



NCAP Circular No. 5

NCAP elevates camps to new levels of excellence...

National Council, Boy Scouts of America

Issued December 15, 2014

2015 National Camp Standards Revisions, Part 2

At its October 13, 2014 meeting, the NCAP Committee considered and adopted revisions to the BSA National Camp Standards that will take effect in 2015. All of the changes are considered to be clarifications of existing Standards and Recommended Practices, so a delayed effective date was not deemed necessary.

This edition of the **NCAP Circular** sets forth the final changes to the National Camp Standards for 2015, which are shown with new language shown in **bold italic** and deleted language shown in ~~strike through~~:

Standard

PD-106. Skills Progression and Advancement

The second paragraph of the **Interpretation** is revised as follows:

When offered, advancement opportunities, ~~including belt loops, Arrow Points, activity pins, rank requirements, merit badges, Venturing awards, and Sea Scout ranks and awards~~ focus on the fun and adventure of the Scouting program. All advancement must be consistent with BSA advancement policies.

Rationale

The language noting the specific types of awards is not needed and is or will be out-of-date in light of changes to the various advancement programs.

Standard

PS-201. Aquatics General

Revise Specific Requirement E of the Standard as follows:

E. Long-distance swimming in open water must follow Mile Swim safety guidelines as set forth in the Guide to Safe Scouting, No 34416, ~~and Section V, Aquatics, of Camp Program and Property Management, No. 20-290B.~~

Rationale

The Camp Program and Property Management is out-of-date and has been discontinued. The *Guide to Safe Scouting* establishes the basic safety requirements.

Standard

PS-214. Shooting Sports: Firearms Programs

Revise Specific Requirement A of the Standard as follows:

A. Shooting is confined to approved ranges. Each range is designed in accordance with guidelines **at *www.scouting.org/properties*, which provides examples of approved range layouts.** ~~in Camp Program and Property Management, No. 20-920B, NRA Range Safety Officer Manual~~

~~and the NRA Range Source Book.~~

Rationale

The Camp Program and Property Management is out-of-date and has been discontinued. Design information is now available at the www.scouting.org website.

Recommended Practice

RP-256. The CHECK Program

The CHECK (***Clothing, Helmet and Harness, Environment, Connection and Knots***) checklist program is utilized.

Add to **Interpretation** as follows:

Prior to using the CHECK stickers on helmets, camps should check to ensure that use of the stickers will not void any applicable manufacturer warranty.

Add to **Compliance Verification** as follows:

The CHECK logo is displayed at the COPE and/or climbing area.

Rationale

Several individuals have expressed confusion over what the "CHECK Program" is and requested that the acronym be explained. The proposed revision clarifies the CHECK program intended. The revision also cautions councils to ensure that use of the CHECK

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stickers will not void helmet warranties. The compliance verification is added to assist teams in ensuring the CHECK program is in use.

Standard

SQ-402. General Camp Staff Training

Specific Requirement C of the Standard is revised as follows:

For day camps and family camps, the training plan provides, and the camp director and program director (day and family camps) and area leads (day camps) received, **four hours of training (for an overnight family camp or a one-day day camp) or eight hours of training (for all family camps and day camps of greater duration)** prior to the start of the camp's program. Other staff received appropriate training as set forth in the training plan approved by the appropriate council committee.

Rational

A number of councils have requested revisions to the required minimum time for day camp and family camp training, noting that the training may exceed the length of time of the program for

some day camps and most family camps. Upon consideration and study of the syllabi, NCAP has determined that the required minimum elements of training can be delivered in four hours for these short-term camps where participants remain on-site for only a short period of time before returning home. Family camps using the same staff, but changing participants each night, are considered a multiple night family camp subject to the 8 hour training requirement.

Add to the **Interpretation** as follows:

For purposes of Specific Requirement G for all-volunteer staffed day camps and family camps, the camp director, program director, and area directors or others who exercise supervisory authority over other volunteers must receive the Unlawful Harassment Prevention training.

Standard

SQ-406. Aquatics Staff

Revise the second paragraph of Specific Requirement A as follows:

If an individual trained as a BSA Aquatics Instructor is not available, the camp may **apply for and** be issued a waiver that would allow a person currently trained by the American Red Cross as a Lifeguard Instructor and a Water Safety Instructor (dual training) to fill the position for one season. ***The waiver will require the individual to review the Swimming and Water Rescue and Paddle Craft Safely powerpoints at www.scouting.org/outdoorprogram under the aquatics tab***

and to review the relevant sections of Aquatics Supervision, No. 34346.

Rationale

The American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor and Lifeguard Instructor training does not address pool and waterfront management in the Scouting context. NCAP is requiring that the individual seeking the waiver also review BSA's materials on Swimming and Water Rescue and Paddle Craft Safely powerpoints as well as read the relevant sections of BSA's ***Aquatics Supervision*** manual appropriate to the aquatics activities being supervised.

Standard

SQ-408. Archery Range Staff

Revise the **Interpretation** as follows:

Camp shooting sports positions and qualifications are outlined in the BSA National Shooting Sports Manual, No. 30931, and ~~Camp Program and Property Management, No. 20-920B, Section VI.~~

Rationale

The Camp Program and Property Management is out-of-date and has been discontinued.

Recommended Practice

RP-456. Shooting Sports Staffing

Revise the second bullet of the **Compliance Verification** as follows:

- Other by review of ~~Camp Program and Property Management, No. 20-920B,~~ and discussion with camp director and/or shooting

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PUBLICATION OF THE
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2015 National Camp Standards Revisions, Part 2

sports director

Rationale

The Camp Program and Property Management is out-of-date and has been discontinued.

Standard

HS-510. First-Aid Kits

Specific Requirement A of the Standard is revised as follows:

A. Day camp, family camp, resident camp, specialty-adventure camp (resident camp election), and COPE/climbing course. The camp supplies first-aid kits to all on-site program areas **more than 100 feet from the medical care area**. All first-aid kits provided by the camp have adequate supplies and equipment. All camp first-aid kits are kept in easily identifiable, accessible containers and locations.

Rationale

In situations where program areas are located within 100 feet of the primary medical care area, camps may elect to send an individual needing care to the medical care area or have medical personnel go the program area. For day camps and family camps, this requirement is met if the program areas are all within 100 feet of each other, so long as at least one first aid kit, approved by the council's health supervisor, is within the area.

Standard

FA-703. Fire Prevention and Detection

Revise the **Interpretation** as follows by adding a new third sentence as follows:

Where smoke detection is a

problem due to hot work such as welding, local codes may provide for alternatives such as heat detection.

Revise the second paragraph to read as follows:

Backpacking-type fuel bottles and consumer-use propane and LPG cylinders up to 30 pounds gallons used for grills and lanterns are not considered to be bulk containers for purposes of this standard.

Standard

AO-802. BSA Authorization

Replace the **Interpretation** with the following:

BSA camps are required to be accredited through the BSA National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP). The purpose of the NCAP system is to ensure acceptable levels of safety and quality in BSA-operated programs. The council is in compliance with the requirement to have a current Authorization to Operate if:

- (1) the council has a current Authorization to Operate for the camp issued by the region (or National Council for national bases);
- (2) the council has submitted a timely Application for Authorization but the BSA region (or National Council for national bases) has not yet granted or denied the application; or
- (3) until ~~2018~~2015, the council has not yet received a call for an application from the BSA region (or National Council for national bases).

Rationale

Based upon a review of the Authorization process and feedback from councils participating in the first two rounds, NCAP will be both streamlining the Application and Authorization process and also extending the time for completing the process through 2017.

A discussion of the changes to the Application and Authorization process, once finalized, will appear in future editions of the **NCAP Circular**. NCAP appreciates all of the suggestions for improvements in the NCAP process and encourages continued feedback to continue to improve the NCAP program and to elevate the camping experience for all youth participating in a BSA camp.

NCAP Website Update

The NCAP website has been updated to include additional information useful to participants in the NCAP process. New information on the website includes:

- Camp Staff Youth Protection Training resources, including *Camp Staff Youth Protection Training*, No. 430-149 and *Managing Youth Protection* powerpoint
- Camp Standards applicability templates, by camp type, including Cub Scout day camp and resident camp
- The current *Camp Facilities Evaluation Tool* (CFET)
- Links to current Health and Safety information
- Training and other resources, including past **NCAP Circulars**

NCAP Moves to Regional Operations Support

The National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP) began as an initiative of the Outdoor Program Department, when the Outdoor Adventures Committee commissioned the Second Century Camping Task Force and the Outdoor Program Support Committee commissioned the Camp Standards Task Force. Out of their joint efforts arose the NCAP process that BSA uses today.

As many of you may be aware,

the National Council has reorganized its staffing structure. As part of that process, the NCAP committee was moved from the Outdoor Programs Department to the Regional Operations Department. We are now part of Regional Support.

Inclusion in Regional Support brings additional involvement with Region and Area leadership and should strengthen the camping process by providing closer

connection to field leadership and builds on NCAP's already close relationship to the Area Directors.

NCAP is not losing its connection with Outdoor Programs, which will continue to provide support for development of program opportunities and support for the Standards revisions.

Questions on the new structure and its impacts can be directed to Brian Gray, NCAP Staff Advisor, at brian.gray@scouting.org.

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