



NCAP Circular No. 13

NCAP elevates camps to new levels of excellence...

National Council, Boy Scouts of America

April 9, 2019

2019 Standards Corrections and Clarifications

NCAP has received some questions from the field about some apparent inconsistencies in the recently published 2019 NCAP National Camp Standards. We appreciate the careful reading and questions that we receive. In this case, those comments identified an error in the attempt to update the Staff Training requirements to reflect new American Red Cross course names, an omitted minor change in Standard AO-810, and an unintended change in a collateral document under PS-214, which will be corrected, but this Circular provides the proper interpretation in case the correction is not complete prior to assessment.

The changes made in this Circular are **effective immediately** as they clarify the intent of the National Camp Standards as proposed and are generally consistent with the discussion in NCAP Circular No. 12.

Standard SQ-402

General Camp Staff Training

[Replace Specific Requirement B.2 with the following:]

2. **Staff first-aid training.** At least 50 percent of camp staff must be currently certified in American Red Cross (ARC) First Aid and either (a) ARC Basic Life Support or (b) ARC CPR/AED, or approved equivalents. The total ratio of trained staff (or volunteers) to campers must not be less than 1:25.

Standard SQ-404

Camp Ranger

[Replace Specific Requirement C and D with the following:]

- C. American Red Cross First Aid.
- D. American Red Cross Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers.

[Add to end of first paragraph of Interpretation]

After January 1, 2019, Rangers with CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer is acceptable until the current card expires, at which point BLS for Healthcare Providers is required.

Standard SQ-405

Camp Health Officer

[Replace Specific Requirement A with the following:]

- A. When access to an emergency medical system (EMS) is 10 minutes or less, American Red Cross First Aid and BLS for Healthcare Providers, or equivalents, is required.

[Add new paragraph after the first paragraph of Interpretation]

After January 1, 2019, a camp health officer with CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer is acceptable until the card expires, after which BLS for Healthcare

2019 Standards continued on p.2

Food Planning Update

In **NCAP Circular No. 11**, NCAP requested comment from the field on proposed changes to the Commissary and Food Service Standards (FS-601 and following). In general, a majority of respondents to the proposed changes favored them, although several expressed a concern that additional time may be needed to make the changes. A significant minority (approximately 30%), did not favor the changes, did not believe that menus or sanitary practices require any upgrading, and believed that the changes were burdensome and expensive.

NCAP has reviewed these comments and believes that there is merit in some of the concerns expressed about complexity and cost. NCAP is reviewing the menu planning provisions to see if similar gains can be made at lower cost and less potential food waste, which NCAP also seeks to minimize. On the sanitation issues, NCAP believes that the proposal carefully tracks current practices in approximately 47 States, but is evaluating ways to reduce burdens under those provisions as well. Thanks to all who provided feedback.

In this issue . . .

2019 Camp Standards Corrections and Clarifications.....	1-2
Food Planning Update	1
Directory of National, Regional and Area NCAP Leadership.....	3
NCAP Next Steps.....	3

2019 Standards Corrections and Clarifications

Providers is required.

Standard SQ-406

Aquatics Staff

[Replace Specific Requirement C.2 with the following:]

2. At least 50% of the aquatics staff members, excluding CITs, hold a valid lifeguard certification and current American Red Cross First Aid and BLS for Health Care Providers, or equivalent.

Rationale for First Aid Changes:

For many years, the BSA National Camp Standards have included the requirement that camp staffs be certified in appropriate first aid training. In the 2019 edition of the National Camp Standards, NCAP sought to update references to the current American Red Cross course names. Unfortunately, in the editorial process, the “First Aid” requirement was inadvertently dropped, likely because the editor assumed it was subsumed in Basic Life Support.

The changes outlined in Standards SQ-402, SQ-404 and SQ-406 thus restore the traditional requirement that camp staff have

both first aid and CPR/AED (now renamed BLS) training.

Please note there are four types of training that BSA will recognize for CPR/AED:

- American Red Cross CPR/AED training, either in the combined course or two separate courses, and approve equivalents.
- American Red Cross Basic Life Support (BLS).
- American Red Cross BLS For Health Care Providers (required for aquatics staff and some others); and
- Until expiration of current cards, American Red Cross CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer (required for aquatics staff and some others).

Questions should be directed to NCAP@scouting.org.

Standard SQ-406

Aquatics Staff

[Replace Specific Requirement C.3 with the following:]

3. In accordance with Department of Labor regulations, 15-year ~~paid~~ old staff members with valid lifeguard certifications may work as lifeguards only for swimming activities in a swimming pool. Lifeguards for swimming activities not at a swimming pool must be at least 16 years of age and have a valid lifeguard certification appropriate for the venue.

Rationale for SQ-406, Specific Requirement C.3 Change

NCAP has been advised that many State labor laws do recognize the distinction between paid and volunteer lifeguards. It is thus

removing this distinction. Please consult your local labor laws. Where local law allows, NCAP will entertain an appropriate variance or waiver request.

Standard AO-810

Continuous Camp Improvement

[Replace Specific Requirement C with the following:]

Each year, the council will develop an annual camp improvement program that identifies one or more areas of improvement and one or more areas of strength that the camp will address during the year, which collectively address at least four of the continuous camp improvement categories. Some of these measures may be based on the camp strategic improvement plan and some should be based on postcamp/precamp inspections, camp staff reports, customer satisfaction surveys, or other feedback. For each area identified, the council determines a goal, a quantitative metric, and success criteria.

Rationale for Change:

The presence of two plans in this requirement has generated confusion. The annual camp improvement “program” better reflects NCAP’s goal of a program that implements the camp strategic plan, plus tactical measures chosen by the camp staff and council camping team, and feedback received throughout the summer from camp participants. This more dynamic piece is probably better seen as a “program” rather than a static plan.

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NCAP: What Is Next?

NCAP plans to release NCAP Circular 14 sometime around the time of the National Annual Meeting. NCAP Circular No. 14 will likely include proposed changes for the 2020 year.

NCAP is considering other program updates to simplify the structure of the camp standards.