

Roundtable Hot Topic

Safety Moments are for All Scout Activities and Meetings



Safety Moments are exactly what the name implies: opportunities to prepare for an activity, review safety measures and report incidents correctly. Safety Moments should be delivered at the beginning of all Scout meetings such as roundtable, committee meetings, unit meetings or an activity in order to discuss a hazard or risk that can be prevented.

The safety moment focuses the attention of the group on safety. Scouting America publishes safety moments to reduce injuries and illnesses, ultimately improving the overall safety culture for Scouts and their adult leaders. Safety moments are short, focused talks about safety practices and procedures.

The following are some of the reasons why we hold and promote safety moments:

Injury Prevention

Safety moments highlight potential hazards and reinforce safe Scouting, which can help prevent injuries and illnesses before they happen.

Improved Safety Culture

Regular safety moments create a more safety-conscious environment, keeping best practices top-of-mind. Scouts will have increased safety awareness and are more likely to follow safety procedures and report hazards.

Highlight Timely Hazards

Safety moments can be used to address specific risks or hazards relevant to the time of year and activities that go along with the seasons i.e. cold weather camping in the winter and heat related incidents in the hot months.

Engagement

Keeping safety moments from being too formal makes them more approachable and engaging than formal safety training, increasing participation. Encourage questions and/or discussion.

Preventing Accidents through Safe Behaviors

Accidents result from unsafe acts or unsafe conditions. According to the CDC, unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for Americans aged 1-44. Regularly taking a couple of minutes to put safety front and center is important and effective.

Keep in mind the following points when preparing a safety moment:

- Every youth or leader, with preparation, could deliver the safety moment.
- Safety moments should be delivered in a few minutes.
- Keep it simple and easy to understand. Focus on a single topic rather than jumping around or overloading Scouts with information.
- Use safety moments to support a positive safety culture through clear, concise, and engaging communication.
- Help the group know how to apply the safety message.

Resources:

Scouting America safety moments can be found here: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/>



Safety moments can also be found on the roundtable support page.

<https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/roundtable-support/roundtable-planning-resources/#bsaSafetyMoment>

