-appropriate sexual abuse prevention video.

Online Resources

- The Youth Protection training course is available at MyScouting.org. Topics covered include the BSA's Youth Protection policies, kinds of abuse, signs of abuse, how to respond to disclosure of abuse, and proper reporting procedures.
- *How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*. A booklet, included in the printed Cub Scout and Boy Scout handbooks, provides tips to help parents talk with their sons about child abuse. These are available in English and Spanish.

- Facilitator's Guide for *Youth Protection Guidelines* (DVD)

Includes a sample letter to parents and guardians as well as how to use the *Youth Protection Guidelines* DVD. Available in English and Spanish.

- *It Happened to Me* meeting guide (Cub Scouts)

Includes a sample letter to parents and guardians as well as the meeting guide for facilitators' use when showing the age-appropriate sexual abuse prevention video. Available in English and Spanish.

- *A Time to Tell* meeting guide (Boy Scouts)

Includes a sample letter to parents and guardians as well as the meeting guide for facilitators' use when showing the age-appropriate sexual abuse prevention video. Available in English and Spanish.

- *Personal Safety Awareness for Venturing* meeting guide

For facilitators' use when showing the age-appropriate sexual abuse prevention video. Available in English and Spanish.

- The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children:
www.missingkids.com

- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services website of state laws and statutes: www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state

II. Aquatics Safety

Resource Material

Aquatics Supervision, No. 34346, is the primary resource for aquatics at the unit level. Section V of *Camp Program and Property Management*, No. 20-920, contains additional information for aquatics activities conducted on council property. Aquatics activities at district and council day and resident camps must also abide by the current-year national standards.

Aquatics Leadership Training Programs

Safe Swim Defense and **Safety Afloat** training programs are available online at *scouting.org* and may be offered locally by instructors approved by the council aquatics committee or other council authority.

Aquatics Supervision: Swimming and Water Rescue and **Aquatics Supervision: Paddle Craft Safety** cover skills needed to meet Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat policies applied at the unit level. These training courses are provided locally by qualified instructors who are authorized by the local council.

BSA Lifeguard provides professional-level training for lifeguards at unit or summer camp swimming activities and is provided locally by qualified instructors who are authorized by the local council.

Cub Scout Aquatics Supervisor training prepares adults for leadership at Cub Scout day and resident camps where basic swimming is conducted. Cub Scout Aquatics Supervisor training is offered at a National Camping School conducted by the regions or by a BSA Aquatics Instructor with region approval.

BSA Aquatics Instructor prepares adults for leadership roles in year-round aquatics programs and is recommended for a least one member of the council aquatics committee. Those with BSA Aquatics Instructor training may serve as aquatics directors at Boy Scout or Cub Scout summer camps. The training is available at National Camping Schools.

Responsibilities of Supervisory Personnel

Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat govern BSA swimming and boating activities. Both specify that the activities are supervised by a mature and conscientious adult age 21 or older who:

- Understands and knowingly accepts responsibility for the well-being and safety of youth members in his or her care
- Is experienced in the particular activity

- Is confident in his or her ability to respond appropriately in an emergency
- Is trained and committed to the nine points of BSA Safety Afloat and/or the eight points of Safe Swim Defense.

Unit leadership that accompanies the unit on an outing is always responsible for the first and last bulleted points above. However, under appropriate circumstances, the unit leader may delegate responsibility to trained individuals within the unit or to on-site professionals for the second and third bulleted points above. For example, a Scout troop at a water park with trained lifeguards on duty need not assign separate unit personnel to perform water rescue. A Venturing crew on a whitewater excursion may rely on a licensed outfitter to provide the necessary equipment and trained guides.

Every possible contingency will not be covered with a hard-and-fast rule, and rules are poor substitutes for experience. Ultimately, each responsible adult leader must personally decide if he or she understands the risk factors associated with the activity and is sufficiently experienced and well-informed to make the rational decisions expected of a “qualified supervisor.” The BSA training programs listed above help provide the skills, experience, and guidance for making such a determination.

Safe Swim Defense

BSA groups shall use Safe Swim Defense for all swimming activities. Adult leaders supervising a swimming activity must have completed Safe Swim Defense training within the previous two years. Safe Swim Defense standards apply at backyard, hotel, apartment, and public pools; at established waterfront swim areas such as beaches at state parks and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes; and at all temporary swimming areas such as a lake, river, or ocean. Safe Swim Defense does not apply to boating or water activities such as waterskiing or swamped boat drills that are covered by Safety Afloat guidelines. Safe Swim Defense applies to other nonswimming activities whenever participants enter water over knee deep or when submersion is likely, for example, when fording a stream, seining for bait, or constructing a bridge as a pioneering project. Snorkeling in open water requires each participant to have demonstrated knowledge and skills equivalent to those for Snorkeling BSA in addition to following Safe Swim Defense. Scuba activities must be conducted in accordance with the BSA Scuba policy found in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*. Because of concerns with hyperventilation, competitive underwater swimming events are not permitted in Scouting.

Safe Swim Defense training may be obtained from MyScouting.org, at council summer camps, and at other council and district training events. Confirmation of training is required on local and national tour permits for trips that involve swimming. Additional information on various swimming venues is provided in the *Aquatics Supervision* guide available from council service centers.

1. Qualified Supervision

All swimming activity must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult age 21 or older who understands and knowingly accepts responsibility for the well-being and safety of those in his or her care, and who is trained in and committed to compliance with the eight points of BSA Safe Swim Defense. It is strongly recommended that all units have at least one adult or older youth member currently trained in BSA Aquatics Supervision: Swimming and Water Rescue or BSA Lifeguard to assist in planning and conducting all swimming activities.

2. Personal Health Review

A complete health history is required of all participants as evidence of fitness for swimming activities. Forms for minors must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. Participants should be asked to relate any recent incidents of illness or injury just prior to the activity. Supervision and protection should be adjusted to anticipate any potential risks associated with individual health conditions. For significant health conditions, the adult supervisor should require an examination by a physician and consult with the parent, guardian, or caregiver for appropriate precautions.

3. Safe Area

All swimming areas must be carefully inspected and prepared for safety prior to each activity. Water depth, quality, temperature, movement, and clarity are important considerations. Hazards must be eliminated or isolated by conspicuous markings and discussed with participants.

Controlled Access: There must be safe areas for all participating ability groups to enter and leave the water. Swimming areas of appropriate depth must be defined for each ability group. The entire area must be within easy reach of designated rescue personnel. The area must be clear of boat traffic, surfing, or other nonswimming activities.

Bottom Conditions and Depth: The bottom must be clear of trees and debris. Abrupt changes in depth are not allowed in the nonswimmer area. Isolated underwater hazards should be marked with floats. Rescue personnel must be able to easily reach the bottom. Maximum recommended water depth in clear water is 12 feet. Maximum water depth in turbid water is 8 feet.

Visibility: Underwater swimming and diving are prohibited in turbid water. Turbid water exists when a swimmer treading water cannot see his feet. Swimming at night is allowed only in areas with water clarity and lighting sufficient for good visibility both above and below the surface.

Diving and Elevated Entry: Diving is permitted only into clear, unobstructed water from heights no greater than 40 inches. Water depth must be at least 7 feet. Bottom depth contours below diving boards and elevated surfaces

require greater water depths and must conform to state regulations. Persons should not jump into water from heights greater than they are tall, and should jump only into water chest deep or greater with minimal risk from contact with the bottom. No elevated entry is permitted where the person must clear any obstacle, including land.

Water Temperature: Comfortable water temperature for swimming is near 80 degrees. Activity in water at 70 degrees or less should be of limited duration and closely monitored for negative effects of chilling.

Water Quality: Bodies of stagnant, foul water, areas with significant algae or foam, or areas polluted by livestock or waterfowl should be avoided. Comply with any signs posted by local health authorities. Swimming is not allowed in swimming pools with green, murky, or cloudy water.

Moving Water: Participants should be able to easily regain and maintain their footing in currents or waves. Areas with large waves, swiftly flowing currents, or moderate currents that flow toward the open sea or into areas of danger should be avoided.

Weather: Participants should be moved from the water to a position of safety whenever lightning or thunder threatens. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last lightning flash or thunder before leaving shelter. Take precautions to prevent sunburn, dehydration, and hypothermia.

Life Jacket Use: Swimming in clear water over 12 feet deep, in turbid water over 8 feet deep, or in flowing water may be allowed if all participants wear properly fitted, Coast Guard–approved life jackets and the supervisor determines that swimming with life jackets is safe under the circumstances.

4. Response Personnel (Lifeguards)

Every swimming activity must be closely and continuously monitored by a trained rescue team on the alert for and ready to respond during emergencies. Professionally trained lifeguards satisfy this need when provided by a regulated facility or tour operator. When lifeguards are not provided by others, the adult supervisor must assign at least two rescue personnel, with additional numbers to maintain a ratio of one rescuer to every 10 participants. The supervisor must provide instruction and rescue equipment and assign areas of responsibility as outlined in *Aquatics Supervision*, No. 34346. The qualified supervisor, the designated response personnel, and the lookout work together as a safety team. An emergency action plan should be formulated and shared with participants as appropriate.

5. Lookout

The lookout continuously monitors the conduct of the swim, identifies any departures from Safe Swim Defense guidelines, alerts rescue personnel as needed, and monitors the weather and environment. The lookout should have a clear view of the entire area but be close enough for easy verbal

communication. The lookout must have a sound understanding of Safe Swim Defense but is not required to perform rescues. The adult supervisor may serve simultaneously as the lookout but must assign the task to someone else if engaged in activities that preclude focused observation.

6. Ability Groups

All youth and adult participants are designated as swimmers, beginners, or nonswimmers based on swimming ability confirmed by standardized BSA swim classification tests. Each group is assigned a specific swimming area with depths consistent with those abilities. The classification tests must be renewed annually, preferably at the beginning of the season even if the Scout has earned the Swimming merit badge.

Swimmers pass this test: Jump feetfirst into water over the head in depth. Level off and swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be completed in one swim without stops and must include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

Beginners pass this test: Jump feetfirst into water over the head in depth, level off, and swim 25 feet on the surface. Stop, turn sharply, resume swimming, and return to the starting place.

Anyone who has not completed either the beginner or swimmer tests is classified as a nonswimmer.

The nonswimmer area should be no more than waist to chest deep and should be enclosed by physical boundaries such as the shore, a pier, or lines. The enclosed beginner area should contain water of standing depth and may extend to depths just over the head. The swimmer area may be up to 12 feet in depth in clear water and should be defined by floats or other markers.

7. Buddy System

Every participant is paired with another. Buddies stay together, monitor each other, and alert the safety team if either needs assistance or is missing.

Buddies check into and out of the area together. Buddies are normally in the same ability group and remain in their assigned area. If they are not of the same ability group, then they swim in the area assigned to the buddy with the lesser ability.

A buddy check reminds participants of their obligation to monitor their buddies and indicates how closely the buddies are keeping track of each other. Roughly every 10 minutes, or as needed to keep the buddies together, the lookout, or other person designated by the supervisor, gives an audible signal, such as a single whistle blast, and a call for “Buddies.” Buddies are expected to raise each other’s hand before completion of a slow, audible count to 10. Buddies who take longer to find each other should be reminded of their responsibility for the other’s safety.

The online version of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is updated quarterly.
Go to <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>.

Once everyone has a buddy, a count is made by area and compared with the total number known to be in the water. After the count is confirmed, a signal is given to resume swimming.

8. Discipline

Rules are effective only when followed. All participants should know, understand, and respect the rules and procedures for safe swimming provided by Safe Swim Defense guidelines. Applicable rules should be discussed prior to the outing and reviewed for all participants at the water's edge just before the swimming activity begins. People are more likely to follow directions when they know the reasons for rules and procedures. Consistent, impartially applied rules supported by skill and good judgment provide steppingstones to a safe, enjoyable outing.

BSA Aquatics Play Structure Policy

The BSA's Aquatics Play Structure Policy applies to all play structures operated in Scouting whether inflatable, floatable, or fixed structures. It includes, but is not limited to, slides, swings, mats, logs, rockers, and climbing or bouncing devices.

Program Hazard Analysis. A program hazard analysis must be completed at least annually for each aquatics play structure device in use. The unique risks associated with the device and the operational procedures and practices to mitigate the risks must be documented. The participant's age and swimming ability, which are appropriate for use of the device, must also be documented. The program hazard analysis must be approved by the council (Aquatics Committee and Enterprise Risk Management Committee).

Location. Aquatics play structures, used individually or in a group, must be isolated from other water activities to safely manage risks. A dedicated catch pool or roped-off area of water is required for each activity. A separate check-in and a single route to the start of the activity are often needed.

Operating Procedures. The activity must be conducted in accordance with Safe Swim Defense principles, and swimming ability must be appropriate for the activity.

Lifeguards must be specific to the activity and not be shared with other water activities. Appropriate guard ratios must be maintained, which includes a sufficient number of guards to scan the entire activity area with lines of sight not blocked by structures. Supervision of participants entering and leaving the activity must occur. Lifeguards must be positioned to maintain proper lines of sight for the risks associated with each type of device. Lifeguards must be provided with appropriate personal safety and rescue equipment.

Installation/Construction. Installation, including any anchoring systems, must be in accordance with manufacturing specifications. Construction of any fixed structures, towers, and ramps must be professionally designed, approved, and inspected by engineers/architects. All installations and construction must meet any state regulations on aquatics play structures.

Participant Safety Equipment. Safety equipment (such as properly fitted life jackets and helmets) must be provided to participants as appropriate for the activity.

Safety Checks. A safety check of the structure/device must occur in accordance with manufacturer specifications or at least daily. A safety check of the participant safety and lifeguard safety and rescue equipment must occur daily.

Emergency Action Plans. As part of the program hazard analysis, emergency action plans specific to the activity must be developed and approved. Emergency action plans must be practiced on a regular basis.

Classification of Swimming Ability

The swimmer and beginner classification tests defined in Safe Swim Defense may be administered at the unit level following procedures specified in *Aquatics Supervision*, No. 34346.

Swim classification tests for multiunit district and council aquatics activities, such as day or resident camps, are generally conducted on-site by supervisory personnel for those activities. Councils may arrange for swim classification tests conducted by council-approved aquatics resource people prior to camp as outlined in section V of *Camp Program and Property Management*, No 20-290. When swim tests are conducted off-site prior to the camp session, the camp aquatics director retains the right to review or retest any or all participants.

Distance Swimming in Open Water

The following policies apply when distance swimming is conducted outside the confines of a normal Safe Swim Defense area.

- The environment for an open-water swim must conform to Safe Swim Defense guidelines regarding hazards such as submerged trees, currents, and boat traffic, as well as water quality, depth, and clarity.
- Each individual swimmer, or at most a buddy pair, may be accompanied by a rowboat with two people onboard—one skilled in controlling the boat and the other trained in basic water rescue—equipped with a reaching device and flotation aid, continuously watching the swimmers.

- Alternatively, a closed circuit may be established where all swimmers are constantly in reach of safety personnel strategically positioned at fixed points on anchored boats, the shore, or piers. Each participant swims with a buddy, and the number and spacing of the swimmers in the water should not exceed the capacity of the watchers to easily count the swimmers as they move from one zone to another.
- Some competitive swimming events, such as triathlons, also cover long distances. Long-distance swimming races are not approved for Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts, but Varsity Scouts and Venturers may participate in triathlon training and competitive events. All swimming activities conducted by Varsity Scout teams or Venturing crews must conform to Safe Swim Defense guidelines. Individual Varsity Scouts and Venturers may participate in outside triathlon events sanctioned by USA Triathlon.

Snorkeling in Open Water

All ability groups may use snorkeling equipment within confined areas when following all Safe Swim Defense policies, including visibility for underwater swimming.

Snorkeling is a swimming activity in which one must abide by Safe Swim Defense policies, but the following additions to Safe Swim Defense apply when snorkeling is conducted in open water. “Open water” denotes a temporary swimming area of flexible extent in a natural body of water that may or may not be close to shore.

Qualified Supervision: In addition to Safe Swim Defense training and the 21-year-old minimum age, the supervisor must be an experienced snorkeler. At a minimum, the supervisor must possess skills and knowledge matching the Snorkeling BSA Award and have experience with environments similar to those of the planned activity.

Participant Ability: All participants in open-water snorkeling must either complete Snorkeling BSA requirements or be a certified scuba diver.

Equipment: All snorkeling equipment must be properly fitted and in good repair. Use of individual flotation devices (inflatable snorkeling vests or life jackets) is required whenever there is a noticeable current or swells, when the bottom is not visible from the surface due to vegetation or limited visibility beyond 8 feet, or when the activity is greater than 50 yards from shore or craft. A dive flag is required in areas shared by boats. Local regulations specifying the size of the flag and how far snorkelers may be from it must be followed. Weight belts may not be worn unless the participant has scuba certification. Dive boats should be equipped with radios and first-aid kits, and should deploy safety lines.

Additional guidance on application of Safe Swim Defense principles to snorkeling may be found in *Aquatics Supervision*, No. 34346, and *Snorkeling Safety*, No. 19-176, at www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/19-176.pdf.

BSA Scuba Policy

The BSA scuba policy recognizes scuba industry standards and implements them by using outside agencies for training and certification.

Training and Supervision

Any person possessing, displaying, or using scuba (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus) in connection with any Scouting-related activity must be either currently certified by a recognized agency or enrolled in an instructional scuba program, such as Scuba BSA or Scuba Diving merit badge, which must be conducted by an insured recreational diving instructor in good standing with a recognized agency and approved by the council.

Recreational diving activities by BSA groups must be supervised by a responsible adult currently certified (renewed) as a divemaster, assistant instructor, or higher rating from a recognized agency. Dive environments, equipment, depths, procedures, supervision, and buddy assignments must be consistent with each individual's certification.

Because dives by recreational divers may be infrequent, the divemaster or instructor supervising a BSA scuba activity should screen participants prior to open-water activities and provide remedial instruction and practice as appropriate. Such remedial instruction and practice should be in accordance with the policies and standards of the divemaster's or instructor's agency for Scuba Review, Scuba Refresher, or similar program.

Diving using surface-supplied air systems is not authorized in connection with any BSA activity or facility except when done under contract by commercial divers.

Age-Appropriate Restrictions

Youth members in Cub Scouting, including Webelos Scouts, are not authorized to use scuba in any activity.

Boy Scouts may participate in the introductory Scuba BSA program and may obtain open-water certification as part of Scuba Diving merit badge.

Varsity and Venturing groups may participate in introductory and certification scuba programs conducted by recognized agencies appropriate to their age and current level of certification.

Standards of the recognized scuba agencies require students for open-water certification programs to be at least 15 years of age but allow special certification

programs for younger students. Since all instruction for BSA scuba programs must be conducted by professionals certified by a recognized agency, additional agency-specific, age-related restrictions and protocols apply to students under 15 years of age.

Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers may participate in recreational group dives as unit, district, or council activities, provided such dives are consistent with their certifications and under direct, on-site supervision of a responsible adult currently certified as a divemaster, assistant instructor, or higher rating from a recognized agency.

The divemaster or instructor supervising a recreational dive by a BSA group must implement the following policies for all divers under 15 years of age, as well as any additional junior diver restrictions and protocols adopted by that person's certifying agency:

- Depths are limited to 40 feet for divers under 12 years of age and to 60 feet for divers 12 to 14 years of age.
- Each diver under 15 years of age must have an adult buddy certified as an open-water diver who is either the junior diver's parent or an adult approved by the parent.
- Additional divemasters or instructors are present to maintain a ratio of one trained supervisor to four buddy pairs (eight divers) containing one to four divers under 15 years of age.

Medical Contraindications

Each scuba training agency recognized by the BSA requires a specific health history form prior to enrollment in a certification program. The BSA requires review and approval of the completed form by a physician even if the scuba agency itself does not require physician approval. Various risk factors identified on the forms may exclude a person from scuba training, either temporarily or permanently. Risk factors include, but are not limited to, ear and sinus problems, recent surgery, spontaneous pneumothorax, asthma or reactive airway disease (RAD), seizure disorders, diabetes, leukemia, sickle-cell disorder, pregnancy, panic disorders, and active psychosis.

The divemaster or instructor supervising a BSA recreational scuba activity must review the health information for each participant that is required annually of all BSA members and evaluate risk conditions using medical standards consistent with those used by his or her certifying agency. Additional tests or physician consultations may be required to confirm fitness for diving. Consultation with medical specialists knowledgeable about diving medicine also may be needed for participants taking psychotropic drugs for treatment of attention deficit disorder, depression, or other conditions.

Scuba diving is prohibited for the following conditions.

- Use of medication to control seizures or seizure occurrence within the past five years
- Use of insulin to control diabetes
- History of asthma or RAD unless resolution confirmed by methacholine testing (Persons who have been asymptomatic and medication free for the previous five years are exempt from the methacholine testing requirements.)

The scuba agencies recognized by the BSA may allow exceptions to general medical prohibitions based on individual diving fitness evaluations by a medical specialist who is knowledgeable about diving medicine. Scouts, parents, dive supervisors, and physicians with questions or concerns about diving with specific medical conditions should consult the Recreational Scuba Training Council (RSTC) Guidelines for Recreational Scuba Diver's Physical Examination and the Divers Alert Network (DAN) at www.diversalertnetwork.org. DAN medical professionals are available for nonemergency consultation by telephone at 919-684-2948 during business hours or via email.

Council Programs

When scuba diving is taught in connection with any local council program, instructors should provide the training on a contract basis. Such instructors should have dive store or other commercial affiliation that provides liability insurance coverage. Direct employment of scuba instructors is not recommended.

Local council programs may not compress or sell air for scuba use, or sell, rent, or loan scuba equipment (scuba cylinders, regulators, gauges, dive computers, weights, or BCDs). All air and equipment for local council program use must be obtained from professional sources (dive stores, resorts, dive boats, etc.) affiliated with a scuba agency recognized by the BSA.

Scuba equipment may be used by certified summer camp aquatics program personnel for installation and maintenance of waterfront equipment, or for search and recovery operations. Search and recovery could include lost equipment, as well as rescue efforts.

Recognized Agencies

Recognized agencies are:

- PADI: Professional Association of Diving Instructors
- NAUI: National Association of Underwater Instructors
- SSI: Scuba Schools International

- IDEA: International Diving Educators Association
- PDIC: Professional Diving Instructors Corporation
- SDI: Scuba Diving International
- YMCA Scuba Program (discontinued in 2008, but certification cards are still recognized)
- NASDS: National Association of Scuba Diving Schools (merged with SSI, but certification cards are still recognized)

In addition to the agencies listed by name, any current member of the World Recreational Scuba Training Council (WRSTC), which includes all RSTC members, is also recognized.

Other agencies wishing to be recognized by the BSA may contact the Outdoor Programs Team of the national office. Recognition by a certifying body such as the RSTC or EUF that the agency adheres to ANSI/CEN/ISO standards would be expected.

Safety Afloat

BSA groups shall use Safety Afloat for all boating activities. Adult leaders supervising activities afloat must have completed Safety Afloat training within the previous two years. Cub Scout activities afloat are limited to council, district, pack, or den events that do not include moving water or float trips (expeditions). Safety Afloat standards apply to the use of canoes, kayaks, rowboats, rafts, floating tubes, sailboats, motorboats (including waterskiing), and other small craft, but do not apply to transportation on large commercial vessels such as ferries and cruise ships. Parasailing (being towed airborne behind a boat using a parachute), kite-surfing (using a wakeboard towed by a kite), and recreational use of personal watercraft (small sit-on-top motorboats propelled by water jets) are not authorized BSA activities.

Safety Afloat training may be obtained from MyScouting.org, at council summer camps, and at other council and district training events. Confirmation of training is required on local and national tour permits for trips that involve boating. Additional guidance on appropriate skill levels and training resources is provided in the *Aquatics Supervision* guide available from council service centers.

1. Qualified Supervision

All activity afloat must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult age 21 or older who understands and knowingly accepts responsibility for the well-being and safety of those in his or her care and who is trained in and committed to compliance with the nine points of BSA Safety Afloat. That supervisor must be skilled in the safe operation of the craft for the specific activity, knowledgeable in accident prevention, and prepared for emergency situations. If the adult with Safety Afloat training lacks the necessary boat

operating and safety skills, then he or she may serve as the supervisor only if assisted by other adults, camp staff personnel, or professional tour guides who have the appropriate skills. Additional leadership is provided in ratios of one trained adult, staff member, or guide per 10 participants. For Cub Scouts, the leadership ratio is one trained adult, staff member, or guide per five participants. At least one leader must be trained in first aid including CPR. Any swimming done in conjunction with the activity afloat must be supervised in accordance with BSA Safe Swim Defense standards. It is strongly recommended that all units have at least one adult or older youth member currently trained in BSA Aquatics Supervision: Paddle Craft Safety to assist in the planning and conduct of all activities afloat.

2. Personal Health Review

A complete health history is required of all participants as evidence of fitness for boating activities. Forms for minors must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. Participants should be asked to relate any recent incidents of illness or injury just prior to the activity. Supervision and protection should be adjusted to anticipate any potential risks associated with individual health conditions. For significant health conditions, the adult supervisor should require an examination by a physician and consult with parent, guardian, or caregiver for appropriate precautions.

3. Swimming Ability

Operation of any boat on a float trip is limited to youth and adults who have completed the BSA swimmer classification test. Swimmers must complete the following test, which must be administered annually.

Jump feetfirst into water over the head in depth. Level off and swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy, resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be completed in one swim without stops and must include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

For activity afloat, those not classified as a swimmer are limited to multiperson craft during outings or float trips on calm water with little likelihood of capsizing or falling overboard. They may operate a fixed-seat rowboat or pedal boat accompanied by a buddy who is a swimmer. They may paddle or ride in a canoe or other paddle craft with an adult swimmer skilled in that craft as a buddy. They may ride as part of a group on a motorboat or sailboat operated by a skilled adult.

4. Life Jackets

Properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard–approved life jackets must be worn by all persons engaged in boating activity (rowing, canoeing, sailing, boardsailing, motorboating, waterskiing, rafting, tubing, and kayaking). Type III life jackets are recommended for general recreational use.

For vessels over 20 feet in length, life jackets need not be worn when participants are below deck or on deck when the qualified supervisor aboard the vessel determines that it is prudent to abide by less-restrictive state and federal regulations concerning the use and storage of life jackets, for example, when a cruising vessel with safety rails is at anchor. All participants not classified as swimmers must wear a life jacket when on deck underway.

Life jackets need not be worn when an activity falls under Safe Swim Defense guidelines—for example, when an inflated raft is used in a pool or when snorkeling from an anchored craft.

5. Buddy System

All participants in an activity afloat are paired as buddies who are always aware of each other's situation and prepared to sound an alarm and lend assistance immediately when needed. When several craft are used on a float trip, each boat on the water should have a "buddy boat." All buddy pairs must be accounted for at regular intervals during the activity and checked off the water by the qualified supervisor at the conclusion of the activity. Buddies either ride in the same boat or stay near each other in single-person craft.

6. Skill Proficiency

Everyone in an activity afloat must have sufficient knowledge and skill to participate safely. Passengers should know how their movement affects boat stability and have a basic understanding of self-rescue. Boat operators must meet government requirements, be able to maintain control of their craft, know how changes in the environment influence that control, and undertake activities only that are within their personal and group capabilities.

Content of training exercises should be appropriate for the age, size, and experience of the participants, and should cover basic skills on calm water of limited extent before proceeding to advanced skills involving current, waves, high winds, or extended distance. At a minimum, instructors for canoes and kayaks should be able to demonstrate the handling and rescue skills required for BSA Aquatics Supervision: Paddle Craft Safety. All instructors must have at least one assistant who can recognize and respond appropriately if the instructor's safety is compromised.

Anyone engaged in recreational boating using human-powered craft on flatwater ponds or controlled lake areas free of conflicting activities should be instructed in basic safety procedures prior to launch, and allowed to proceed after they have demonstrated the ability to control the boat adequately to return to shore at will.

For recreational sailing, at least one person aboard should be able to demonstrate basic sailing proficiency (tacking, reaching, and running) sufficient to return the boat to the launch point. Extended cruising on a large

sailboat requires either a professional captain or an adult with sufficient experience to qualify as a bareboat skipper.

Motorboats may be operated by youth, subject to state requirements, only when accompanied in the boat by an experienced leader or camp staff member who meets state requirements for motorboat operation. Extended cruising on a large power boat requires either a professional captain or an adult with similar qualifications.

Before a unit using human-powered craft controlled by youth embarks on a float trip or excursion that covers an extended distance or lasts longer than four hours, each participant should either receive a minimum of three hours training and supervised practice or demonstrate proficiency in maneuvering the craft effectively over a 100-yard course and recovering from a capsized.

Unit trips on whitewater above Class II must be done either with a professional guide in each craft or after all participants have received American Canoe Association or equivalent training for the class of water and type of craft involved.

7. Planning

Proper planning is necessary to ensure a safe, enjoyable exercise afloat.

All plans should include a scheduled itinerary, notification of appropriate parties, communication arrangements, contingencies in case of foul weather or equipment failure, and emergency response options.

Preparation. Any boating activity requires access to the proper equipment and transportation of gear and participants to the site. Determine what state and local regulations are applicable. Get permission to use or cross private property. Determine whether personal resources will be used or whether outfitters will supply equipment, food, and shuttle services. Lists of group and personal equipment and supplies must be compiled and checked. Even short trips require selecting a route, checking water levels, and determining alternative pull-out locations. Changes in water level, especially on moving water, may pose significant, variable safety concerns. Obtain current charts and information about the waterway and consult those who have traveled the route recently.

Float Plan. Complete the preparation by writing a detailed itinerary, or float plan, noting put-in and pull-out locations and waypoints, along with the approximate time the group should arrive at each. Travel time should be estimated generously.

Notification. File the float plan with parents, the local council office if traveling on running water, and local authorities if appropriate. Assign a member of the unit committee to alert authorities if prearranged check-ins are overdue. Make sure everyone is promptly notified when the trip is concluded.

Weather. Check the weather forecast just before setting out, and keep an alert weather eye. Anticipate changes and bring all craft ashore when rough weather threatens. Wait at least 30 minutes before resuming activities after the last incidence of thunder or lightning.

Contingencies. Planning must identify possible emergencies and other circumstances that could force a change of plans. Develop alternative plans for each situation. Identify local emergency resources such as EMS systems, sheriff's departments, or ranger stations. Check your primary communication system, and identify backups, such as the nearest residence to a campsite. Cell phones and radios may lose coverage, run out of power, or suffer water damage.

8. Equipment

All craft must be suitable for the activity, be seaworthy, and float if capsized. All craft and equipment must meet regulatory standards, be properly sized, and be in good repair. Spares, repair materials, and emergency gear must be carried as appropriate. Life jackets and paddles must be sized to the participants. Properly designed and fitted helmets must be worn when running rapids rated above Class II. Emergency equipment such as throw bags, signal devices, flashlights, heat sources, first-aid kits, radios, and maps must be ready for use. Spare equipment, repair materials, extra food and water, and dry clothes should be appropriate for the activity. All gear should be stowed to prevent loss and water damage. For float trips with multiple craft, the number of craft should be sufficient to carry the party if a boat is disabled, and critical supplies should be divided among the craft.

9. Discipline

Rules are effective only when followed. All participants should know, understand, and respect the rules and procedures for safe boating activities provided by Safety Afloat guidelines. Applicable rules should be discussed prior to the outing and reviewed for all participants near the boarding area just before the activity afloat begins. People are more likely to follow directions when they know the reasons for rules and procedures. Consistent, impartially applied rules supported by skill and good judgment provide steppingstones to a safe, enjoyable outing.

Tow Sports

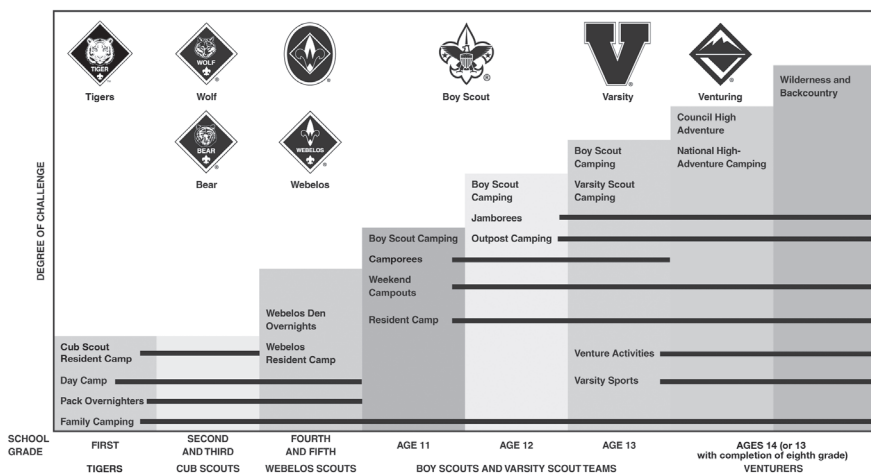
All participants in towed activity afloat (waterskiing, wakeboarding, kneeboarding, tubing, etc.) must have successfully completed the BSA swimmer classification test and must wear a life jacket with an impact rating consistent with the activity. Supervision must include both a skilled boat driver currently trained in Safety Afloat and a separate observer. Participants should observe the Water-Skiers Safety Code and the Boat Drivers Safety Code found in *Aquatics Supervision*, No. 34346. Use only floats specifically designed for towing that provide secure handholds for each rider.

The online version of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is updated quarterly.

Go to <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>.

III. Camping

Scouting's Camping Program—Ever-Increasing Challenge Out-of-Doors



Age Guidelines

The Boy Scouts of America has established the following guidelines for its members' participation in camping activities:

- Overnight camping by Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Cub Scout dens as dens is not approved, and certificates of liability insurance will not be provided by the Boy Scouts of America.
- Tigers, with their adult partner, may participate in boy-parent excursions, day camps, pack overnights, council-organized family camping, or resident camping.
- Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts may participate in a resident overnight camping program operating under BSA National Camping School-trained leadership and managed by the council.
- A Webelos Scout may participate in overnight den camping when supervised by an adult. In most cases, the Webelos Scout will be under the supervision of his parent or guardian. It is essential that each Webelos Scout be under the supervision of a parent-approved adult. Joint Webelos den/troop campouts including the parents of the Webelos Scouts are encouraged to strengthen ties between the pack and troop. Den leaders, pack leaders, and parents are expected to accompany the boys on approved trips.

- All Scouts registered in Boy Scout troops are eligible to participate in troop or patrol overnight campouts, camporees, and resident camps.
- Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts 12 through 17 are eligible to participate in national jamborees. Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts 13 through 17 are also eligible to participate in world jamborees and high-adventure programs.
- All youth registered in Venturing are eligible to participate in crew, district, council, and national Venturing activities as well as national high-adventure programs and world jamborees.

If a well-meaning leader brings along a child who does not meet these age guidelines, disservice is done to the unit because of distractions often caused by younger children. A disservice is also done to the child, who is not trained to participate in such an activity and who, as a nonmember of the group, may be ignored by the older campers.

Family Camping

Family camping is an outdoor experience, other than resident camping, that involves Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, or Venturing program elements in overnight settings with two or more family members, including at least one BSA member of that family. Parents are responsible for the supervision of their children, and Youth Protection policies apply.

Recreational Family Camping

Recreational family camping occurs when Scouting families camp as a family unit outside of an organized program. It is a nonstructured camping experience, but is conducted within a Scouting framework on local council-owned or -managed property. Local councils may have family camping grounds available for rent at reasonable rates. Other resources may include equipment, information, and training.

References: *Resident Camping for Cub Scouting*, No. 13-33814,
Cub Scout Outdoor Program Guidelines, No. 510-631,
 and *Scoutmaster Handbook*, No. 33009

Cub Scout Overnight Opportunities

Cub Scouts may experience overnight activities in venues other than accredited resident camping. There are two categories of Cub Scout overnights.

Council-Organized Family Camp

Council-organized family camps are overnight events involving more than one pack. The local council provides all of the elements of the outdoor experience, such as staffing, food service, housing, and program. These are often

referred to as parent/pal or adventure weekends. Council-organized family camps should be conducted by trained leaders at sites approved by the local council. Each youth member will be under the supervision of a parent or legal guardian.

In special circumstances, a Cub Scout whose parent or legal guardian is not able to attend an overnight camping trip may participate under the supervision of another registered adult member of the BSA who is a parent of a Cub Scout who is also attending. The unit leader and a parent or legal guardian must agree to the arrangement, and all Youth Protection policies apply. At no time may another adult accept responsibility for more than one additional “non-family member” youth.

Overnight activities involving more than one pack must be approved by the council. Council-organized family camps must be conducted in accordance with established standards as given in *National Camp Standards*, No. 430-056.

Pack Overnights

These are pack-organized overnight events involving more than one family from a single pack, focused on age-appropriate Cub Scout activities and conducted at council-approved locations (councils use Pack Overnights Site Approval Form, No. 13-508). If nonmembers (siblings) participate, the event must be structured accordingly to accommodate them. BSA health and safety and Youth Protection policies apply. In most cases, each youth member will be under the supervision of a parent or guardian. In all cases, each youth participant is responsible to a specific adult.

At least one adult on a pack overnights must have completed Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO, No. 34162) to properly understand the importance of program intent, Youth Protection policies, health and safety, site selection, age-appropriate activities, and sufficient adult participation. Permits for campouts shall be issued locally. Packs use the tour and activity plan, No. 680-014.

Reference: *Cub Scout Outdoor Program Guidelines*, No. 510-631

Boy Scout/Varsity Scout Camping

What are typical Scout outdoor activities? For younger Scouts, less-rugged activities are more appropriate as they begin to acquire outdoor knowledge and skills. These may include:

Day Hikes—Reasonably short hikes (three to 10 miles) in terrain without a lot of elevation gain or loss.

Patrol Activities—A Boy Scout patrol or Varsity Scout squad may participate in patrol activities with the permission of its Scoutmaster or Coach and parents/

guardians. Appropriate adult leadership must be present for all overnight Scouting activities.

Weekend Overnights—Troops/teams that plan and carry out outings once a month attract and retain boys at a much higher level than those that have fewer outings during the year.

Camporees—Councils and districts plan camporees and other outings during the year that give Scouts an opportunity to test their knowledge and skills in competitive events with other troops and patrols.

Summer Camp—Summer camp is what many Scouts enjoy most. Camp programs provide numerous opportunities for Scouts to earn merit badges along their advancement trail. Resident Scout camping includes at least five nights and six days of fun outdoor activities.

Jamborees—Every four years, the Boy Scouts of America hosts a national Scout jamboree. More than 40,000 Scouts and leaders from across the country participate in this 10-day event filled with the most popular and highest-quality outdoor activities Scouts enjoy. To participate, a Scout must be at least 12 years of age by July 1 of the jamboree year and be a First Class Scout.

Council High Adventure—A high-adventure experience includes at least five nights and six days of trekking in wilderness and other rugged, remote locations. Trekking may include backpacking, canoeing, mountain biking, horse packing, mountain climbing, ski touring, rafting, kayaking, or a host of other outdoor adventures. Participants must be at least 13 years old by September 1 of the year of participation or a registered Venturer.

National High Adventure—The BSA operates unique and exciting national high-adventure bases and programs. With two locations in the Florida Keys, the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base offers a variety of aquatics and boating programs. The Northern Tier National High Adventure Program, based in northern Minnesota with two satellite bases in Canada, provides a variety of canoe treks and programs. Philmont Scout Ranch, located in the mountains of New Mexico, provides excellent backpacking treks. The newest national high-adventure base, the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia, provides activities such as whitewater rafting, BMX, skateboarding, mountain biking, zip lines, canopy tours, challenge courses, climbing, and shooting sports. Age requirements for these programs vary, but most programs are rugged and designed for older Scouts.

Unit High Adventure—The highest level of challenge for a troop or team is to plan and carry out its own high-adventure experience. These activities for more experienced Scouts are planned and implemented by youth members with coaching from their adult leaders.

Venturing Camping

Venturing camping can include high-adventure activities, such as scuba diving, water skiing, rock climbing/rappelling, caving, horseback riding, and more, but can also include many avocation/hobby interests. Venturing members can participate in the national Scout jamboree.

Venturing camping should not be just an extension of a Boy Scout resident camp. Venturers need a more teenage-oriented experience. Having Venturers involved in this planning process is a must.

Important differences in outdoor programs for Venturers include:

- Venturing outdoor activities must include experiences beyond those available to younger youth.
- Consideration of coed involvement.
- Venturers should have a voice in choosing and planning activities.
- Venturing outdoor programs should be patterned after types of activities that appeal to adults and teenagers.
- The camp experience should not be overly structured, and should allow Venturers the opportunity to choose activities.

Trek Safely

Trek Safely is designed to help Scouting groups be fully prepared for a backcountry trek. It will help each youth member and adult leader recognize situations that could develop in which the group will have to adjust its schedule or route, or even make camp for the night because of weather circumstances or an injured or ill crew member. Crews that address possible scenarios in advance are less likely to be surprised on the trail. Contingency planning is critical to the success of every trip.

For additional information, go to www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/430-125.pdf.

Reference: Trek Safely flier, No. 430-125

Lightning Risk Reduction

In many parts of the country, Scouting activities in the outdoors will be at risk to thunderstorms and lightning strike potential. In a thunderstorm, there is no risk-free location outside.

First, to be prepared for your outdoor adventure, it is important to know the weather patterns of the area. Weather patterns on the Florida coast differ greatly from the mountains of New Mexico and the lakes of Minnesota or the rivers of West Virginia. In addition to patterns, monitor current weather forecasts and conditions of the area you plan to visit to modify your plans if needed.

The online version of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is updated quarterly.
Go to <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>.

The National Weather Service recommends that when the ***“Thunder Roars, Go Indoors! The only completely safe action is to get inside a safe building or vehicle.”*** When a safe building or vehicle is nearby, the best risk-reduction technique is to get to it as soon as possible. Move quickly when you:

- First hear thunder,
- See lightning, or
- Observe dark, threatening clouds developing overhead.

Stay inside until 30 minutes after you last hear the last rumble of thunder before resuming outdoor activities.

Shelter—two forms:

- **Safe Building**—one that is fully enclosed with a roof, walls, and floor, and has plumbing or wiring. Examples of safe buildings include a home, school, church, hotel, office building, or shopping center.
- **Safe Vehicle**—any fully enclosed, metal-topped vehicle such as a hard-topped car, minivan, bus, truck, etc. If you drive into a thunderstorm, slow down and use extra caution. If possible, pull off the road into a safe area. Do NOT leave the vehicle during a thunderstorm.

Risk Reduction (when no safe building or vehicle is nearby):

- If camping, hiking, etc., far from a safe vehicle or building, avoid open fields, the top of a hill, or a ridge top.
- Spread your group out 100 feet from each other if possible.
- Stay away from tall, isolated trees; flag poles; totem poles; or other tall objects. If you are in a forest, stay near a lower stand of trees.
- If you are camping in an open area, set up camp in a valley, ravine, or other low area, but avoid flood-prone areas. Remember, a tent offers NO protection from lightning.
- Stay away from water, wet items (such as ropes), and metal objects (such as fences and poles). Water and metal are excellent conductors of electricity.
- If boating and you cannot get back to land to a safe building or vehicle: On a small boat, drop anchor and get as low as possible. Large boats with cabins, especially those with lightning protection systems properly installed, or metal marine vessels offer a safer but not risk-free environment. Remember to stay inside the cabin and away from any metal surfaces.

If lightning strikes, be prepared to administer CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) so that you can tend to lightning victims quickly (they do not hold an electrical charge). Take anyone who is a victim of a lightning strike or near-strike to the nearest medical facility as soon as possible, even if the person appears to be unharmed.

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Go to <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>.

For additional information on lightning and weather services, visit www.noaa.gov.

Treated Drinking Water

A constant supply of treated drinking water is essential. Serious illness can result from drinking untreated water. Protect your health, and don't take a chance on using water of uncertain quality. Thermos jugs, plastic water containers, and canteens are all satisfactory for carrying water. Be sure water is dispensed into each person's own drinking cup.

Safe Drinking Water

When possible, begin your trip with water from home or use approved portable water sources provided by the land manager. When these options are not available, streams, rivers, lakes, springs, and snow may provide a source of water, but they must always be treated by one of the following methods. All water of uncertain treatment should be treated before use.

Boiling

The surest means of making your drinking water safe is to heat it to a rolling boil—when bubbles a half inch in diameter rise from the bottom of the pot. While this is a simple method, it does require time and fuel.

Chemical Treatment

Chemical treatment consists of iodine or chlorine tablets that kill waterborne bacteria and viruses. These are simple, lightweight, and easy to pack. However, not all protozoa are eliminated by chemical treatment, and a waiting period is required for effective disinfection of drinking water. Micropur is a new product available for water purification.

In all cases, verify that the chosen method of chemical treatment meets EPA standards.

Liquid chlorine should be used only in an emergency.

1. Filter the water to remove as many solids as possible.
2. Bring the water to a rolling boil for a full minute.
3. Let it cool at least 30 minutes.
4. Add eight drops of liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of cool water. (Use common household bleach; 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite should be the only active ingredient, and there should not be any added soap or fragrances.) Water must be cool, or chlorine will dissipate and be rendered useless.

5. Let the water stand 30 minutes.
6. If it smells of chlorine, you can use it. If it does not smell of chlorine, add eight more drops of bleach and let it stand another 30 minutes. Smell it again. You can use it if it smells of chlorine. If it doesn't, discard it and find another water source.
7. The only accepted measurement of chlorine (or water treatment agents) is the drop. A drop is specifically measurable. Other measures such as "capful" or "scant teaspoon" are not uniformly measurable and should not be used.

Filters

Portable filters are handheld pumps that force untreated water through a filtering medium that traps bacteria and protozoa. Many include a purifying stage that will also treat viruses. While very effective, filters must be maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions, and they are difficult to use with groups because of the time required to operate.

In addition to having a bad odor or taste, water from questionable sources may be contaminated by microorganisms, such as *Giardia*, that can cause a variety of diseases.

IV. Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use and Abuse

Alcohol

The following statement was approved by the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America:

It is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America that the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances is not permitted at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving participation of youth members.

Tobacco

Adult leaders should support the attitude that they, as well as youths, are better off without tobacco in any form and may not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants. This includes the use of electronic cigarettes, personal vaporizers, or electronic nicotine delivery systems that simulate tobacco smoking.

All Scouting functions, meetings, and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from all participants.

References: *Scoutmaster Handbook*, No. 33009,
and *Boy Scout Handbook*, No. 34554

Drugs

The misuse of drugs happens in all levels of our society. We may be confronted with the problem at any time; therefore, we need to understand the misuse of drugs and what can be done about the situation. See the Drug Enforcement Administration website (<http://www.justice.gov/dea/index.htm>) for detailed information on controlled substances and their effects.

Medical Marijuana

It is unacceptable for anyone to use or be under the influence of medical marijuana at or during any Scouting activity.

V. Medical Information and First Aid

Personal Health and the Annual Health and Medical Record

The Scouting adventure, camping trips, high-adventure excursions, and having fun are important to everyone in Scouting—and so are your safety and well-being. Completing the Annual Health and Medical Record is the first step in making sure you have a great Scouting experience. **So what do you need?**

All Scouting Events. All participants in all Scouting activities, such as local tours and weekend camping trips of fewer than 72 hours, need to complete and return to their unit leader parts A and B of the Annual Health and Medical Record. These forms need to be updated at least annually. **Part A** is an informed consent, release agreement, and authorization that needs to be signed by every participant (or a parent and/or legal guardian for all youth under 18). **Part B** is general information and a health history.

Going to Camp? A pre-participation physical is needed for resident, tour, or trek camps or for a Scouting event of more than 72 hours, such as Wood Badge and NYLT. The exam needs to be completed by a certified and licensed physician (MD, DO), nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. If your camp has provided you with any supplemental risk information, or if your plans include attending one of the four national high-adventure bases, share the venue's risk advisory with your medical provider when you are having your physical exam. **Part C** is your pre-participation physical certification.

Planning a High-Adventure Trip? Each of the four national high-adventure bases has provided a supplemental risk advisory that explains in greater detail some of the risks inherent in that program. All high-adventure participants must read and share this information with their medical providers during their pre-participation physicals. Additional information regarding high-adventure activities may be obtained directly from the venue or your local council.

Following are some of the most frequently asked questions about the Annual Health and Medical Record. For a full set of FAQs, visit www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Resources/MedicalFormFAQs.aspx.

Q. Why does the BSA require all participants to have an Annual Health and Medical Record?

A. The AMHR serves many purposes. Completing a health history promotes health awareness, collects necessary data, and provides medical professionals critical information needed to treat a patient in the event of an illness or injury. It also provides emergency contact information.

Poor health and/or lack of awareness of risk factors have led to disabling injuries, illnesses, and even fatalities. Because we care about our participants' health and safety, the Boy Scouts of America has produced and required use of standardized annual health and medical information since at least the 1930s.

The medical record is used to prepare for high-adventure activities and increased physical activity. In some cases, it is used to review participants' readiness for gatherings like the national Scout jamboree and other specialized activities.

Because many states regulate the camping industry, the Annual Health and Medical Record also serves as a tool that enables councils to operate day and resident camps and adhere to BSA and state requirements. The Boy Scouts of America's Annual Health and Medical Record provides a standardized mechanism that can be used by members in all 50 states.

Q. Where can I find the Annual Health and Medical Record?

A. The only way to assure you have the proper documents is to download from the website: <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/ahmr.aspx>. Please only download from the website.

Q. Who needs to complete an Annual Health and Medical Record?

A. For any and all Scouting activities, all participants must complete **Part A** and **Part B**. "All participants" includes parents, guardians, siblings, youth, staff, and unit leaders. Though **Part C** is only *required* for participation in events lasting longer than 72 hours, all BSA participants are encouraged to complete this pre-participation physical during an annual physical performed by a medical professional.

Q. What is meant by "Annual"?

A. An AHMR is valid through the end of the 12th month from the date it was administered by your medical provider. For example, a physical administered March 3, 2014, would be valid until March 31, 2015. The AHMR in use before March 1, 2014, will be valid only until April 1, 2015, and only if it was completed before April 1, 2014.

Q. What do leaders do with the Annual Health and Medical Records they collect?

A. In all cases, the information gathered is for use in conducting a safe Scouting program. Information gathered in the AHMR must be maintained and shared in a confidential and discreet manner. Some conditions may require communication to ensure the safety of participants. This information should only be shared on a "need-to-know" basis.

Following are some of the best practices for using and storing the records:

- The Annual Health and Medical Record is secured to maintain the confidentiality of the information, yet at the same time, the forms should be accessible by adult leaders in an emergency. The following guidance will assist leaders in achieving this goal:
 - Leaders are encouraged to maintain the original AHMR forms in a safe location in a binder or file that protects the documents entrusted to the unit leader.
 - The AHMR should be taken on all activities.
 - Designate a leader to keep the files containing the AHMR up to date. This may include reminding participants to update the AHMR annually or as needed.
 - Designate a leader as the point of contact with event or camp health officers. If needed, the leader should arrange to have the AHMR returned to him or her at the end of the event, if allowed by the state.
 - The unit leader (or his or her designee) is responsible for destroying or returning to the participant (or parent and/or guardian) the AHMR documents when the participant leaves the unit or when the documents become outdated.
- Records are NOT to be digitized, scanned, sent by email, or stored electronically by unit leaders.
- To streamline a summer or winter camp check-in, records of all participants are reviewed to make sure they are up to date, completed, and signed before leaving for camp. Be sure to check with the camp for any additional information that may be needed. For example, specific immunization records may be required in some states.

Prepared leaders use the AHMR in the following ways:

- Review each participant's health history. This aids the leader in becoming knowledgeable about the medical conditions of adults and youth members in the unit.
- Review any treatment plans that may exist with participants and/or parents of youth. Examples might include plans for asthma, food or other allergies, anaphylaxis treatment, behavior, hypertension, and other health risks and medical restrictions that may require accommodations. Knowledge of a participant's use of an inhaler would allow the leader to prompt the youth to bring it on an overnight camping trip.

- Be knowledgeable of a participant's restrictions. This may allow the leader to find ways to extend the Scouting program to those with restrictions while also protecting others and providing a positive and safe experience for everyone. The leader may be able to plan alternate activities (within Youth Protection guidelines) for those youth members who are unable to participate in a long hike or a swimming event.
- Assist leaders to better coordinate ongoing medical care, such as administration of medications or bandage changes, with parents or other authorized and trained leaders in the unit who agree to assist the participant. This kind of assistance is especially necessary during events lasting longer than 72 hours when a parent or guardian may not be present and the youth member must take regularly scheduled medication.

Medical Risk Factors for Your Participation in Scouting

Scouting activities can be physically and mentally demanding. Following are the key risk factors that have been known to become issues during outdoor adventures.

Become familiar with these risk factors to ensure all Scouts and Scouters are prepared.

Excessive Body Weight (Obesity)

Excessive body weight increases risk for numerous health problems. To ensure the best experience, Scouts and Scouters should be of proportional height and weight. One measurement of these proportions is the body mass index (BMI), which can be calculated using a tool from the Centers for Disease Control. The tool can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/bmi/>.

Cardiac or Cardiovascular Disease

Natural causes, primarily those that are cardiac- or cardiovascular-related, are the most common reasons for fatalities while participants are engaged in Scouting activities or visiting Scouting properties. Among these causes are a personal or family history of adult or congenital heart disease, heart attacks, chest pain (angina), heart murmurs, and coronary artery disease; any heart surgery or procedure; and a family history of heart disease or any sudden heart-related death of a family member before age 50. Participants should be aware that, in addition to these common indicators that you may be at risk, smoking increases these risks.

Youth who have congenital heart disease or acquired heart disease such as rheumatic fever, Kawasaki's disease, or mitral valve prolapse should undergo a thorough exam prior to participation.

Hypertension (High Blood Pressure)

Scouts and Scouters should have a normal blood pressure of less than 140/90. Persons with significant hypertension should be under treatment, and their condition should be under control. If participating in a Scouting event that is physically demanding, it is recommended that hypertension be under control in the six months prior to the date of the event. The goal of the treatment should be to lower blood pressure to normal levels. Those already on antihypertensive therapy with normal blood pressures should continue treatment and should not choose the time they are at any Scouting event to experiment with or change medications.

Diabetes (Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus)

Any individual with insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus should be able to self-monitor blood glucose and know how to adjust insulin doses based on these factors or be accompanied by a guardian that is knowledgeable in these matters. The individual with diabetes and/or the guardian should also know how to administer an injection and recognize indications of high and low blood sugar. **If planning on participating in an overnight experience of any kind, bring enough medication, testing supplies, and equipment for the entire Scouting event.** This includes batteries (without provisions for recharging) to be brought to and taken away from the event.

An insulin-dependent individual who has been newly diagnosed (within six months of the fitness examination) or who has undergone a change in delivery system (e.g., an insulin pump) in the same period and who desires to participate in a Scouting event that is physically demanding should reconsider participation. This guideline also applies to an individual who has been hospitalized for diabetic ketoacidosis or who has had problems with hypoglycemia in the last year.

Seizures (Epilepsy)

Seizure disorder or epilepsy should be well-controlled by medications if an individual desires to participate in a physically demanding Scouting event. A minimum of six seizure-free months prior to the fitness examination is considered under control. Participants with a history of seizures need to limit high-adventure activities (e.g., climbing or rappelling).

Asthma

Acute or severe bronchial asthma under treatment anytime during the past 24 months should be well controlled before participating in physically demanding Scouting events. Key indicators of a well-controlled condition include:

- The use of a rescue inhaler zero times to one time a day

- No need for nighttime treatment with a short-acting bronchodilator

Well-controlled asthma may include the use of long-acting bronchodilators, inhaled steroids, or oral medications.

If the Scouting event is physically demanding, individuals with the following asthma conditions should reconsider participation:

- Exercise asthma is not prevented by medication.
- Participant has been hospitalized or has gone to the emergency room for asthma treatment in the six months before the fitness examination.
- Participant has received treatment that required oral steroids (prednisone) in the six months before the fitness examination.

When participating in any overnight Scouting event, participants must bring adequate and backup supplies of medications and additional rescue inhalers that are current. Participants who are asthmatic must carry a rescue inhaler at all times during any Scouting event.

Sleep Apnea

Scouts and Scouters with sleeping disorders may experience health risks due to long days and short nights for many Scouting events. It is recommended for those with sleep apnea who require a CPAP machine that on any overnight Scouting experience, all equipment (e.g., CPAP machine) must be provided by the Scout or Scouter and be self-contained. This may include batteries (without provisions for recharging) to be brought to and taken away from the Scouting event. Be sure to check with the location or camp well in advance if electricity is a requirement for your safety. It may not be available.

Allergies or Anaphylaxis

Scouting events have several risks (e.g., nuts, pollens, wasps, hornets, and other stinging insects) that could trigger anaphylactic reactions in individuals prone to those reactions. It is recommended that Scouts and Scouters who have had an anaphylactic reaction from any cause contact the appropriate medical personnel of the Scouting event to confirm participation eligibility before arrival, especially if the event includes an overnight experience. Participants will be required to have appropriate treatment with them at all times.

For longer Scouting events, such as summer camp, jamborees, and high-adventure programs, allergy shots required for maintenance doses may be acceptable for persons who have not had an anaphylactic reaction. Contact the appropriate medical personnel for the event for confirmation. Guidelines for managing food allergies can be found here: http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/2013Guidelines_Managing_Food_Allergies.pdf.

Ingrown Toenails, Recent Musculoskeletal Injuries, and Orthopedic Surgery

Many Scouting events put a great deal of strain on feet, ankles, and knees. If the Scouting event is physically demanding, ingrown toenails should be treated within a month prior to the event. Scouts and Scouters who have had orthopedic surgery, including arthroscopic surgery, or significant musculoskeletal injuries, including back problems, should have a release from the surgeon or treating physician to participate in Scouting events.

Psychiatric/Psychological and Emotional Difficulties

Psychiatric, psychological, and emotional disorders do not necessarily exclude an individual from Scouting events. Parents and advisors should be aware that most Scouting events are not designed to assist in overcoming psychological or emotional problems and may exacerbate existing conditions. Experience demonstrates that these problems frequently are magnified, not lessened, when participants are subjected to the physical and mental challenges of many Scouting activities.

Any condition must be well controlled without the services of a mental health practitioner. Under no circumstances should medication be stopped before or during a Scouting activity. If the Scouting event is an overnight experience, Scouts and Scouters are required to bring an appropriate supply of medication for the duration of the event, including time required for traveling to and from the event.

Other Risk Factors

Sickle-cell anemia, hemophilia, leukemia, severe blood dyspraxia, and HIV infection provide special challenges to Scouts and Scouters. To plan for, prepare for, and support those with these medical conditions, it is recommended that an individual evaluation of each situation be done by the appropriate medical personnel. There may be instances where proper medical support at the Scouting event is impossible. Under such circumstances, participation may be denied.

For information on any other health issues, contact your personal health care provider.

Immunizations

The Boy Scouts of America encourages all members of the Scouting community to use available vaccines to fully protect themselves from infectious diseases that are dangerous for children and adults living in the United States. Participants who are not immunized are subject to identification so that they may be located in case of a necessity for isolation or quarantine as required by

local public health official directives. Verification of the following immunizations is recommended by the BSA:

- Tetanus (must have been received within the last 10 years).
- Pertussis
- Meningococcal
- Diphtheria
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Polio
- Chicken pox
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Influenza

More information about immunizations, as well as the Immunization Exemption Request form, is found at www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Forms.aspx.

Protection Consideration for Blood and Bodily Fluids (Universal Precautions)

Treat all blood and bodily fluids as if they were contaminated with blood-borne viruses (i.e., HIV, hepatitis). Do not use bare hands to stop bleeding; always use a protective barrier, and always wash exposed skin areas for at least 15 seconds with soap and water immediately after treating a victim. Consequently, the following personal protective equipment is to be included in all first-aid kits and used when rendering first aid:

- Non-latex gloves to be used when stopping bleeding or dressing wounds
- A mouth barrier device for rendering rescue breathing or CPR
- Plastic goggles or eye protection to prevent a victim's blood from getting into a rescuer's eyes in the event of serious bleeding
- Antiseptic for use in cleaning exposed skin areas, particularly if there is no soap and water available

Clean any blood and bodily fluid spills with an appropriate disinfecting solution, such as 10 parts water to one part bleach.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations for blood-borne pathogens (29 CFR Section 1910.1030) apply to health-care professionals employed by local councils to staff camp health facilities or to fulfill health officer functions at BSA camps. In addition, all designated responders, identified in the local council's medical emergency response plan, are affected by the regulations. Visit www.osha.gov.

Local Council Membership/Participation Guidelines Regarding Life-Threatening Communicable Diseases

The BSA policy regarding communicable diseases (acute or chronic) is as follows:

Local Scouting units and their chartered organizations traditionally determine their own membership and participation, absent any legal constraints. Accordingly, units and chartered organizations allow youth or adult members who have, or are suspected of having, a communicable disease to continue to participate in Scouting activities.

The chartered organization and/or a local Scouting unit may request local council assistance if needed, absent any legal restraints. (See Local Council Guidelines Regarding Communicable Disease, No. 680-453, for the steps in that process.)

Exemptions for Medical Care, Treatment, and Immunizations

The following is the Boy Scouts of America's policy regarding medical requirements:

- Medical examinations for camp attendance are required of all campers. The immunization requirement may be exempted because of religious, philosophical, or medical grounds by signing the Immunization Exemption Request form (found at www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Forms.aspx) and receiving a medical evaluation and screening by a licensed health-care practitioner to reduce the possibility of exposing other camp participants to a communicable disease.
- Exemption from all medical treatment may be granted with the signing of the Request for Exemption for Medical Care and Treatment form (found at www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Forms.aspx) and receiving a medical evaluation and screening by a licensed health-care practitioner to reduce the possibility of exposing other camp participants to a communicable disease.

Prescriptions

Taking prescription medication is the responsibility of the individual taking the medication and/or that individual's parent or guardian. A leader, after obtaining all the necessary information, can agree to accept the responsibility of making sure a youth takes the necessary medication at the appropriate time, but the BSA does not mandate or necessarily encourage the leader to do so. Standards and policies regarding administration of medication may be in place at BSA camps. If state laws are more limiting than camp policies, they must be followed.

First Aid and CPR Training

First aid is the first help given to someone who has had an accident or other health emergency. If more attention is needed, first-aid treatment helps keep an injured or ill person as safe as possible until medical personnel arrive. Wilderness first aid (WFA) is the assessment of and treatment given to an ill or injured person in a remote environment when a physician and/or rapid transport are not readily available.

First aid and WFA are important to participants in BSA programs. Our members' understanding of first-aid principles is not only concrete evidence that we are striving to put into action the Scouting ideal of doing a Good Turn daily; that understanding also helps Scouts and Scouters be prepared and be safe when helping others in need.

We strongly recommend that everyone be trained in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as an endeavor to revive victims of cardiac arrest (no breathing, no pulse). CPR may be taught by instructors currently trained by a nationally certified provider such as the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, Emergency Care and Safety Institute, or American Safety and Health Institute. Cub Scouts can even be taught this valuable skill in a family-type setting.

Depending upon the event or activity planned, it may be required that at least two adults or youth (though three or more is preferable) in each touring group have current training in WFA and CPR, know how and when to put this knowledge to use, and thoroughly understand the limitations of their knowledge.

Preliminary skills related to CPR are found in the *Boy Scout Handbook* and the *First Aid* merit badge pamphlet.

AED Training

We strongly recommend that Scouting's adult leaders avail themselves of CPR with automatic external defibrillator (AED) training, as well as first-aid and wilderness first-aid training.

First-Aid Kits

Personal First-Aid Kit Contents

- 6 adhesive bandages
- 2 sterile 3-by-3-inch gauze pads
- A small roll of adhesive tape
- A 3-by-6-inch piece of moleskin
- A small bar of soap or small bottle of alcohol-based hand-sanitizing gel
- A small tube of triple antibiotic ointment
- Scissors
- Disposable nonlatex gloves
- CPR breathing barrier
- Pencil and paper

Home or Patrol/Troop First-Aid Kit Contents

A more comprehensive group first-aid kit can contain the following items:

- A 2-inch roller bandage
- 2 1-inch roller bandages
- A roll of 1-inch adhesive tape
- 24 alcohol swabs
- A box of assorted adhesive bandages
- 2 3-inch-wide elastic bandages
- 12 sterile 3-by-3-inch gauze pads
- 4 3-by-6-inch pieces of moleskin
- 2 packets of gel pads for blisters and burns
- A tube of triple antibiotic ointment
- 4 triangular bandages
- A small bar of soap or a travel-size bottle of alcohol-based hand-sanitizing gel
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- 12 safety pins

The online version of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is updated quarterly.
Go to <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>.

- 6 pairs of disposable nonlatex gloves
- Protective goggles or safety glasses
- CPR breathing barrier
- Pencil and paper

These optional items also are recommended:

- An instant cold compress
- A space blanket
- A SAM® Splint

VI. Chemical Fuels and Equipment

Purpose

This policy directs Boy Scouts of America members how to safely store, handle, and use chemical fuels and equipment. Safety and environmental awareness concerns have persuaded many campers to move away from traditional outdoor campfires in favor of chemical-fueled equipment used for cooking, heating, and lighting. Be aware that chemical fuels and equipment create very different hazards than traditional wood, charcoal, and other solid fuels; this policy defines how to address those hazards.

Before any chemical fuels or chemical-fueled equipment is used, an adult knowledgeable about chemical fuels and equipment, including regulatory requirements, should resolve any hazards not specifically addressed within this policy.

Definitions

Chemical fuels—Liquid, gaseous, or gelled fuels.

Approved chemical-fueled equipment—Commercially manufactured equipment, including stoves, grills, burners, heaters, and lanterns that are designed to be used with chemical fuels.

Prohibited chemical-fueled equipment—Equipment that is handcrafted, homemade, modified, or installed beyond the manufacturer's stated design limitations or use. Examples include alcohol-burning "can" stoves, smudge pots, improperly installed heaters, and propane burners with their regulators removed.

Recommended chemical fuels—White gas (Coleman fuel); kerosene; liquefied petroleum gas fuels, including propane, butane, and isobutane; vegetable oil fuels; biodiesel fuel; and commercially prepared gelled-alcohol fuel in original containers.

Chemical fuels not recommended—Unleaded gasoline; liquid alcohol fuels, including isopropyl alcohol, denatured ethyl alcohol, and ethanol; and other flammable chemicals that are not in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions for chemical-fueled equipment.

Storing, Handling, and Using Chemical Fuels and Equipment

An adult knowledgeable about chemical fuels and equipment should always supervise youths involved in the storage, handling, and use of chemical fuels and equipment.

Operate and maintain chemical-fueled equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions and in facilities or areas only where and when permitted.

Using liquid fuels for starting any type of fire—including lighting damp wood, charcoal, and ceremonial campfires or displays—is prohibited.

No flames in tents. This includes burning any solid, liquid, gel, or gas fuel—including tents or teepees that feature or support stoves or fires; and any chemical-fueled equipment or catalytic heaters.

Store chemical fuels in their original containers or in containers designed for immediate use. Securely store any spare fuel away from sources of ignition, buildings, and tents.

During transport and storage, properly secure chemical fuel containers in an upright, vertical position.

VII. Shooting Sports

Boy Scouts of America adheres to its longstanding policy of teaching its youth and adult members the safe, responsible, intelligent handling, care, and use of firearms, air rifles, BB guns, and archery equipment in planned, carefully managed, and supervised programs.

Except for law enforcement officers required to carry firearms within their jurisdiction, firearms shall not be brought on camping, hiking, backpacking, or other Scouting activities except those specifically planned for target shooting under the supervision of a currently certified BSA national shooting sports director or National Rifle Association firearms instructor.

All shooting sports activities held during a council resident camp will follow the standards in *National Camp Standards*, No. 430-056. All shooting sports activities held outside of a council's resident camp will follow the rules and regulations found in the *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual*, No. 30931, which can be downloaded here: www.scouting.org/OutdoorProgram/ShootingSports.aspx.

The *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual* includes all of the information you will need pertaining to permitted guns used at each level of Scouting, the required range supervision, and training that Scouts must have for each activity.

Reference: *National Camp Standards*, No. 430-056,
and *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual*, No. 30931.

Cannons and Large-Bore Artillery

Units are not authorized, under any circumstances, to use a cannon or any other large-bore artillery device.

Archery, and Knife and Tomahawk Throwing

These are approved activities for Boy Scouts and Venturers following the Sweet 16 of BSA Safety.

VIII. Sports and Activities

The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety

These 16 safety points, which embody good judgment and common sense, are applicable to all activities:

1. **Qualified Supervision.** Every BSA activity should be supervised by a conscientious adult who understands and knowingly accepts responsibility for the well-being and safety of the children and youth in his or her care. The supervisor should be sufficiently trained, experienced, and skilled in the activity to be confident of his or her ability to lead and teach the necessary skills and to respond effectively in the event of an emergency. Field knowledge of all applicable BSA standards and a commitment to implement and follow BSA policy and procedures are essential parts of the supervisor's qualifications.
2. **Physical Fitness.** For youth participants in any potentially strenuous activity, the supervisor should receive a complete health history from a health-care professional, parent, or guardian. Adult participants and youth involved in higher-risk activities (e.g., scuba diving) may have to undergo professional evaluation in addition to completing the health history. The supervisor should adjust all supervision, discipline, and protection to anticipate potential risks associated with individual health conditions. Neither youth nor adults should participate in activities for which they are unfit. To do so would place both the individual and others at risk.
3. **Buddy System.** The long history of the "buddy system" in Scouting has shown that it is always best to have at least one other person with you and aware at all times of your circumstances and what you are doing in any outdoor or strenuous activity.
4. **Safe Area or Course.** A key part of the supervisors' responsibility is to know the area or course for the activity and to determine that it is well-suited and free of hazards.
5. **Equipment Selection and Maintenance.** Most activity requires some specialized equipment. The equipment should be selected to suit the participants and the activity and to include appropriate safety and program features. The supervisor should also check equipment to determine whether it is in good condition for the activity and make sure it is kept properly maintained while in use.
6. **Personal Safety Equipment.** The supervisor must assure that every participant has and uses the appropriate personal safety equipment. For example, activity afloat requires that each participant properly wear a life jacket; bikers, horseback riders, and whitewater kayakers need helmets for certain activities; skaters need protective gear; and all need to be dressed for warmth and utility as the circumstances require.

7. **Safety Procedures and Policies.** For most activities, common-sense procedures and standards can greatly reduce any risk. These should be known and appreciated by all participants, and the supervisor must assure compliance.
8. **Skill Level Limits.** Every activity has a minimum skill level, and the supervisor must identify and recognize this level and be sure that participants are not put at risk by attempting any activity beyond their abilities. A good example of skill levels in Scouting is the swim test, which defines conditions for safe swimming on the basis of individual ability.
9. **Weather Check.** The risks of many outdoor activities vary substantially with weather conditions. Potential weather hazards and the appropriate responses should be understood and anticipated.
10. **Planning.** Safe activity follows a plan that has been conscientiously developed by the experienced supervisor or other competent source. Good planning minimizes risks and also anticipates contingencies that may require an emergency response or a change of plan.
11. **Communications.** The supervisor needs to be able to communicate effectively with participants as needed during the activity. Emergency communications also need to be considered in advance for any foreseeable contingencies.
12. **Permits and Notices.** BSA tour permits, council office registration, government or landowner authorization, and any similar formalities are the supervisor's responsibility when such are required. Appropriate notification should be directed to parents, enforcement authorities, landowners, and others as needed, before and after the activity.
13. **First-Aid Resources.** The supervisor should determine what first-aid supplies to include among the activity equipment. The level of first-aid training and skill appropriate for the activity should also be considered. An extended trek over remote terrain obviously may require more first-aid resources and capabilities than an afternoon activity in a local community. Whatever is determined to be needed should be available.
14. **Applicable Laws.** BSA safety policies generally parallel or go beyond legal mandates, but the supervisor should confirm and assure compliance with all applicable regulations or statutes.
15. **CPR Resource.** Any strenuous activity or remote trek could present a cardiac emergency. Aquatic programs may involve cardiopulmonary emergencies. BSA strongly recommends that a person (preferably an adult) trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) be part of the leadership for any BSA program. This person should be available for strenuous outdoor activity.
16. **Discipline.** No supervisor is effective if he or she cannot control the activity and individual participants. Youth must respect their leaders and follow their directions.

Reference: The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety,
www.scouting.org/healthandsafety/sweet16.aspx

The online version of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is updated quarterly.
Go to <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>.

Caving

General Policy

Caving can be a hazardous activity when the proper equipment, skills, and judgment are not used. Trips that are led by adults inexperienced in caving and trips containing large numbers of persons compound the hazards already inherent in the activity and create a potentially dangerous situation.

For more information on caving policies, go to www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/19-102B.pdf.

Climbing and Rappelling

The requirements applicable to climbing and rappelling listed in *National Camp Standards*, No. 430-056, apply to district and council activities.

- Climbing activities in which the participant's feet are more than 6 feet off the ground must be top-rope belayed.
- All rappelling activities must be properly belayed (see NCAP standard PS-206).

Climb On Safely (see www.scouting.org/outdoorprogram/COPE) applies to climbing activities operated by a unit.

- BSA units conducting their own climbing activities must follow the requirements set forth in Climb On Safely.
- Leaders who supervise unit climbing activities must have current Climb On Safely training (available at MyScouting.org).

Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts can do the following:

- Participate in bouldering (climbing on boulders or bouldering walls) no higher than the climber's shoulder height with adults (or camp staff with adult supervision) who are trained to provide spotting for bouldering activities.
- Climb in a climbing gym or using a portable wall or other age-appropriate facility with trained adult belayers, adult supervision, and age-appropriate instruction and equipment.

In addition, Webelos Scouts can:

- Rappel with a trained adult belayer and backup.

In addition, Boy Scouts can:

- Belay with supervision and a backup.
- Climb on natural rock.

In addition, older Boy Scouts (age 13 and older), Varsity Scouts, and Venturers may participate in lead climbing, snow and ice climbing, canyoneering, and caving subject to the following:

- All participants must be at least 13 years old.
- Qualified instructors must have training from a nationally recognized organization that trains climbing instructors in the appropriate special activity. **Note:** BSA National Camping School does not train climbing directors and instructors in lead climbing, snow and ice climbing, canyoneering, or caving.
- Lead climbing without a top-rope belay is prohibited as part of a council or district activity.
- Units may conduct activities involving lead climbing with adult supervision and qualified instructors.

References: *Climb On Safely*, No. 430-099, and
Belay On, No. 430-500

COPE Activities

Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE) activities are defined as low or high challenge course activities, including but not limited to those listed in Chapter 20: Low-Course Activities or Chapter 21: High-Course Activities in *Belay On*, No. 430-500 (see www.scouting.org/outdoorprogram). They are to be used only in conjunction with council or district activities that meet the current National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP) standards.

Units may participate in age-appropriate initiative games. These are group challenge activities that do not involve constructed facilities, such as Blind Square, Couples Tag, Hoops Around the Circle, and Traffic Jam. See Chapter 3: Warm-Ups and Initiative Games in *Belay On*. Units shall not construct low- or high-course elements, including zip lines.

Individual participation is based on the judgment of the COPE director or Level II instructor for facilities operated by districts and councils, and jointly by the facility operator/owner and unit leader for commercial facilities. Cub Scout units may not participate in COPE, zip line, canopy tour, or aerial adventure park activities unless those activities are specifically designed for Cub Scout-age youth participation, such as climbing facilities or obstacle courses. Refer to the age-appropriate guidelines chart in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

Zip Lines, Canopy Tours, and Aerial Adventure Parks

Commercial adventure facilities are becoming more popular as activity destinations for BSA units. There also has been an increase in incidents, some of

them serious. For this reason, special care should be taken before participating in these activities.

Members of Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout teams, Sea Scout ships, and Venturing crews may conduct unit outings involving zip line, canopy tour, and aerial adventure park activities when such facilities are operated according to Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) or American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) operating standards. Unit leaders shall verify current compliance to these standards with facility operators/owners prior to scheduling the activity. Councils with COPE or climbing programs have access to the ACCT standards, and the local council COPE and climbing committee can assist unit leaders in evaluating such facilities. Councils that do not have COPE or climbing programs should contact their COPE and climbing area advocate for this information.

Unit leaders shall verify that the operators of commercial facilities will comply with the following BSA NCAP standards from PS-206.C:

8. Measures are in place to provide for the safety of everyone at the program site, including observers. Everyone must be belayed or anchored when within 8 feet of an edge where a fall of more than 6 feet could occur.
9. A consistent process is used by all COPE and climbing staff to ensure that clothing, head protection, environment, connections, and knots are double-checked in any belayed events for staff members and participants.

Use of COPE Activities and Initiative Games in Training and Other Events

Use of low or high COPE activities in council or district training or other programs shall comply with NCAP standards.

Many training programs, such as Wood Badge, NYLT, and unit leader training, have adopted initiative games in their curriculum to strengthen group experiences. This can be a valuable addition to the training curriculum or activity when handled properly. Course and activity directors should make certain that the following important concerns are addressed:

- **Proper supervision.** Participants should be properly supervised during an activity to make sure they are following safety procedures throughout the activity. Activity areas/facilities should be monitored or disabled when not in use so that participants do not utilize them on their own without proper supervision.
- **Discipline.** Leaders should determine that participants have sufficient maturity and self-control to participate in the activities that are planned.
- **Trained instructors.** All activity instructors/leaders must be properly trained to operate whatever initiative games they use in a safe and effective manner.

The council COPE and climbing committee is an excellent resource to assist with obtaining proper training to operate the activities safely and effectively

Slacklining

Slacklining is an adventure program growing in popularity. As with any activity involving height and motion, there is risk involved. Before units, districts, or councils decide to promote or host slacklining activities and other adventure sports, they must follow the Sweet 16 of BSA Safety and submit a tour and activity plan for council review with a description that includes the slacklining activity.

Staff members for these types of events are responsible for learning proper setup, operational guidelines, and safety techniques. Equipment used for these activities must be designed for the adventure sport industry and will be exposed to extreme forces. Therefore, it should not be used for other purposes. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Fall precautions should include spotters or crash pads. Stepping off the line safely is recommended when a participant feels he or she is about to fall. Trees used for anchors should be protected from damage and be at least 8 inches in diameter. The line should never be more than 3 feet high. Never allow more than one participant on the line at a time. Acrobatics (any time your head is lower than your torso) are prohibited.

Unauthorized and Restricted Activities

The following activities have been declared unauthorized and restricted by the Boy Scouts of America:

1. All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are banned from program use. The exception is council-approved ATV programs. They are not approved for unit use. ATVs are defined as motorized recreational cycles with three or four large, soft tires, designed for off-road use on a variety of terrains.
2. Boxing, karate, and related martial arts—except judo, aikido, and Tai Chi—are not authorized activities.
3. Chainsaws and mechanical log splitters may be authorized for use only by trained individuals over the age of 18, using proper protective gear in accordance with local laws.
4. Exploration of abandoned mines is an unauthorized activity.
5. Varsity football teams and interscholastic or club football competition and activities are unauthorized activities.
6. Fireworks secured, used, or displayed in conjunction with program and activities is unauthorized except where the fireworks display is conducted under the auspices of a certified or licensed fireworks control expert.

7. The selling of fireworks as a fund-raising or money-earning activity by any group acting for or on behalf of members, units, or districts may not be authorized by councils.
8. Flying in hang gliders, ultralights, experimental aircraft, or hot-air balloons (nontethered); parachuting; and flying in aircraft as part of a search and rescue mission are unauthorized activities. Tethered hot-air balloon flights are authorized, and a flying plan must be submitted.
9. Motorized go-carts and motorbike activities are unauthorized for Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs. Go-carting conducted at a commercial facility that provides equipment and supervision of cart operation is authorized upon submittal of a completed tour and activity plan. Participating in motorized speed events, including motorcycles, boats, drag racing, demolition derbies, and related events are not authorized activities for any program level.
10. Participation in amateur or professional rodeo events and council or district sponsorship of rodeos are not authorized.
11. Pointing any type of firearm or simulated firearm at any individual is unauthorized. Scout units may plan or participate in paintball, laser tag or similar events where participants shoot at targets that are neither living nor human representations. Units with council approval may participate in formally organized historical reenactment events, where firearms are used and intentionally aimed over the heads of the reenactment participants. The use of paintball guns, laser guns or similar devices may be utilized in target shooting events with council approval and following the Sweet 16 of BSA Safety. Council approval means the approval of the Scout Executive or his designee on a tour permit specifically outlining details of the event. (However, law enforcement departments and agencies using firearms in standard officer/agent training may use their training agenda when accompanied with appropriate safety equipment in the Law Enforcement Exploring program.)
12. Hunting is not an authorized Cub Scout or Boy Scout activity, although hunting safety is part of the program curriculum.

(The purpose of this policy is to restrict chartered packs, troops, and teams from conducting hunting trips. However, this policy does not restrict Venturing crews from conducting hunting trips or special adult hunting expeditions provided that adequate safety procedures are followed and that all participants have obtained necessary permits and/or licenses from either state or federal agencies. While hunter safety education might not be required prior to obtaining a hunting license, successful completion of the respective state voluntary program is required before participating in the activity.)

13. Motorized personal watercraft (PWC), such as Jet-Skis®, are not authorized for use in Scouting aquatics, and their use should not be permitted in or near

BSA program areas. The exception is council-approved PWC programs. They are not approved for unit use.

14. Except for law enforcement officers required to carry firearms within their jurisdiction, firearms shall not be brought on camping, hiking, backpacking, or other Scouting activities except those specifically planned for target shooting under the supervision of a currently certified BSA national shooting sports director or National Rifle Association firearms instructor.
15. Parasailing, or any activity in which a person is carried aloft by a parachute, parasail, kite, or other device towed by a motorboat, including a tube, or by any other means, is unauthorized.
16. All activities related to bungee cord jumping (sometimes called shock cord jumping) are unauthorized.
17. Technical tree-climbing with ropes or harnesses is not authorized as an activity.
18. Water chugging and related activities are not authorized for any program level.

Knives

A sharp pocketknife with a can opener on it is an invaluable backcountry tool. Keep it clean, sharp, and handy. Avoid large sheath knives. They are heavy and awkward to carry, and unnecessary for most camp chores except for cleaning fish. Since its inception, Boy Scouting has relied heavily on an outdoor program to achieve its objectives. This program meets more of the purposes of Scouting than any other single feature. We believe we have a duty to instill in our members, youth and adult, the knowledge of how to use, handle, and store legally owned knives with the highest concern for safety and responsibility.

Remember—knives are not allowed on school premises, nor can they be taken aboard commercial aircraft.

References: *Boy Scout Handbook*, *Fieldbook*,
Bear Handbook, and *Wolf Handbook*

Parade Floats and Hayrides

The BSA rule prohibiting the transportation of passengers in the backs of trucks or on trailers may be tempered for parade floats or hayrides, provided that the following points are strictly followed to prevent injuries:

1. Transportation to and from the parade or hayride site is not allowed on the truck or trailer.
2. Those persons riding, whether seated or standing, must be able to hold on to something stationary.
3. Legs should not hang over the side.

The online version of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is updated quarterly.
Go to <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>.

4. Flashing lights must illuminate a vehicle used for a hayride after dark, or the vehicle must be followed by a vehicle with flashing lights.

Unit Fundraisers

Include these safety considerations when planning a unit fundraiser:

1. Money-earning projects should be suited to the ages and abilities of youth participants.
2. Proper adult supervision should be provided.
3. Youth should engage in money-earning projects only in neighborhoods that are safe and familiar and should use the buddy system.
4. Leaders must train youth members to never enter the home of a stranger and to know whom to contact in case of an emergency.
5. Youth participants should be familiar with safe pedestrian practices and participate during daylight hours only.
6. Compliance requirements:
 - a. Check local statutes regarding solicitation rules and permits.
 - b. A Unit Money-Earning Application must be obtained from the local council service center.

Tractor Safety

1. All farm-class tractors used by BSA members or employees in conjunction with any BSA activity or on BSA property must be equipped with seat belts and rollover protection (rollbars, reinforced cab, or equivalent protection).
2. No BSA member or employee may operate a farm-class tractor in conjunction with any BSA activity or on BSA property unless such member or employee is at least 18 years of age and has completed BSA National Camping School ranger certification, or has been specifically trained in operations and safety procedures for tractors and their attached implements by a currently certified ranger, and is directly supervised by a currently certified ranger.

Bicycle Safety

Bicycle riding is fun, healthy and a great way to be independent. But it is important to remember that a bicycle is not a toy; it's a vehicle! Be cool—follow these basic safety tips when you ride.

- **Sweet 16 of BSA Safety.** As with all Scouting activities, these principles should be applied in your cycling event.
- **Wear a properly fitted helmet.** Protect your brain; save your life! Bicycle helmets can reduce head injuries by 85 percent, according to the NHTSA.
- **Adjust your bicycle to fit.** Make sure you can stand over the top tube of your bicycle.
- **Assure bicycle readiness.** Make sure all parts are secure and working well. Assure that tires are fully inflated and brakes are working properly.
- **See and be seen.** Wear clothing that makes you more visible, such as bright neon or fluorescent colors. Wear reflective clothing or tape. **Avoid riding at night.**
- **Watch for and avoid road hazards.** Stay alert at all times. Be on the lookout for hazards, such as potholes, broken glass, gravel, puddles, leaves, animals, or anything that could cause you to crash. If you are riding with friends and you are in the lead, call out and point to the hazard to alert the riders behind you.
- **Follow the rules of the road.** Check and obey all local traffic laws. Always ride on the right side of the road in the same direction as other vehicles. Go with the flow—not against it! Yield to traffic and watch for parked cars.

For more information on bicycle safety, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) website at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

Skating Safety

Skating, which includes ice skating, skateboarding, roller-skating, and in-line skating (rollerblading), is fun and healthy. But it is important to remember the safety concerns, primarily risks of falls and collisions, while participating in any of these skating activities. These safety tips emphasize prevention, and are meant to cover all BSA skating programs.

- **Sweet 16 of BSA Safety.** As with all Scouting activities, these principles should be applied in your skating event.
- **Always skate within your ability.** If you don't know how to skate, seek instruction. If you haven't skated in awhile, take it slow and easy. Don't try to skate too fast or do fancy tricks. Know how to stop safely.
- **Skate at a safe and comfortable speed.** Avoid dangerous pranks.
- **Watch where you skate!** When skating indoors, keep in mind that others have varying abilities of expertise. Skating into people can cause serious injury.
- **Racing, hockey, or similar activities** are to be held only in areas free of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and hazardous objects. No skating activity is authorized on streets that have not been blocked off to traffic.

- **Skate on a smooth surface or terrain.** A skating center is best because the surface is well maintained. When you skate outdoors, check the surface. Any small rock, pothole, or crack could cause you to lose your balance and fall. Iced surfaces should be rigid and completely frozen.
- **Do not skate at night.** Others can't see you and you can't see obstacles or other skaters.
- **Wear full protective gear (helmets, knee and elbow pads, and wrist protectors) when skating outdoors.** The gear is optional when skating indoors at a skating center as risk of injury is reduced when the skating surface is smooth and well maintained, and discipline is enforced. Protect your brain; save your life! Helmets can reduce head injuries by 85 percent, according to the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). Visit their website at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.
- **Wear properly fitting equipment and assure equipment readiness.** Make sure all parts are secure and working well. Before permitting equipment to be used in a BSA activity, the supervisor should determine that all skates and/or skateboards are well maintained and in good repair, consistent with the manufacturer's recommendation. Actual maintenance and repair are the responsibility of the owner.
- **See and be seen.** Wear clothing that makes you more visible, such as bright neon or fluorescent colors. Wear reflective clothing or tape. **Avoid skating at night.**
- **Watch for and avoid road hazards. Stay alert at all times.** Be on the lookout for hazards, such as potholes, broken glass, gravel, puddles, leaves, animals or anything that could cause you to crash. If you are skating with friends and you are in the lead, call out and point to the hazard to alert the skaters behind you.
- **Follow the rules of the road. Check and obey all local traffic laws.** Yield to traffic and watch for parked cars. NEVER "hitch a ride" on any vehicle.

For more information, go to www.safekids.org/safetytips.

Horsemanship Activities

Horsemanship activities in Scouting include merit badge activities, arena rides, multi-day trips (including treks and cavalcades), and Cub Scouting familiarization rides.

Each sponsoring council should take care to design age- and activity-appropriate procedures and guidelines for each particular equine activity. **Policies and procedures should include routine horse care, participant guidelines, staff policies, and emergency plans.**

Requirements must also be met if the horseback riding program is provided by or at an off-site facility. The council must enter a contractual agreement as outlined in the resident camp standards.

For more information, see the following websites:

www.acacamps.org/members/knowledge/risk/cm/cm003corrall.php,
www.cha-ahse.org, and www.arkagency-naha.com/naha/index.html.

IX. Inspections

Meeting Room

Periodically, once or twice a year, the unit meeting place should be inspected for health and safety hazards. The Meeting Place Inspection checklist is included in the appendix.

References: *Troop Committee Guidebook*, No. 34505,
and *Cub Scout Leader Book*, No. 33221

Motor Vehicles

Motor vehicles transporting passengers or carrying equipment should meet state inspection standards, if applicable, or use the vehicle checklist included in the appendix as a guide.

Unit Camping

Essentially, three occasions in unit camping require inspection: (1) after camp is set up, (2) after camp is taken down, and (3) periodically between. Your main interest in these inspections is to ensure a safe, livable camp and an unblemished site after you leave.

References: *Scoutmaster Handbook*, No. 33009

Boats

Upon request, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct a Courtesy Marine Examination. The officer will analyze the vessel and advise you of any deficiencies within state or federal regulations.

References: *Handbook for Skippers* and
Safe Boating Instructor's Guide

X. Insurance

Consider the possibility that an accident could occur involving your unit. Take proper steps in advance, not only to eliminate potential hazards, but to fully protect yourself and others responsible for the outing. An adequate emergency fund will cover minor emergencies. A review of the DVD, *Scouting Safety Begins With Leadership*, No. 19-201, will prepare you for the potential hazards faced during outdoor activities.

Comprehensive General Liability Insurance

This coverage provides primary general liability coverage for registered volunteer Scouters with respect to claims arising out of an official Scouting activity. This coverage responds to allegations of negligent actions by third parties that result in personal injury or property damage claims that are made and provides protection for Scouting units, volunteer Scouts, and chartered organizations.

Registered volunteers are provided primary coverage through the BSA general liability program, but not for vehicle or maritime (watercraft) liability, which is only on an excess basis; the owner's vehicle or maritime (watercraft) liability is primary. This insurance is available only while the vehicle or watercraft is in the actual use of a Scouting unit and being used for a Scouting purpose.

The insurance provided to unregistered Scouting volunteers through the general liability insurance program is excess over any other insurance the volunteer might have to his or her benefit, usually a homeowners, personal liability, or auto liability policy.

The general liability policy does not provide indemnification or defense coverage to those individuals who commit intentional and/or criminal acts. The Boy Scouts of America does not have an insurance policy that provides defense for situations involving allegations of intentional and/or criminal acts.

Automobile Liability Insurance

All vehicles **MUST** be covered by a liability insurance policy. The amount of this coverage must meet or exceed the insurance requirement of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. (It is recommended, however, that coverage limits are at least \$100,000 combined single limit.) Any vehicle carrying 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$500,000 single limit. In the case of rented vehicles, coverage limit requirements can be met by combining the limits of personal coverage carried by the driver with coverage carried by the owner of the rented vehicle. All vehicles used in travel outside the United States must carry a liability insurance policy that complies with or exceeds the requirements of that country.

The online version of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is updated quarterly.
Go to <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>.

Chartered Organizations for Scouting Units

The general liability policy provides primary liability insurance coverage for all chartered organizations on file with the BSA for liability arising out of their chartering a traditional Scouting unit. Automobile and maritime liability coverage is provided on a secondary or excess basis. All vehicles used in Scouting activities must be covered by automobile liability insurance with limits that meet or exceed the requirements of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. All boats/vessels used in Scouting must be insured by the owner for liability exposures. The amount of coverage is determined by the size and usage of the boat; \$1 million is recommended.

Chartered organizations do not need a certificate of insurance. The chartered organization endorsement is a part of the insurance policy contract and is enforceable under the policy contract.

Accident and Sickness Coverage

(Optional coverage for council or units)

Accident and sickness insurance (also known as accident and health insurance) coverage for Scouts and Scouters furnishes medical reimbursement in case of death, accident, or sickness within the policy amounts. Information regarding unit accident coverage is available through the local council. **The coverage provided has maximum limits it pays and a maximum benefit period, usually 52 weeks from the date of the incident.**

Coverage is excess of all other insurance or health care plans in force. This policy is excess to any and all other available sources of medical insurance or other health care benefits.

All registered youth and seasonal staff are eligible, as well as registered leaders and volunteer leaders.

In conclusion, **the coverage provided has maximum limits it pays, and a maximum benefit period, usually 52 weeks from the date of the incident.** The plans do not “take care of everything.” Claims should be filed with the accident and sickness carrier as soon as possible along with any other source of medical insurance or other health care benefits.

Accident and sickness plans and insurance companies have specific procedures for processing claims. Volunteer need to check with their local council to verify which plan/policy their council provides or is available.

Coverage for Non-Owned Boats Used in Scouting Activities

- Only general liability insurance coverage is available; no hull damage insurance is provided.
- Owners (chartered organizations or others) must carry their own liability coverage. Boats under 26 feet and donated for use in Scouting activities need to have at least \$300,000 in coverage. Boats 26 feet and over should have \$500,000 in coverage. Risk Management will provide certificates of insurance up to \$2 million. The BSA's coverage is excess of the liability coverage (\$300,000 or \$500,000) carried by the owner.
- The following are examples of watercraft/boats that need not be insured by the chartered organization and others if they are to be used in an official Scouting activity: canoes, kayaks, rafts, catamarans, and sailboats (under 26 feet). However, if these watercraft are to be used for non-Scouting activities, the chartered organization or others should provide liability insurance as there is no liability coverage for chartering organizations or others for non-Scouting activities.
- Watercraft owned by local councils, chartered organizations, and others should be licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard, and the operator should be licensed if required.

Unauthorized and Restricted Activities

The Boy Scouts of America's general liability policy provides coverage for a bodily injury or property damage claim that is made and arises out of an official Scouting activity. The *Guide to Safe Scouting* contains a listing of unauthorized and restricted activities. Unauthorized activities are not considered official Scouting activities.

Volunteers (registered and unregistered), units, chartered organizations, and local councils are jeopardizing insurance coverage for themselves and their organization by engaging in unauthorized activities. **Please do not put yourself at risk.**

XI. Transportation

Established public carriers—trains, buses, and commercial airlines—are the safest and most comfortable way for groups to travel. Chartered buses usually are the most economical transportation for groups of 20 or more. It may be necessary for small groups to travel in private automobiles, SUVs, and vans; however, the use of chartered equipment from established rail, bus, and airline companies is strongly recommended. The advantages are many. These companies have excellent safety records because of their periodic inspections and approved health and safety procedures.

References: *Cub Scout Leader Book*, *Scoutmaster Handbook*, *Troop Committee Guidebook*, and *Exploring Reference Book*

Automobiles, SUVs, and Vans

It is essential that adequate, safe, and responsible transportation be used for all Scouting activities. Because most accidents occur within a short distance from home, safety precautions are necessary, even on short trips.

Effective September 1, 2015, the use of 15-passenger vans manufactured before 2005 will no longer be allowed in connection with Scouting programs and activities. Any 2005 or later 15-passenger vans may be used if equipped with Electronic Stability Control and seat belts for all passengers including the driver. This applies to all vehicles, regardless of ownership.

This prohibition must be effectively communicated to all unit leaders and chartered organization representatives in a manner that ensures it is received and understood. The use of pre-2005 15-passenger vans could result in there being no BSA GLIP insurance coverage available in the event of an accident.

General guidelines are as follows:

1. Seat belts are required for all occupants.
2. All drivers must have a valid driver's license that has not been suspended or revoked for any reason. If the vehicle to be used is designed to carry more than 15 people, including the driver (more than 10 people, including the driver, in California), the driver must have a commercial driver's license (CDL).
3. The drivers must be currently licensed and at least 18 years of age. Youth member exception: When traveling to and from an area, regional, or national Boy Scout activity or any Venturing event under the leadership of an adult (at least 21 years of age) tour leader, a youth member at least 16 years of age may be a driver, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Six months' driving experience as a licensed driver (time on a learner's permit or equivalent is not to be counted)

The online version of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is updated quarterly.
Go to <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>.

- b. No record of accidents or moving violations
 - c. Parental permission granted to the leader, driver, and riders
4. Trucks may not be used for transporting passengers except in the cab.
 5. All vehicles must be covered by automobile liability insurance with limits that meet or exceed requirements of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. It is recommended that coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000. Any vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$100,000/\$500,000/\$100,000.
 6. Obey all laws, including the speed limit.
 7. Driving time is limited to a maximum of 10 hours in one 24-hour period regardless of the number of drivers available. Driving time must be interrupted by frequent rest, food, and/or recreation stops. The intention is to include sleep and thorough rest breaks while traveling long distances. Don't drive while drowsy. Stop for rest and stretch breaks as needed. Fatigue is a major cause of highway accident fatalities.
 8. Drivers must refrain from using hand-held cell phones while driving. Text messaging while driving is prohibited. Hands-free units are acceptable, but must be used sparingly while driving.

The commercial general liability policy is excess over any insurance which may be available to a volunteer for loss arising from ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle while engaged in an Official Scouting Activity. **Scouting youth (under age 18) are not insured under the Boy Scouts of America commercial general liability policy.**

Campers, Trailers, and Trucks

Trucks are designed and constructed to transport materials and equipment, not people. Under no circumstances are passengers to be carried in the bed of or towed behind a pickup truck. Trailers must never be used for carrying passengers.

Use caution in towing trailers or campers, as a vehicle's performance, steering, and braking abilities will be altered. Consider these safety tips:

1. Get the correct trailer for the vehicle and the correct hitch for the trailer. Distribute and anchor the load.
2. Allow extra time to brake. Changing lanes while braking can jackknife the trailer.
3. Add safety equipment as dictated by common sense and state laws (mirrors, lights, safety chains, brakes for heavy trailers, etc.).
4. Park in designated areas.

Buses

A driver of a bus or any vehicle designed to carry more than 15 people (including driver; more than 10 people, including the driver, in California) is required to have a commercial driver's license. A person shall not drive a commercial motor vehicle unless he/she is qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle. Possession of a license, however, does not mean that a person is capable of driving a bus safely. It is essential that unit leaders and volunteers be thoroughly familiar with the bus or vehicle they will be driving, including knowing the location of emergency exits and fire extinguishers and how to operate them. A driver must be prepared to handle and brake a full bus, which weighs significantly more than an empty bus. Other safety tips are:

1. Regular and thorough maintenance program
2. No more passengers than there are seating locations
3. Luggage and equipment fastened securely to prevent being thrown around in case of sudden stop
4. Emergency exits clear of people or things
5. Pretrip inspection of critical systems (signals, fuel, tires, windshield wipers, horn, etc.)

The safety rules for automobiles apply to bus travel, with the exception of seat belts. In special cases, chartered buses may travel more than nine hours a day. On certain occasions, night travel by public carrier bus is appropriate—it should be considered permissible when conditions are such that rest and sleep for passengers are possible with a reasonable degree of comfort. However, night travel on buses should not be planned for two successive nights.

Commercial Driver's License Compliance

Most Scouting drivers fall into a category of nonbusiness PMCPs. Nonbusiness private motor carrier of passengers (PMCPs) provide private, interstate transportation that is not in the furtherance of a commercial enterprise. However, nonbusiness PMCPs are required to have a current commercial motor vehicle driver's license.

A private motor carrier of passengers does not offer transportation services for hire, but (a) transports passengers in interstate (some state regulations apply to intrastate) commerce; and (b) uses a vehicle designed to carry more than 15 passengers, which includes the driver, or a vehicle that has a gross vehicular weight greater than 10,000 pounds.

Two such examples that would be considered a PMCP are:

- Scouting units that use vehicles designed to carry more than 15 passengers, such as buses. The driver, in this case, is often a volunteer driver of a "Scout

bus” that is owned or leased. This category is referred to as nonbusiness private motor carrier of passengers and is probably the most frequent Scouting usage subject to the requirements of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

- Councils that operate camps and include transportation fees in their program are subject to the rule when using buses or other vehicles designed to carry more than 15 passengers or that have a gross vehicular weight of more than 10,000 pounds.

All vehicle operators who are required to have a commercial driver’s license are subject to drug and alcohol testing. There are no exemptions within the nonbusiness private motor carrier of passengers category, which includes Scouting volunteer drivers. Local councils should establish guidelines for volunteer drivers based on the requirements of the state where they are located.

The U.S. Department of Transportation number is required if you are an interstate PMCP, regardless of business or nonbusiness state. To obtain a USDOT number, complete the form found at www.safer.fmcsa.dot.gov.

For-Hire Motor Carriers of Passengers (Charter Buses)

There are licensing and insurance requirements for for-hire motor carrier of passengers operating commercial motor vehicles in interstate commerce. These requirements are outlined by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), part of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The insurance guidelines established a minimum level of financial responsibility. For vehicles designed or used to transport 16 or more passengers (including the driver), \$5 million of insurance is required. For vehicles designed or used to transport nine to 15 passengers (including the driver), \$1.5 million of insurance is required.

The FMCSA provides information about carriers online. The system is called SAFER and is part of the Motor Carrier Analysis and Information Resources. SAFER combines current and historical carrier-based safety performance information to measure the relative (peer-to-peer) safety fitness of interstate commercial motor carriers and intrastate commercial motor carriers that transport hazardous materials. This information includes federal and state data on crashes, roadside inspections, on-site compliance review results, and enforcement history. To check the records of a for-hire motor carrier of passengers, go to: www.safersys.org/companysnapshot.aspx.

XII. Winter Activities

Winter Camping Safety

There is magic to camping in winter. It is one of the most challenging of outdoor adventures. The Boy Scouts of America operates the National Cold-Weather Camping Development Center at Northern Tier through the Okpik program. Visit www.ntier.org for comprehensive winter camping preparation information. Special considerations for winter camping are:

1. **Qualified Supervision.** It is vital that a leader be an experienced winter camper with strong character and common sense.
2. **Equipment.** Be completely outfitted for cold weather. Equipment should be checked to ensure good condition for the activity and proper maintenance while in use. Scouts should be adequately clothed, and blankets should be a suitable quality and weight.

TIP: Use alkaline batteries in flashlights, as standard batteries deteriorate quickly in cold weather.

TIP: Encourage youths to wear brightly colored clothing so they are more visible during severe weather.

3. **Physical Fitness.** Scouts should be suitably fit for the activity. Periodic rests while building snow caves and engaging in other strenuous cold-weather activities will help prevent accidents and overheating.

TIP: Pulling a load over snow on a sled or toboggan is generally easier than carrying a backpack.

4. **Buddy System.** Having Scouts paired aids in monitoring each other's physical condition and observation of surroundings and circumstances.
5. **Planning.** Safe activities follow a plan that has been conscientiously developed. In winter, plan to cover no more than 5 miles per day on snowshoes or 10 to 12 miles on cross-country skis. Allow ample time to make it to camp at the end of the day.

TIP: Always bring a bit more food, water, and clothing than what you think you'll need.

6. **Safe Area.** Leaders should determine whether an area for winter camping is well-suited and free of hazards.

TIP: Always test the thickness of ice before venturing any distance from shore. The ice should be at least 3 inches thick for a small group.

TIP: Look for dead branches hanging in the trees overhead.

TIP: Avoid ridge tops and open areas where wind can blow down tents or create drifts.

7. **Weather Check.** Weather conditions, potential hazards, and the appropriate responses should be understood and anticipated. Go to www.scouting.org/training for Hazardous Weather training.
8. **Burning.** Never use flames in tents, teepees, or snow shelters. This includes burning any solid, liquid, gel, or gas fuel; using features of tents or teepees that support stoves or fires; and use of chemical-fueled equipment and catalytic heaters.
9. **Discipline.** Rules are effective only when followed. All participants should know, understand, and respect the rules and procedures for a safe winter camping experience. Applicable rules should be discussed prior to the outing and reviewed for all participants when leaving for the winter campout.

Winter Sports Safety

Beyond camping, a number of cold-weather activities present challenges to the Scout and leader, such as cross-country skiing, ice skating, sledding, snowmobiling, ice fishing, and snowshoeing. Essential ingredients for fun include skill training and an awareness of the hazards unique to these activities. Snow conditions, hazardous terrain, special clothing needs, and emergency survival are important issues for a safe and successful experience.

Be sure your winter outdoor activities always follow these guidelines:

1. All winter activities must be supervised by mature and conscientious adults (at least one of whom must be age 21 or older) who understand and knowingly accept responsibility for the well-being and safety of the youth in their care, who are experienced and qualified in the particular skills and equipment involved in the activity, and who are committed to compliance with the seven points of BSA Winter Sports Safety. Direct supervision should be maintained at all times by two or more adults when Scouts are in the field. The appropriate number of supervisors will increase depending on the number of participants, the type of activity, and environmental conditions.
2. Winter sports activities embody intrinsic hazards that vary from sport to sport. Participants should be aware of the potential hazards of any winter sport before engaging in it. Leaders should emphasize preventing accidents through adherence to safety measures and proper technique.
3. Appropriate personal protective equipment is required for all activities. This includes the recommended use of helmets for all participants engaged in winter sports, such as sledding and riding other sliding devices. The use of helmets is required for the following activities: downhill skiing, snowboarding and operating snowmobiles (requires full face helmets).

4. Winter sports activities often place greater demands on a participant's cardiopulmonary system, and people with underlying medical conditions (especially if the heart or lungs are involved) should not participate without medical consultation and direction. For participants without underlying medical conditions, the annual health history and physical examination by a licensed health-care practitioner every year is sufficient. The adult leader should be familiar with the physical circumstances of each youth participant and make appropriate adjustments to the activity or provide protection as warranted by individual health or physical conditions. Adults participating in strenuous outdoor winter activity should have an annual physical examination. It is recommended that the medical assessment be performed by a licensed health-care practitioner knowledgeable of the sport and the particular physical demands the activity will place on the individual.
5. For winter sports such as skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, etc., that utilize specialized equipment, it is essential that all equipment fit and function properly.
6. When youth are engaging in downhill activities such as sledding or tobogganing, minimize the likelihood of collision with immobile obstacles. Use only designated areas where rocks, tree stumps, and other potential obstacles have been identified and marked, cleared away, shielded, or buffered in some way.
7. All participants should know, understand, and respect the rules and procedures for safe winter activity. The applicable rules should be presented and learned before the outing, and all participants should review them just before the activity begins. When Scouts know and understand the reasons for the rules, they will observe them. When fairly and impartially applied, rules do not interfere with fun. Rules for safety, plus common sense and good judgment, keep the fun from being interrupted by tragedy.

XIII. Animal and Insect Hazards

Hantavirus

Hantavirus is a deadly virus that was first recognized as a unique health hazard in 1993. There are four different strains of hantavirus, and cases have been reported in 30 different states. The virus is most active when the temperature is between 45 and 72 degrees.

Hantavirus is spread through the urine and feces of infected rodents. It is an airborne virus. A person is infected by breathing in particles released into the air when infected rodents, their nests, or their droppings are disturbed. This can happen when a person is handling rodents, disturbing rodent nests or burrows, cleaning buildings where rodents have made a home, or working outdoors. The virus will die quickly when exposed to sunlight.

Symptoms of hantavirus include fever, chills, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and a dry, nonproductive cough. If you suspect that someone has been infected, consult a physician immediately.

Rabies Prevention

Rabies has become increasingly prevalent in the United States in recent years, with more than 7,000 animals, most of which are wild, found to have the disease each year, according to statistics released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This viral infection is often found in bats, foxes, raccoons, and skunks. Rabies can be transmitted by warm-blooded animals, including domestic dogs and cats.

Although rabies in humans is rare in the United States, the CDC reports that more than 22,000 people in this country require vaccination each year after being exposed to rabid or potentially rabid animals. States with the highest number of reported cases include New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, New Mexico, Texas, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Maryland, and parts of northern California.

Scout leaders can help prevent possible exposure to rabies by reminding Scouts to steer clear of wild animals and domestic animals that they don't know. If someone is scratched or bitten by a potentially rabid animal, Scout leaders should:

- Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water.
- Call a doctor or a hospital emergency room.
- Get a description of the animal.
- Notify the local animal control office, police department, or board of health.

Lyme Disease

Ticks can be a problem in wooded areas and campsites, and they can be carriers of Lyme disease. The disease is transmitted when a blood-sucking tick attaches itself to and feeds on its victim. Ticks frequently imbed themselves in hair or around the belt line or ankles; they are visible, crablike insects.

A red ringlike rash might appear around the bite. A victim might feel lethargic and have flulike symptoms, fever, a sore throat, and muscle aches. Anyone experiencing these symptoms in the days and weeks following a trek adventure, especially activities in areas where ticks are known to carry Lyme disease, should be checked by a physician.

West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus (WNV) develops in humans from infected mosquito bites. Birds act as an intermediate host, forming a reservoir of infection. Migrating birds introduce the WNV into local ecosystems, where it may then continue to reside in wintering species of mosquitoes in some areas of the country, or be reintroduced to new hatches of mosquitoes in the spring.

For every five humans infected with the virus, one has a mild, febrile illness lasting 3 to 6 days, while approximately one in 150 infected persons develops meningitis or encephalitis. The incubation period ranges from 2 to 14 days. Mild illness may include lethargy, eye pain, nausea, cramping and a rash. Severe muscle weakness is also frequently a symptom.

The basis of preventing WNV in Scouts, Scouters, and camp staff is a two-pronged program directed at mosquito reduction and personal protection. By far the most important aspect is personal protection. The Department of Defense system of personal protection consists of treating clothing with 0.5 percent permethrin and treating exposed body surface areas with DEET. Properly used, this combination can reduce the incidence of mosquito bites by virtually 100 percent.

A 111-page document prepared by the Centers for Disease Control that discusses WNV prevention strategies can be downloaded in Adobe Acrobat format at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile.

XIV. Incident Reporting

This chapter provides volunteers and professional staff guidance on documenting and reporting incidents, injuries, and illnesses that occur during Scouting activities.

BSA Incident Reporting Policy

The Boy Scouts of America provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness. A key responsibility that we all share is providing an effective program that meets the needs of young people and provides the proper health and safety of everyone concerned.

It is important that we sustain the safe operation of our programs and promote continuous improvement through organizational learning. Timely and complete incident reports support analysis that is critical to identifying needed improvement of the programs offered by the Boy Scouts of America.

What Is an Incident?

Loosely defined, an incident is any unplanned event that results in harm to an individual, property, or the environment.

Why Report an Incident?

The information reported from incidents is valuable in preventing the reoccurrence of similar incidents. Reporting incidents promptly is also critical so we can respond to incidents in an appropriate manner, and it helps us properly manage any potential claims.

How Do I Report an Incident?

Reporting requirements are based on the severity of the incident. Please see the Incident Descriptions and Reporting Instructions page in the appendix.

Report Writing Tips

It is imperative that you fill out any incident reports as thoroughly as possible. This will help bring clarity to the situation and avoid unnecessary calls or emails for additional information. Photographs of the site, facilities, vehicles, or equipment can add value to the report. The following examples demonstrate a good, better, and best approach to incident reporting. Remember to include only pertinent facts about the incident. Do not assign blame or include personal opinions or recommendations.

Good: At summer camp, a Scout was playing a game and fell, twisting his ankle. He was sent off camp for more help.

Better: This August, a Scout was playing tetherball at summer camp, when he fell and broke his ankle. He was sent to the ER and was released.

Best: On August 6, 2012, a Scout was playing a game of tetherball at a Beaver Dam Summer Camp event, when he fell and twisted his left ankle. The Scout was initially treated by other Scouts and the health lodge, but further treatment was needed. The Scout was diagnosed with a high ankle fracture, was treated in an ER, and released later in the day with a restriction to stay off the ankle until he sees his personal physician.

A Scout Is Trustworthy: Be Sure to Report

Remember: ANY incident that requires the intervention of medical personnel, involves emergency responders, or results in a response beyond Scout-rendered first aid must be reported.

Appendix

Annual Motor Vehicle Checklist	86
Meeting Place Inspection Checklist	87
Tour and Activity Plan	89
Flying Plan	91
Unit Money-Earning Application	94
Incident Descriptions and Reporting Instructions	96
Incident Definitions	97
Incident Information Report	98
Service Project Planning Guidelines	100
Age Guidelines for Tool Use and Work at Elevations or Excavations	105
Campout Safety Checklist	108
Event Safety Checklist	110

Annual Motor Vehicle Checklist

Date _____ Unit _____ Den _____ Position _____

Owner's name _____

Address _____

City, state _____ Zip _____

Driver's license no. _____ Renewal date _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Alt. telephone (_____) _____

Insurance company _____ Amount of liability coverage \$ _____

Other drivers of same vehicle (this trip only) and driver's license numbers:

_____, _____

Make and model of vehicle _____ Model year _____

Color _____ License no. _____ Type _____ Current? _____

Basic Safety Check (required)

1. Safety belts for every passenger? _____
2. Safety belts operational? _____
3. Tire tread OK? _____
4. Spare tire present? _____
5. Tire jack present? _____
6. Brakes OK? _____
7. Windshield wipers operate? _____
8. Windshield washer fluid in reservoir? _____
9. Headlights and turn signals operating? _____
10. Mirrors: Rear view _____ Side view _____
11. Exhaust system OK? _____

Additional Safety Check (optional)

1. Flares for emergencies? _____
2. Fire extinguisher? _____
3. Flashlight? _____
4. Tow chain or rope? _____
5. First-aid kit? _____

MEETING PLACE INSPECTION CHECKLIST For Packs, Troops, Teams, and Crews

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Unit No.	_____
Meeting night	_____
Name of organization	_____
Location	_____
District	_____

NOTE TO INSPECTORS: A responsibility of the unit's chartered organization is to provide adequate meeting facilities. Unit committee members should make the inspection. Findings should be shared with the head of the institution, and plans should be made to correct hazards if any are found.

THE BUILDING

Name _____ Address _____

Construction: frame ☐ brick ☐ metal ☐ other _____

Type of roofing: shake ☐ composition ☐ metal ☐ other _____

Type of heating plant: gas ☐ oil ☐ wood ☐ electric ☐ other _____

Meeting room location: basement ☐ ground ☐ above first floor ☐

Telephone location: _____ Accessible yes ☐ no ☐ Emergency numbers posted yes ☐ no ☐

THE ROOM

YES	NO		YES	NO	
_____	_____	Large enough?	_____	_____	Adequate lighting?
_____	_____	Well-heated? (between 62 and 70 degrees)	_____	_____	Hand-washing facility?
_____	_____	Well-ventilated?	_____	_____	Clean toilet facility?
_____	_____	Dry?	_____	_____	Sanitary drinking facility?
_____	_____	Clean?	_____	_____	Emergency flashlights on hand?
_____	_____	Windows in good condition?	_____	_____	First-aid kits on hand?
_____	_____	Floor in good condition?			

EXITS

YES	NO		YES	NO	
_____	_____	Two or more emergency exits available?	_____	_____	Exit signs installed?
_____	_____	Unlocked and easily accessible?	_____	_____	Exit signs lighted?
_____	_____	Sufficiently far apart?	_____	_____	All doors swing out?
_____	_____	Crash bar on doors?			

IF ROOM IS ABOVE FIRST FLOOR:

YES	NO		YES	NO	
_____	_____	Close to stairs (less than 100 feet)?	_____	_____	Carpet or treads secure?
_____	_____	Doors and stairs unobstructed, litter-free?	_____	_____	Stairway enclosed?
_____	_____	Stairs in good repair?	_____	_____	Enclosures fitted with fire doors?
_____	_____	Stair handrail provided?	_____	_____	Outside fire escape installed?
_____	_____	Stairway lighted?	_____	_____	Fire escape in good repair?
_____	_____	Stairs wide enough for two persons?	_____	_____	Fire escape used for fire drills?

FIRE PROTECTION

YES	NO		YES	NO	
_____	_____	Portable extinguisher available and properly located?	_____	_____	Heating system inspected within a year?
		Extinguisher is suitable for the following types of fires:	_____	_____	Walls, ceilings, floors protected from stoves or pipes overheating?
_____	_____	A. Ordinary combustibles	_____	_____	Open fireplaces protected by screens?
_____	_____	B. Flammable liquids	_____	_____	Electric wiring, switches, extension cords in good repair?
_____	_____	C. Electrical equipment	_____	_____	Accessible telephone in building?
_____	_____	Extinguisher ready for use? (should be tagged to show inspection within one year)	_____	_____	Fire department number posted?
_____	_____	Any hazard from rubbish or flammable material?	_____	_____	Location of nearest fire alarm known to all members?
_____	_____	Any hazard from oily rags or mops? (spontaneous combustion)	_____	_____	Alarm procedure taught to members?
_____	_____	Smoke alarm system installed and tested?	_____	_____	

FIRE DRILL

YES	NO		YES	NO	
_____	_____	Has the unit an organization plan for conducting fire drills?	_____	_____	Are members able to evacuate building if filled with smoke or if lights go out?
_____	_____	Is a fire plan posted on the unit bulletin board?	_____	_____	Do training drills include use of alternate exits?
_____	_____	Are fire evacuation drills practiced frequently?	_____	_____	Are members trained in home fire safety plan and exit drill?
_____	_____	Was a drill demonstrated or taught to members at inspection time?			

RECOMMENDATIONS

Write your detailed recommendations below (or on a separate sheet attached to this report). Please note any other conditions that are hazardous to health, personal safety, or fire safety.

INSPECTORS' SIGNATURES

Date of inspection _____ Unit leader in attendance _____ name _____

CHARTERED ORGANIZATION RECORD

Did the chartered organization representative participate in the inspection? Yes ☐ No ☐

Report reviewed by:

Chartered organization representative _____ Head of organization _____ Unit committee _____

Action taken: _____

TOUR AND ACTIVITY PLAN

Date _____

☐ Pack ☐ Troop/team ☐ Crew/Ship ☐ Contingent unit/crew

Unit No. _____ Chartered organization _____

Council name/No. _____ / _____

District _____

Description of tour or activity _____

From (city and state) _____ to _____

Dates _____ to _____ Total days _____

Itinerary: It is required that the following information be provided for *each day* of the tour. (Note: Speed or excessive daily mileage increases the possibility of accidents.) Attach an additional page if more space is required. Include detailed information on campsites, routes, and float plans, and include maps for wilderness travel as required by the local council.

For office use

Tour and activity plan No. _____

Date received _____

Date reviewed _____

Council stamp/signatures

Date	Travel		Mileage	Overnight stopping place (Check if reservations are cleared.)	✓
	From	To			

Type of trip: ☐ Day trip ☐ Short-term camp (less than 72 hours) ☐ Other (OA Weekend, etc.) _____

☐ Long-term camp (longer than 72 hours) ☐ High-adventure activities ☐ High-adventure base _____

Party will consist of (number): _____ Youth—male _____ Youth—female _____ Adults—male _____ Adults—female	Party will travel by (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Bus <input type="checkbox"/> Train <input type="checkbox"/> Plane <input type="checkbox"/> Van <input type="checkbox"/> Boat <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Leadership and Youth Protection Training: Boy Scouts of America policy requires at least two adult leaders on all BSA activities. Coed Venturing crews must have both male and female leaders older than 21 for overnight activities. All registered adults must have completed **BSA Youth Protection training**. At least one registered adult who has completed BSA Youth Protection training must be present at all events and activities. Youth Protection training is valid for two years from the date completed.

Adult leader responsible for this group (must be at least 21 years old):

Name _____ Age _____ Scouting position _____

Address _____ Member No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Youth Protection training date _____

Assistant adult leader name(s) (minimum age 18, or 21 for Venturing crews):

Name _____ Age _____ Scouting position _____

Address _____ Member No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Youth Protection training date _____

Attach a list with additional names and information as outlined above.

- ☐ Our travel equipment will include a first-aid kit and a roadside emergency kit.
- ☐ The group will have in possession an **Annual Health and Medical Record** for every participant.

We certify that appropriate planning has been conducted using the **Sweet 16 of BSA Safety**, qualified and trained supervision is in place, **permissions** are secured, health records have been reviewed, and adult leaders have read and are in possession of a current copy of **Guide to Safe Scouting** and other appropriate resources. Any items needing attention will be resolved before the tour or activity date.

Signature: Committee chair or chartered organization representative

Signature: Adult leader

Unit single point of contact (not on tour)

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____



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Tour involves: ☐ Swimming ☐ Boating ☐ Climbing ☐ Orientation flights (attach **Flying Plan** required)
☐ Wilderness or backcountry (must carry **Wilderness Use Policy** and follow principles of **Leave No Trace**)
☐ Shooting ☐ Other (specify) _____

Activity Standards: Where swimming or boating is included in the program, **Safe Swim Defense** and/or **Safety Afloat** are to be followed. If climbing/rappelling is included, then **Climb On Safely** must be followed. At least one person must be current in CPR/AED from any recognized agency to meet **Safety Afloat** and **Climb On Safely** guidelines. At least one adult on a pack overnighter must have completed **Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO)**. At least one adult must have completed **Planning and Preparing for Hazardous Weather** training for all tours and activities. **Trek Safely** and Basic First Aid are recommended for all tours, and **Wilderness First Aid** is recommended for all backcountry tours.

Expiration date of commitment card/training (two years from completion date)						
Name	Age	Youth Protection	Planning and Preparing for Hazardous Weather	BALOO (no expiration)	Climb On Safely	Safety Afloat

Name	Age	CPR Certification/Agency	CPR Expiration Date	First-Aid Certification/Agency	First Aid Expiration Date

Name	Age	NRA Instructor and/or RSO	
		No. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Rifle <input type="checkbox"/> Shotgun <input type="checkbox"/> Pistol (Venturing only) <input type="checkbox"/> Range Safety Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Muzzle-loading rifle <input type="checkbox"/> Muzzle-loading shotgun
		No. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Rifle <input type="checkbox"/> Shotgun <input type="checkbox"/> Pistol (Venturing only) <input type="checkbox"/> Range Safety Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Muzzle-loading rifle <input type="checkbox"/> Muzzle-loading shotgun

Unauthorized and Restricted Activities: The BSA's general liability insurance policy provides coverage for bodily injury or property damage that arises out of an official Scouting activity as defined by the **Guide to Safe Scouting**. Volunteers, units, chartered organizations, and local councils that engage in unauthorized activities are jeopardizing their insurance coverage. PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOURSELF AT RISK.

INSURANCE
All vehicles MUST be covered by a liability and property damage insurance policy. The amount of this coverage must meet or exceed the insurance requirement of the state in which the vehicle is licensed and comply with or exceed the requirements of the country of destination for travel outside the United States. It is recommended, however, that coverage limits are a \$100,000 combined single limit. Any vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers is required to have a \$500,000 combined single limit. In the case of rented vehicles, the requirement of coverage limits can be met by combining the limits of personal coverage carried by the driver with coverage carried by the owner of the rented vehicle.

If the vehicle to be used is designed to carry more than 15 people (including the driver), the driver must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). In some states (California, for example), this policy applies to drivers of vehicles designed to carry 10 or more people.

All vehicles used in travel outside the United States must carry a public liability and property damage liability insurance policy that complies with or exceeds the requirements of that country. Attach an additional page if more space is required.

Name _____ CDL expires _____

Name _____ CDL expires _____

MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	NUMBER OF SEATBELTS	DRIVER/OWNER	VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE (Y or N)	LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE
						Combined Single Limit

Guide to Tour Planning Principles

680-014
 2011 Printing
 Rev. 12/2011

Boy Scouts of America Flying Plan

This completed application must be submitted with or attached to a tour and activity plan to the council office for review two weeks before the scheduled activity.

Unit No.: _____ City or town: _____ District: _____

Applies for a plan for a ☐ Basic ☐ Advanced orientation ☐ Tethered balloon ☐ Flight on: _____ Date _____

Basic orientation flight. This flight will be within 25 nautical miles of the departure airport, with no stops before returning. The pilot must have at least a private pilot's certificate, at least 250 hours of total flight time, be current under FAR 61 to carry passengers, and have a current medical certificate under FAR 61. *Tigers, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Varsity Scouts are restricted to this type of flight.*

Advanced orientation flight. This flight will be within 50 nautical miles of the departure airport, and the plane may land at other locations before returning. The pilot must have at least a private pilot's certificate and 500 hours of total flight time. The pilot must be current under FAR 61 to carry passengers and have a current medical certificate under FAR 61. *Only Venturers and Venturing leaders may participate in advanced orientation flights.*

Tethered balloon flight. Flights will be conducted in an open area of at least 200 feet by 200 feet clear of obstructions, utility lines, fences, trees, etc. Permission to use the property has been secured. The maximum above ground limit (height) is 70 feet. The flight must occur between sunrise and sunset.

Name of the airport where the flight will originate and terminate: _____

Describe the area where tethered ballooning will occur: _____

Permission from the landowner to go tethered ballooning has been secured. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Total number of participating youth: _____ Total number of participating adults: _____

- ☐ A tour and activity plan is attached to this application.
- ☐ A parent or guardian consent form for each youth participant is attached to this application.
- ☐ All required aircraft, insurance, and pilot documentation is satisfied.

We certify that appropriate planning has been conducted using the Sweet 16 of BSA Safety, qualified trained supervision is in place, permissions are secured, health records have been reviewed, and adult leaders have read and are in possession of a current copy of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and other appropriate resources.

Signature of committee chair or chartered organization representative

Signature of adult leader

For council use only: Complete and return a copy to the unit.

Official Flying Plan—Boy Scouts of America

Tour and activity plan number: _____ Date issued: _____

Council Stamp/Signatures/Reviewer



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Aircraft/Balloon

Owner(s): _____ Date of last annual inspection: _____

Make and model: _____ Number: _____

Standard airworthiness certificate category (normal/utility/etc.): _____

Note: Only aircraft with standard airworthiness certificates may be used for orientation flights. Restricted, limited, light sport, and experimental category airworthiness certificates are not authorized.

Reproduce this page as needed for additional aircraft/pilots.

Insurance

All aircraft owners must have at least \$1 million aircraft liability coverage, including passenger liability with sublimits of no less than \$100,000. List all insurance policies that in combination satisfy the insurance requirement.

Insurance company: _____

Amount: \$ _____ Policy number: _____ Expiration date: _____

Insurance company: _____

Amount: \$ _____ Policy number: _____ Expiration date: _____

Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Young Eagle Flights (ages 8–17): For those EAA members who choose to insure at \$100,000 per passenger seat, the EAA automatically provides an additional \$1 million liability umbrella policy with sublimits of no less than \$100,000. This coverage is in effect only while participating in Young Eagle Flights. The EAA's insurance telephone number is 800-236-4800, ext. 6106.

EAA member number: _____. We strongly recommend that all orientation flights be conducted in collaboration with local EAA chapter Young Eagle Flights. To find a local chapter, visit www.eaa.org/chapters/locator.

Pilot-In-Command

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Type of pilot certificate: _____ (Attach a copy of current pilot certificate. Balloon pilots must hold a commercial certification.)

Ratings: _____

Pilot medical certificate: ☐ First ☐ Second ☐ Third class (Attach a copy of current medical certificate. Applicable to ALL flights.)

Medical valid until: _____ (date)

Limitations: _____

Pilot's total number of flight hours: _____ (250 hours minimum for basic orientation flights; 500 hours minimum for advanced orientation flights)

Balloon pilot's total number of flight hours: _____ (100 hours minimum)



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680-672
Rev. 4/2015

Notes and FAQs for Completing Flying Plan

Tour Leader

You are responsible for completing the tour and activity plan and this application as required by the local council, obtaining parental consent for all participants, and gathering required insurance information and support material from the aircraft owner and pilot. Tour leaders are responsible for obtaining approval by unit leadership. Tour leaders must submit completed applications to the council at least two weeks in advance of the activity. Councils may require additional time for special activities, and unit leaders completing this application should plan accordingly.

Pilot, Aircraft Owner, and Insurance Information

Attach additional copies of this information for each aircraft or balloon that will be used, each pilot-in-command, and applicable insurance information. Pilot information must include copies of the pilot's current certificate and medical certificate.

Parents/Guardians

A consent form, No. 680-673, for each participant under 21 years of age must be completed by the youth's parent or guardian.

Local Council Office Checklist

Review that all requested information (listed below) has been provided on the application. Affix the council stamp at the bottom of page 1, and return a copy of all pages to the unit leader.

- ☐ Parent or guardian consent form for each youth participant attached to this application
- ☐ A copy of each pilot's certificate and medical certificate attached to this application
- ☐ Pilot total hours required (250 hours for basic orientation flights; 500 hours for advanced orientation flights; 100 hours for tethered ballooning)
- ☐ Aircraft or balloon insurance requirements satisfied
- ☐ Tour and activity plan completed

Tethered balloon guidelines and FAQs can be found here.

FAQs

Q: My pilot certificate number is my Social Security number. May I strike through it or white it out on the required copy?

A: Yes. It is recognized that pilots who have not had their Social Security numbers removed from their pilot certificates may strike out the information.

Q: Our pilot only has the new sport pilot rating. Can he be a pilot-in-command of the orientation flight?

A: No. Sport pilot certificates are not authorized as no medical is required.

Q: Our unit has been offered an orientation flight by the U.S. military, but not all the information required on the application can be obtained. May we still conduct the orientation?

A: Commissioned officers and warrant officers of any armed service may act as pilot-in-command of a military airplane or helicopter in which they are current as the aircraft commander for either a basic or advanced orientation flight. Only the aircraft portion identifying the aircraft as military and a parent or guardian consent form for each youth participant are required.

Q: Since we encourage Young Eagle Flights, can we utilize experimental aircraft?

A: No. Only aircraft with standard airworthiness certificates may be used on orientation flights.

Q: Is an aviation medical required for glider or tethered balloon pilots?

A: Yes. For consistency, a valid medical is required.

UNIT MONEY-EARNING APPLICATION

Applications are not required for council-coordinated money-earning projects such as popcorn sales or Scout show ticket sales.

Received in council service center _____
(Date)

(Local council stamp)

Please submit this application to your council service center at least two weeks prior to committing to your money-earning project. Read the eight guidelines on the other side of this form. They will assist you in answering the questions below.

☐ Pack

☐ Troop

No. _____ Chartered Organization _____

☐ Team

☐ Crew

Community _____ District _____

Submits the following plans for its money-earning project and requests permission to carry them out.

What is your unit's money-earning plan? _____

About how much does your unit expect to earn from this project? _____ How will this money be used? _____

Does your chartered organization give full approval for this plan? _____

What are the proposed dates? _____

Are tickets or a product to be sold? Please specify. _____

Will your members be in uniform while carrying out this project? (See items 3-6 on other side.) _____

Have you checked with neighboring units to avoid any overlapping of territory while working? _____

Is your product or service in direct conflict with that offered by local merchants? _____

Are any contracts to be signed? _____ If so, by whom? _____

Give details. _____

Is your unit on the budget plan? _____ How much are the dues? _____

Does your unit participate in the council product sale? ☐ Yes ☐ No Family Friends of Scouting? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How much does your unit have in its treasury? _____

Signed _____ Signed _____
(Chartered Organization Representative) (Unit Leader)

Signed _____ Signed _____
(Chairman, Unit Committee) (Address of Chairman)

FOR USE OF DISTRICT OR COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE: Telephone _____

Approved by _____ Date _____

Approved subject to the following conditions _____



GUIDES TO UNIT MONEY-EARNING PROJECTS

A unit's money-earning methods should reflect Scouting's basic values. Whenever your unit is planning a money-earning project, this checklist can serve as your guide. If your answer is "Yes" to all the questions that follow, it is likely the project conforms to Scouting's standards and will be approved.

1. Do you really need a fundraising project?

There should be a real need for raising money based on your unit's program. Units should not engage in money-earning projects merely because someone has offered an attractive plan. Remember that individual youth members are expected to earn their own way. The need should be beyond normal budget items covered by dues.

2. If any contracts are to be signed, will they be signed by an individual, without reference to the Boy Scouts of America and without binding the local council, the Boy Scouts of America, or the chartered organization?

Before any person in your unit signs a contract, he/she must make sure the venture is legitimate and worthy. If a contract is signed, he/she is personally responsible. He/she may not sign on behalf of the local council or the Boy Scouts of America, nor may he/she bind the chartered organization without its written authorization. If you are not sure, check with your district executive for help.

3. Will your fundraiser prevent promoters from trading on the name and goodwill of the Boy Scouts of America?

Because of Scouting's good reputation, customers rarely question the quality or price of a product. The nationwide network of Scouting units must not become a beehive of commercial interest.

4. Will the fundraising activity uphold the good name of the BSA? Does it avoid games of chance, gambling, etc.?

Selling raffle tickets or other games of chance is a direct violation of the BSA Rules and Regulations, which forbid gambling. The product must not detract from the ideals and principles of the BSA.

5. If a commercial product is to be sold, will it be sold on its own merits and without reference to the needs of Scouting?

All commercial products must sell on their own merits, not the benefit received by the Boy Scouts. The principle of value received is critical in choosing what to sell.

6. If a commercial product is to be sold, will the fundraising activity comply with BSA policy on wearing the uniform?

The official uniform is intended to be worn primarily for use in connection with Scouting activities. However, council executive boards may approve use of the uniform for any fundraising activity. Typically, council popcorn sales or Scout show ticket sales are approved uniform fundraisers.

7. Will the fundraising project avoid soliciting money or gifts?

The BSA Rules and Regulations state, "Youth members shall not be permitted to serve as solicitors of money for their chartered organizations, for the local council, or in support of other organizations. Adult and youth members shall not be permitted to serve as solicitors of money in support of personal or unit participation in local, national, or international events."

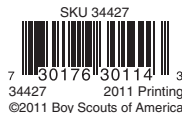
For example: Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts and leaders should not identify themselves as Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts or as a troop/pack participate in The Salvation Army's Christmas Bell Ringing program. This would be raising money for another organization. **At no time are units permitted to solicit contributions for unit programs.**

8. Does the fundraising activity avoid competition with other units, your chartered organization, your local council, and the United Way?

Check with your chartered organization representative and your district executive to make certain that your chartered organization and the council agree on the dates and type of fundraiser.

The local council is responsible for upholding the Charter and Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations of the BSA. To ensure compliance, all unit fundraisers MUST OBTAIN WRITTEN APPROVAL from the local council NO LESS THAN 14 DAYS before committing to the fundraising activity.

For additional details, please reference the *Product Sales and Policy Issues Manual* on www.scouting.org/financeimpact.



Incident Descriptions and Reporting Instructions

INCIDENT TYPE	PERSONAL INJURY/ILLNESS	VEHICLE, PROPERTY, OR PROGRAM INCIDENT	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
CATASTROPHIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fatality or hospitalization for a life-threatening or critical condition Allegation of suspected sexual abuse Victimization of Scout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicle accident, theft, or damage with a greater than \$1 million loss Litigation anticipated National publicity or media attention 	IMMEDIATELY do the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Get help for injured parties (e.g., call 911). Notify the council Scout executive. Complete an Incident Information Report, No. 680-016. Forward the incident report to your local council enterprise risk management contact. Ask the council contact to enter the incident into the RiskConsole incident reporting system. The incident should be marked as catastrophic.
SERIOUS/CRITICAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitalization for less than a life-threatening or critical condition Transport to the ER in an emergency vehicle Allegation of suspected non-sexual child abuse Communicable disease outbreak or mass foodborne illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicle accident, theft, or damage with a \$100,000 to \$1 million loss Building or camp shut down for more than a day Bomb threat Local publicity or media attention 	Within 24 hours , do the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Get help for injured parties (e.g., call 911). Notify the council Scout executive. Complete an Incident Information Report, No. 680-016. Forward the incident report to your local council enterprise risk management contact. Ask the council contact to enter the incident into the RiskConsole incident reporting system.
MARGINAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid Transport to the ER in a personal vehicle and released Serious near miss Emergency response initiated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicle accident, theft, or damage with a \$100,000 loss or less Program area closed down for safety concerns Emergency response initiated 	In no later than five days , do the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Attend to any injured parties. Complete an Incident Information Report, No. 680-016. Forward the incident report to your local council enterprise risk management contact. Ask the council contact to enter the incident into the RiskConsole incident reporting system.
NEGLIGIBLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Near miss Injury/illness not requiring first aid 		By the end of the unit recharter year , do the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a Near Miss Incident Information Report, No. 680-017. Keep the report in your unit or forward to the enterprise risk management contact. Evaluate near misses in your unit or council each year for any lessons learned and/or program enhancements.

NOTE: This matrix does not supersede reporting requirements for specific program activities (e.g., pilot programs or climbing near misses) reporting required by law, BSA Youth Protection reporting requirements, or BSA employee death or multiple injury reporting requirements to OSHA.



Incident Definitions



First Aid

An injury or illness treated by Scout-rendered first aid but does not include treatment that has to be done by a medical professional such as a nurse, EMT, or doctor. Scout-rendered includes a Scout or Scouter.



Near Miss

An unplanned event that DID NOT result in injury, illness, or damage by definition, but had the potential to cause less than serious damage or injury.



Serious Near Miss

An unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage by definition (e.g., emergency response was called to find a lost Scout), but had the potential to cause serious damage or injury.



Vehicle Accident

An unintentional damaging event involving one or more vehicles that causes damage to the vehicle, damage to property, or physical harm. Vehicles include automobiles and other motorized equipment (e.g., four-wheelers, farm equipment, industrial equipment, or motorcycles).



Victimization of Scout

An intentional incident in which a Scout is physically or psychologically harmed.

680-033
2012 Printing

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HEALTH AND SAFETY

Incident Information Report

(Events or allegations of injury, illness, or property damage, including employment and issues with directors and officers)

Incident date: _____ Time: _____

Reporting date: _____ Time: _____

Council/BSA location: _____ ☐ Leader ☐ Parent ☐ Other: _____

Reporting person: _____

Location of incident: _____

Specific area where incident occurred: _____

Cause of incident: _____

Program/event/adventure code: _____

Did the incident occur while transporting to/from an activity? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: _____

Individuals Involved (Duplicate If Needed)

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____
City State Zip

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Work phone: _____

DOB: _____ Age: _____ Unit No.: _____ Council: _____

Scouting role: _____

Type of injury or property damage: _____ Injured body part: _____

Was medical treatment given at scene? ☐ Yes ☐ No Type: _____

Medical disposition (transported to hospital, etc.): _____

Return this completed form to your council's designated user for entry into RiskConsole via MyBSA Incident Entry.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Incident Information Report

(Events or allegations of injury, illness, or property damage, including employment and issues with directors and officers)

Witnesses

Name: _____
First Middle Last
Address: _____
City State Zip
Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Others

Name: _____
First Middle Last
Address: _____
City State Zip
Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Property Damage (if applicable)

Property or vehicle make/model/year: _____
Color: _____ License plate No.: _____

Driver Contact Information (if applicable)

Name: _____
First Middle Last
Address: _____
City State Zip
Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Work phone: _____
Passengers: _____ Contact information: _____

Additional information:

Information gathered at scene by: _____

Contact information: _____

Return this completed form to your council's designated user for entry into RiskConsole via MyBSA Incident Entry.

Service Project Planning Guidelines

These guidelines can be utilized for all Scouting service projects, not just those for an Eagle Scout service project. The guidelines must not be construed to be additional requirements for an Eagle Scout service project, but they do represent elements that should appear on the Eagle Scout candidate's final project plan from the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*, No. 512-927. The next revision of the workbook will incorporate these guidelines.

Service Project Safety Planning Process

- 1. Take the necessary steps.** Define the scope of the project, assess the skill levels of the participants, indicate supervision and discipline needed, identify the equipment and personnel needed (including first-aid kits), and plan for proper tool instruction.
- 2. Review the site.** Make sure you know how to get there and have access, where to park, and what the access is for emergency vehicles. Include weather concerns and how to notify local emergency help. Identify overhead and underground utilities. Know which jurisdictional codes and ordinances will apply.
- 3. Determine suitable hours in which the service project will be performed.** For example, they could be daylight hours or from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., including short rest breaks every two hours, plus lunch with rest period for one hour. It is recommended that service projects do not exceed eight hours per day. Please keep in mind that youth attention spans may be a limitation.
- 4. Establish a service project review process.** Monitor work and tool usage, and ensure a leadership review of the project at its conclusion.

Use this section as a checklist for providing details about your service project plans.

Hazard Analysis and Recognition

1. **List possible hazards**, for example, overhead or underground utilities; overgrowth of trees, bushes, and grasses; or the animals, bugs, and reptiles present in the area.
2. **Consider the weather.** What are the forecasted conditions during the time of the project?
3. **Monitor tool usage.** Identify supervision, who has access, the proper handling of tools, and power supplies, etc.
4. **Prepare for emergencies** (access, shelters, weather monitoring, communications).

Tools and Equipment

See *Age Guidelines for Tool Use and Work at Elevations or Excavations*, No. 680-028, for guidance.

1. List the type and number of hand and power tools necessary for the project and the skills required for their usage.

Tool	Quantity Needed

2. What skill level, training/certification, age, and physical conditions are necessary?

Tool	Age-Appropriate Certification Needed (Adult/Youth)	Training Needed/Completed (Y/N?)

3. List the personal protective equipment (PPE) needed (see Age Guidelines for Tool Use for guidance).

Tool	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Needed

4. Check the condition of all tools. Never use tools that are broken, needing repair, or missing safety features.

Tool	Condition—Acceptable?

5. Determine the clearances and barriers needed between users or for specific tools or equipment.

Tool/Work Area	Clearance/Barriers/Safety Circle

6. Where and how will tools be stored?

7. Review the proper use of tools.

Weather Considerations

- 1. Heat (heat index, periods of work, periods of rest, use of shade, water):
- 2. Cold stress (wind chill, periods of work, rest, water, heated area):
- 3. Weather forecasting information and evaluations:
- 4. List weather emergency procedures (for tornadoes, hurricanes, lightning, etc.) and training/awareness (first-aid kit, trained first-aid personnel). See the Hazardous Weather online training at MyScouting.org.

Health/Sanitation Considerations

1. Health risks to participants (possible problems such as poison ivy, rodents, and mosquitoes):

Check the following:

___ Annual Health and Medical Record forms are available.

___ Participants with allergies or other health risks are identified.

___ Are medications/EpiPens® on hand?

___ Are parental permissions (for youth) secured?

2. Will snacks or foods be available? (List types, where they are positioned, etc.)

Type of Snacks/Foods (Note Allergies)	Where Food Will Be

3. Sanitation needs and provisions (restrooms, hand sanitizers):

4. Will you need sunscreen, insect repellent, etc.?

Assessment and Monitoring

- Who will provide supervision, monitoring of participants? _____
- What conditions will cause a Start, Stop, Continue process to occur?

What will define project success? Why?

If there are any accidents or injuries, complete a BSA Incident Information Report, No. 680-016. Submit it to the council service center as soon as possible. Immediately notify the council service center or Scout executive of any serious incidents requiring emergency or medical response. If there was a near miss, complete a BSA Near Miss Incident Information Report, No. 680-017, and submit it to the council service center.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

680-027
2012 Printing

Age Guidelines for Tool Use and Work at Elevations or Excavations

Training and Supervision

The use of tools, by any youth or adult, requires training in the proper use of those tools before a project starts and continuous, qualified adult supervision and discipline during the project. Manufacturers' literature and age and skill restrictions shall supersede the recommendations on the chart below. If there is a conflict, leaders shall follow the most restrictive guidelines. The table below is not comprehensive; if in doubt, adults should be recruited for all tool use or job functions that might be dangerous.

Note on Personal Protective Equipment

Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be used at all times when using hand or power tools. Types of personal protective equipment include the following:

- Work gloves
- Safety glasses
- Safety helmets
- Earplugs or muffs
- Steel-toed shoes
- Protective aprons
- Safety face shields
- Other personal safety equipment as defined by OSHA standards

Hand Tools

Type of Tool	Youth Up to Age 14	Youth 14 Years and Older	Youth 16 Years and Older
Leaf/grass rake			
Hoe			
Shovel			
Hand clipper (small)			
Screwdrivers			
Nail hammer			
Handsaw			
Trowel			
Hose spray washer			
Wood sanding block (handheld)			
Wood chisel (Scouts with Totin' Chip)			
Pocketknife (Scouts with Whittling Chip or Totin' Chip)			
Pickaxe			
Mattock			
Posthole digger			
Wheel cart (1-, 2-, or 4-wheeled)			
Paint roller with extension pole			

Note: Shaded areas indicate age-appropriate use.

Power Tools

Type of Tool	Youth Up to Age 14	Youth 14 Years and Older	Youth 16 Years and Older
Screwdriver (electric)			
Handheld sander (small)			
Cutting tools (e.g., Dremel®, small)			
Paint sprayer (small, less than 50 psi)			
Residential lawn mower (self-propelled, riding)			
Commercial lawn mower (push, self-propelled, riding)			
Line trimmer (electric, gas-powered)			
Edger (electric, gas-powered)			
Leaf/grass blower (electric, gas-powered)			
Hedge trimmer (electric, gas-powered)			
Belt sander (electric, cordless)			
Pressure washer (>50 but <100 PSI)			
Circular, reciprocating, jig, or radial saw			Age 18 and older
Band and scroll saws			Age 18 and older
Router/planer			Age 18 and older
Chain saws			Age 18 and older
Log splitters			Age 18 and older
Wood chippers			Age 18 and older

Note: Shaded areas indicate age-appropriate use.

Working at Heights and Elevations

Heights and elevations are measured from the bottom of the shoes or boots above the ground level or floor.

Elevation of Work	Youth Up to Age 14	Youth Age 14 or Older
Up to 4 feet	Step stools*	
Above 4 feet	Not permitted	A 6-foot ladder is permissible with the manufacturer's recommended practices.
On scaffolds (above 4 feet)	Not permitted	Age 18 or older
Open platforms (above 4 feet) with proper fall protection**	Not permitted	Age 18 or older

Fall Protection Requirements According to OSHA Standards

29 CFR--Subpart M, 1926.500, 1926.501, 1926.502, and 1926.503

*Step stools, with one or two steps, are permissible for use by youth if the total height is 4 feet or less.

**Proper fall protection would require the use of full-body harnesses, helmets, and the ability to be anchored to a stable object. Refer to safety practices from the BSA's Project COPE and climbing national standards.

Note: Pioneering projects, such as monkey bridges, have a maximum height of 6 feet. Close supervision should be followed when Scouts are building or using pioneering projects.

Excavations

Youth or adults are not permitted to work in any excavation areas greater than 4 feet in depth, such as trenches for plumbing, digging wells, or building foundation work.

Youth can work on hiking and biking trails or other similar work where the depth of digging is not greater than 4 feet. Digging postholes for fences, gates, etc., is permissible if the depth is limited to 48 inches (4 feet) and the width is limited to 18 inches (1.5 feet).

It is critical to locate all underground utilities (e.g., water, gas, electric) at the site before any work begins. Most states have "call before you dig" call centers to assist with this effort.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA*

680-028
2013 Printing



Campout Safety Checklist

Boy Scouts of America

Campout Description: _____

Campout Date(s): _____ Campout Location: _____

Campout Organizer: _____ Health and Safety Officer: _____

The following checklist provides guidance on safety issues that you may encounter at a Scouting campout. Along with the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and the tour and activity plan, this tool will help you in having conversations on identifying risks that need to be mitigated or eliminated.

Campout Risks	Yes	No	N/A	Mitigation/Comments
Planning				
1. Does everyone attending have a current Annual Health and Medical Record?				
2. Are all leaders current on their Youth Protection training (valid for two years)?				
3. Do leaders have program-specific training (e.g., Safety Afloat, Range Safety Officer, etc.)?				
4. If swimming or boating is involved, is there a BSA-certified lifeguard responsible for the waterfront?				
5. Have weather conditions been checked and communicated?				
6. Have maps to the campsite been printed and handed out?				
7. Do parents have contact information for adult leaders attending the campout?				
8. Does the unit have a fully charged and operable fire extinguisher?				
9. Has a tour and activity plan been prepared and submitted on MyScouting?				
10. Is a seat belt available for each attendee in any vehicles that will be used?				
11. Are all drivers licensed and insured?				
12. Have all drivers taken Risk Zone driver training?				
13. Is the unit first-aid kit in good order?				
14. Has the <i>Guide to Safe Scouting</i> been reviewed for program safety requirements?				
15. Is a copy of the <i>Guide to Safe Scouting</i> available on the campout?				
16. Are the program areas age appropriate for the youth?				
17. Is at least one participant certified in CPR and first aid?				
18. Is specialized safety equipment needed and available (e.g., life jacket, safety glasses, gloves, etc.)?				
19. Have emergency plans been established for the following?				
a. Severe weather				
b. Lost Scout				
c. Sick Scout requiring urgent care (non-ER)				
d. Evacuation from campsite				
20. Has an adult been assigned to help Scouts with taking meds?				

The online version of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is updated quarterly.

Go to <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>.



Campout Safety Checklist

Boy Scouts of America

Campout				
1. Has the campsite been surveyed for potential hazards (e.g., glass, dead branches, large ant beds, etc.)?				
2. Has the location of the nearest hospital/ER been identified and announced to all adults?				
3. Is a mechanism in place for contacting a camp ranger or camp office (e.g., walkie-talkie, mobile phone, etc.)?				
4. Has the Unit Fireguard Plan been prepared and posted?				
5. Has a fire extinguisher been placed close to the campfire and/or other heat sources?				
6. Is the campfire in a campfire ring or in an area designated for a fire?				
7. Is the unit first-aid kit in a conspicuous location and readily available?				
8. Have equipment or tools been inspected prior to use?				
9. Have parking plans or areas been established to minimize vehicular traffic?				
10. Has the unit conducted a quick safety meeting to convey any important safety information?				
After Campout				
1. Have any incidents been recorded and reported, if necessary, to BSA professionals?				
2. Have the adult and youth leaders captured any lessons learned from the campout?				
Miscellaneous				



Event Safety Checklist

Boy Scouts of America

Event Name: _____ Event Date(s): _____

Event Location: _____ Event Organizer: _____

Event Health and Safety Officer: _____

The following checklist provides guidance on safety issues that you may encounter at a Scouting event. This is a tool, not a list of mandatory guidelines. The intent of the checklist is to create conversations among event organizers around risks and ways to mitigate or eliminate them.

Event Risks	Yes	No	N/A	Mitigation/Comments
Planning				
1. Has the event organizer contacted the event venue and met with venue owners in advance?				
2. Have the venue owners conveyed their requirements for the BSA to follow at the event?				
3. Will the event organizer or a designee be at the event? Has contact information been conveyed to the venue and vice versa?				
4. Has an event map been created that shows structures, important areas, and equipment (e.g., port-a-cans, tents, first-aid stations)?				
5. Has the health and safety officer reviewed and accepted the event plan and safety checklist?				
6. Has the <i>Guide to Safe Scouting</i> been reviewed for any applicable requirements for the event?				
7. Has communication been sent to event attendees outlining event logistics and safety requirements well in advance?				
8. Have trained or certified individuals been recruited to run program areas?				
9. Have the health and safety officer and event organizer walked the site prior to the event?				
10. Has a safety team been established to help plan and attend the event?				
11. Does the event team have a means to communicate at the event (e.g., cellphone list, radios)?				
12. Is a command center needed for the event?				
Setup/Teardown				
1. Has adequate time been set aside for event setup and teardown?				
2. Are proper safety equipment and tools available (e.g., ladders, barricade tape)?				
3. Will a safety talk prior to setup and teardown be conducted?				
4. Are tools and equipment in good condition?				
5. Will storage locations be needed and identified prior to the event?				



Event Safety Checklist

Boy Scouts of America

Event Risks	Yes	No	N/A	Mitigation/Comments
Safety				
1. Will a safety discussion for attendees be conducted before the event (e.g., emergency evacuations, rally points, first-aid stations, etc.)?				
2. Have slip, trip, and fall hazards been identified and mitigations established?				
3. Has personal protective equipment (PPE) or proper attire been evaluated and communicated (e.g., safety vest, gloves, etc.)?				
4. Have grassy areas been treated for pests, including ants?				
5. Do certain areas need to be barricaded off?				
6. Have high-risk areas undergone a program hazard analysis (e.g., shooting sports, climbing/COPE)?				
Fire				
1. Are fire extinguisher(s) present and in working order (should be field verified)?				
2. Has an emergency muster location been established and communicated? Where?				
3. Will any program areas generate heat or sparks (e.g., metal working, welding)? Have protective measures been identified?				
4. Will there be open-flame heating sources (e.g., fires, Sterno, etc.) at the event? Have protective measures been identified?				
5. Will there be propane at the event for any reason? (Note that some cities require a permit for use.)				
Medical				
1. Will water be readily available for all participants?				
2. Does the event health and safety officer have current CPR and first-aid certification (e.g., American Red Cross)?				
3. Is a first-aid kit present and adequately stocked (should be field verified)?				
4. Is an AED present and in working order (should be field verified)?				
5. Is a medical lodge or EMT needed?				
6. Has the closest emergency room or hospital been identified and informed about the event?				
Utilities/Equipment				
1. Have utilities needed for the event (power, water, etc.) been identified, discussed, and communicated to the venue owner?				
2. Can the event location handle all electrical loads of equipment (most breakers can handle 20 amps)?				
3. Will tents larger than 1,000 square feet be needed? (If yes, a permit from the city may be needed.)				
4. Has equipment requiring 15 amps or more been identified and placed on event map?				
5. Will compressed gases be needed at the event (e.g., helium, propane)? (Must be approved by the venue.)				
6. Are compressed gases stored properly and positioned away from participants?				



Event Safety Checklist

Boy Scouts of America

Event Risks	Yes	No	N/A	Mitigation/Comments
Hygiene and Sanitation				
1. Will portable toilets be needed (~1 per every 300 people)?				
2. Are handwashing facilities needed?				
3. Will janitorial staff be needed for the event?				
4. Has a trash disposal plan been established?				
Food				
1. Will outside catering be utilized? If so:				
a. Is the company licensed by the city/county?				
b. Is the company aware of and will it agree to follow all applicable city, state, and federal regulations?				
2. Will outside food serving lines be covered by a canopy or tent?				
3. Is food covered when not being served?				
4. Will food servers wear appropriate attire and gloves?				
5. Is serving equipment in good repair?				
6. Will cold food be kept < 40 degrees F?				
7. Will hot food be kept > 140 degrees F?				
Security/Traffic/Parking				
1. Have plans been discussed and established for possible security incidents (e.g., armed intruder, missing Scout, etc.)?				
2. Are check-in and check-out procedures needed for Scouts?				
3. Are security guards needed?				
4. Are uniformed police officers needed (may be required for traffic control in public streets or events with cash)?				
5. Have parking areas and road closures been established and communicated?				
6. Have rules been established to limit or eliminate vehicles in activity or camping areas?				
Severe Weather				
1. Has an internal emergency muster location (shelter-in-place) been established and placed on the event map?				
2. Has it been communicated that the event may be called off due to inclement weather?				
3. Have protocols been established on how to handle likely severe weather scenarios (e.g., lightning, rain, snow, etc.)?				
Miscellaneous				
1. Will there be live animals at the event? Have protective measures been identified?				
Other				

The online version of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is updated quarterly.

Go to <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>.



Event Safety Checklist

Boy Scouts of America

Risk Assessment Approval

I am satisfied that the safeguards put in place will reduce the level of risk to an acceptable level and the task/action is permitted to proceed.

Signatures	Date	Signatures	Date
<i>Event Organizer</i>		<i>Event Owner</i>	
<i>Health and Safety Officer</i>		<i>Venue Owner</i>	

