



# NCAP Circular No. 26

NCAP elevates camps to new levels of excellence...

National Council, Scouting America

January 23, 2026

## 2026 National Camp Standards Changes

The National Camp Accreditation Committee approved the following changes to the Scouting America National Camp Standards. Because these changes are mostly ministerial or grant additional options, NCAP elected not to issue them in draft for comment, but NCAP solicits comments on any revisions to these changes that should be considered as part of the 2026-2027 standards evaluation round. Please submit any comments on these standards changes no later than **April 15, 2026**. NCAP will consider those comments and will, if appropriate, reopen these standards for further comment if appropriate.

### PD-112. COUNCIL PROGRAM DESIGN, SAFETY, AND RISK REVIEW

(Revised January 1, 2026)

[Revise the Specific Requirements as follows:]

#### SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD

**A. Plan for Review.** The council committee responsible for the overall camping program has adopted a plan providing for review of each long-term camp activity, each day camp activity, and a generic list of short-term camp activities that results in each activity being actively reviewed at least once every ~~three years or more frequently~~ to four years, a minimum of three times every 10 years. The plan shall also call for a review of any serious accidents at each the camp or a camp ac-

tivity during the prior year. The plan shall indicate the council committee or team responsible for completing the review.

...

#### D. Camp director/camp leader responsibility.

2. For short-term camps, the council must communicate any required safety and quality measures to the camp ~~leader~~ leader, short-term camp administrator and the staff advisor, who share responsibility to ensure that the measures are executed at the short-term camp. [*Balance unchanged.*]

#### INTERPRETATION:

A "serious incident" requiring annual review is any incident involving more than Scout-rendered first aid, which resulted in an illness affecting ~~three or more~~ multiple participants, which resulted in significant property damage or expense (as determined by the local council), or any item flagged by camp leadership as requiring review. If the camp reports no incidents, the review team should ensure that reporting requirements are being followed and take corrective action if needed. ~~See NCAP AO-808 for information regarding what qualifies as a serious incident.~~

#### VERIFICATION:

Effective until December 31, 2026:

1. Certification from the Scout executive and a council officer that the relevant council committees have reviewed and approved, as necessary, the camp program
2. Either (a) minutes of the relevant council committee meeting or meetings where the program, safety, and risk review were conducted (the minutes must reflect the participation of individuals with relevant competencies); or (b) a signed certification statement that such review was conducted from individuals in each of the following competencies if the camp offers a program including those activities: (i) aquatics; (ii) COPE/climbing; (iii) range and target activities; and (iv) enterprise risk management (formerly health and safety)
3. The assessment team shall review the tracking sheet to ensure that the review is occurring.
4. If the council has adopted additional procedures, the assessment team shall review a representative sample of those measures to ensure that they are being implemented.

Effective January 1, 2027:

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1. Review of council’s plan of review and tracking sheet to ensure program reviews scheduled and completed as required by standard.
2. Discussion with the camp director of how informed of mitigation measures and how implemented.
3. If the council has adopted additional mitigative measures, the assessment team shall review a representative sample of those measures to verify implementation.

### REFERENCES:

Guidance on conducting the PD-112 review is found in NCAP Guide to Conducting the PD-112 Program Design, Safety and Risk Review available at [scouting.org/NCAP](http://scouting.org/NCAP)

### Rationale for the changes:

Councils and camps have requested assistance in complying with Standard PD-112. NCAP has taken the following actions to clarify the standard and make it easier to address:

(1) NCAP has increased the timeframe for review from once every 3 years to once every 3 or 4 years, so long as each program

is addressed 3 times in every decade. The goal of this change is to allow councils and camps to schedule program activity reviews for a specific calendar year (e.g., a year ending 0,3,6; 1,4,7, 2,5,8, 3,6,9 or 4,7,0). In this fashion programs can be scheduled consistently over time. Councils and camps are encouraged to use this feature to ease planning.

(2) NCAP has released a new NCAP Guide to Standard PD-112 Council Program Design, Safety, and Risk Review that provides an overview of how a council may complete the review. The council is free to use any approach that fulfills the standard. The Guide provides an overview of steps that NCAP believes will be helpful, including discussions at the board or executive committee level to establish appropriate risk, how to organize the review process to reduce burden, and how a camp or council can use existing Scouting program guides to fulfill aspects of the review process.

(3) NCAP has released an Excel spreadsheet that has a model Plan of Review to assist councils in seeing how a Plan of Review can be created and used. Second, the Excel spreadsheet has a model Tracking Sheet that enables councils and camps to easily demonstrate that they have conducted the required program activities reviews in accordance with this schedule. Once a plan of review and tracking sheet are in place, the camp can use these to demonstrate compliance and the council will no longer need to produce minutes of various committees to demonstrate compliance. NCAP believes that councils and camps adopting the council

tracking sheet will facilitate both the PD-112 review process and assessment.

Both the new guide and the Excel spreadsheet are available at [www.scouting.org/NCAP](http://www.scouting.org/NCAP) under Additional Resources.

### PS-213. RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: ARCHERY, SLINGSHOTS, AND THROWING SPORTS PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2026)

[Revise Specific Requirements of the Standard, Interpretation and Verification as follows]

#### A. Range Requirements

....

4. An atlatl range shall be designed and posted in accordance with Design Guideline 313. Ranges must complete a risk assessment per Standards PD-111 and PD-112 to determine if atlatl may be used safely.

#### INTERPRETATION:

Archery is limited to simple or recurve bows unless the council’s standard operating procedures provide for use of compound bows and the range is approved for their use. A compound bow is a bow that uses a system of pulleys and cables or similar system to make it easier to draw the bow. For Scouting America purposes, a universal draw length bow (such as a Genesis bow) is considered a recurve bow.

Atlatl is limited according to the standards listed in the Range and Target Activities Manual for size and materials. All other throwing sports are limited to items that can

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SCOUTING AMERICA

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be thrown by hand without mechanical assistance and must not be prohibited in the Guide to Safe Scouting. In case of doubt, application should be made for a waiver or variance under Standard SA-005.

### VERIFICATION:

1. Observation of standard operating procedures available at program
2. Observation of procedures in practice including:
  - (a) Safety procedures and equipment in proper use
  - (b) Equipment in good repair
3. Review safety areas are properly marked and effective
4. Review of proof of training of instructors and assistants.

### *Rationale for the changes:*

After requests from several councils and review by the Range and Target Activities Subcommittee, the National Council is authorizing atlatl activities as authorized by these standards and the *National Range and Target Activities Manual*, which is also being revised. While NCAP believes that the atlatl approach is safe and effective, it requests comment from the field on any issues encountered in implementing the program at a camp.

The second change outlined in Standard PS-213 is a clarification that “universal draw length bows,” such as the Genesis bow, are being classified as a form of “recurve” bow and not as “compound” bows requiring the additional review and analysis set forth in Specific Requirement B.7.

The final change is that the bullets under Verification are being numbered. This change will be made across the National Camp

Standards as each standard is revised.

### **PS-223. OTHER CAMP PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

(Revised January 1, 2026)

[Replace Verification as follows:]

### VERIFICATION:

Beginning January 1, 2026, NCAP will begin assessing compliance with the following documentation requirements for programs and activities authorized by Standard PS-223:

1. List of new programs and activities added after January 1, 2020.
2. Review of program syllabi and program hazard analysis for proof of council review and approval pursuant to either Standard PD-111 or Standard PD-112. Any new programs or activities must be authorized pursuant to Standard PD-111 until reauthorized pursuant to Standard PD-112's periodic review.
3. Assessment teams will verify that there is an approved Scouting America program guide that addresses each program or activity subject to this standard or an approved local syllabus and coverage under an approved program hazard analysis. Review and approval documented on a council or camp's Standard PD-112 tracking sheet satisfies this requirement.

### *Rationale for the change:*

*The revised Verification component replaces the prior approach*

*of using both Authorization and Assessment to track development of program hazard analyses and appropriate syllabi for other camp programs and activities. Under the new approach, new program activities are first authorized under Standard PD-111 and then reauthorized when they come up for their every 3 or 4 year review under Standard PD-112. The only exception is if a variance is required under Standard PD-111, in which case authorization occurs under the variance.*

*This approach is preferred because it treats all camps identically and independently of where they are in the Authorization cycle.*

### **SQ-405. CAMP HEALTH OFFICER**

(Revised January 1, 2026)

[Revise the standard as follows:]

### STANDARD:

**Medical care is under the direction of the council health supervisor, who is a currently licensed physician practicing in the jurisdiction state in which the camp is located. ...**

[balance unchanged]

### SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

- A. When access to an emergency medical system (EMS) is 10 minutes or less, American Red Cross Standard First Aid and CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and Health Care Providers, or equivalents are required. CPR/AED must address both adult and child/pediatric subjects.
- B. ...
  - g. Emergency medical responder, i.e., current state license

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from the jurisdiction state in which the camp is located or current Nationally Certified First Responder listed on the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians ([nremt.org](http://nremt.org)) ~~or until 2017,~~ eligible for certification on the National Registry.

### VERIFICATION:

[Replace bullets with numbers and revise bullet #2 as follows]

1. Documentation of age
2. Camp health officer and back-up, if any, qualifications
3. Statement from EMS provide as to response time or Google maps or Mapquest printout showing response time to nearest EMS
4. Relevant certificates on file

All may be submitted with the declaration.

### REFERENCES:

[Update reference]

The Camp Health Officer’s Training Course is located at [scouting.org/health-and-safety/training-2/](http://scouting.org/health-and-safety/training-2/) and scroll down to long-term or short-term/day camp training.

### Rationale for the changes:

NCAP is changing the terminology for the licensing authority from the “state” to the “jurisdiction” because same camps are located in territories or outside the United States.

NCAP received feedback from the field that CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer contained elements not typically required in camp settings. After evaluation and discussion with the Medical Subcommittee, Scouting America agrees that standard CPR/AED, so long as it includes both adult

and child/pediatric subject training, meets the needs for camps located within 10 minutes of EMS and this change is made.

Verification is updated to reflect the change from bullet points to numbers to assist assessment teams and camps in communicating findings.

### SQ-407. RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES PROGRAM STAFF

(Revised January 1, 2026)

[Revise Specific Requirement B.9, Any camp, Pistol range, Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, Venturers only to change the **Alternate Supervision Standards** as follows]

9. ... NRA pistol instructor AND NRA range safety officer, all 21 or more years old

### Rationale for the change:

The NRA FIRST Steps Program is an NRA program and must be taught by an NRA instructor. This change corrects an oversight.

### HS-503. MEDICAL INFORMATION

{Revised January 1, 2026}

[Revise Specific Requirements of the Standard as follows]

### SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD

#### A. Long-term camps and day camps.

1. Long-term camps: Upon arrival or earlier as allowed by camp policy, each camper, adult leader, and staff mem-

ber ....

2. Day Camps: Upon arrival or earlier as allowed by camp policy, each camper, adult leader, and staff member ....

[Add new Specific Requirement F as follows]

- F. Electronic Health Information Systems. A camp may use an approved electronic health information system if the camp has determined that it is secure, allows prompt retrieval and printing of records in an emergency, is accessible during power outages, and provides protection of individual privacy. The electronic health information system may accept, organize, retain, print and transmit AHMR information so long as the original document was manually or digitally signed in accordance with local law. An electronic health information system is approved if listed as approved on the NCAP website or by a variance issued pursuant to Standard SA-005.

### INTERPRETATION:

Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR) requirements....[balance unchanged]

### REFERENCES:

[Add new paragraph at end]

Current list of approved electronic health information system providers is posted on [www.scouting.org/](http://www.scouting.org/) NCAP site under Additional Resources.

### Rationale for the changes:

NCAP is clarifying that the practice of some camps of accepting health and medical records prior to camp to facilitate check in and is acceptable as a matter of local

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camp policy. Care should be taken to protect the privacy of the information.

NCAP has received multiple variance and waiver requests to allow the use of electronic health information systems to streamline the handling of AHMR and medical records at camp. The National Health and Safety team has approved CampDoc for use at Scouting America camps. Other programs may be approved in the future or can be approved by a variance upon application to NCAP. The list of currently approved vendors will be maintained at [www.scouting.org/NCAP](http://www.scouting.org/NCAP) under "Additional Resources."

Use of an electronic health information system is discretionary with the local council and camp but if one is used it must meet the requirements of Specific Requirement F and applicable law.

### **RP-551. MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SOCIAL HEALTH (MESH) SUPPORT**

(Effective January 1, 2027)

The next three pages of the NCAP Circular present the text of new Recommended Practice (RP)-551 Mental, Emotional, and Social Health (MESH) Support that will take effect **January 1, 2027**. The existing RP remains in effect during 2026, although camps are free to move to the 2027 RP immediately if they choose.

Both NCAP and the National Health and Safety Team have received requests for guidance from councils and camps on how to best address MESH issues. As before, the MESH field remains in a state of evolution but Scouting America

seeks to provide the most appropriate guidance it can for its local councils and camps, leading to the new Recommended Practice.

The following changes are highlighted:

- The revised RP contemplates a council MESH plan, a long-term and multi-day day camp MESH plan, and a short-term camp MESH plan.
- The council MESH plan should start with determining whether the council health supervisor is comfortable assisting the council with MESH issues. If not, the council and council health supervisor should find an appropriate medical professional to serve as the council health supervisor designee for MESH issues to assist the council in developing its plans.
- The council plan should assess the likely needs of its camps, the available resources, and provide a written plan for camp leadership that provides guidance to them on awareness/recognition, resources, guidance on how to implement their plan and responses, including incident reporting. Part of the plan should assist camp leaders in identifying issues where the family or outside resources should be called in versus situations where support and de-escalation may be appropriate.
- The long-term camp and multi-day day camp MESH plan should outline appropriate staff training, identify qualified resources that the camp leadership can call

upon when needed, and provide guidance or training on proper communication and MESH response. The camp plan should focus on the camp audience and provide steps that can be implemented by volunteer and staff until outside resources or transfer are available. Councils may use the same plan for multiple camps if in the opinion of the council health supervisor/designee the camps are sufficiently similar.

- The short term camp MESH plan is a simplified version of the long-term camp including those elements appropriate for a shorter experience. If the council health supervisor/designee believes certain camps need their own plan, NCAP recommends that this advice be followed.
- The RP strongly recommends that camp leadership be trained or briefed on the plan so they are aware of it and the resources it provides.
- In general, the RP cautions upon excessive reliance on the 988 service as it may not be best designed to handle Scouting age youth or the camp environment.
- The References section is updated with additional information and resources to assist local councils.

The National Health and Safety Team will periodically update resources on the Health and Safety pages.

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<h3 style="margin: 0;">MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SOCIAL HEALTH (MESH) SUPPORT</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">(Effective January 1, 2027)</p>	<b>RP-551</b>
<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Applies to:</b></p> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Day camp</div> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Short-term camp</div> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Long-term camp</div> </div>	<div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p><b>RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:</b></p> <p>The council has developed MESH plans as recommended by this Recommended Practice and consistent with Scouting America’s Mental, Emotional, and Social Health (MESH) Planning Template for Councils, communicated the plan to camp leadership, and made available resources as outlined in the plan.</p> </div> <p><b>SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:</b></p> <p>A. Council MESH plan elements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The council has identified whether the council health supervisor is willing/capable of addressing camp mental health preparation and, if not, has identified a council health supervisor designee to assist in development of the written council camp MESH policies and plans. The name and qualifications of the council health supervisor or designee are stated in the plan.</li> <li>2. The plan identifies professional MESH resources available to the council, the services that they provide, and how they can be accessed.</li> <li>3. The plan includes a needs assessment, which shall review camps, camp populations, camp activities, and locations and determines, with guidance from the council health supervisor or designee, needs and resources or services to meet those needs.</li> <li>4. A written plan for camp leadership that is consistent with Scouting America’s MESH Planning Template for Councils, and includes the following elements:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Likely mental health needs of the camp population (participants, staff, leaders and visitors);</li> <li>b. Awareness/recognition of symptoms of frequently occurring mental health problems likely to occur in the council’s camps;</li> <li>c. An assessment of resources available to camp leadership;</li> <li>d. Appropriate de-escalation techniques;</li> <li>e. Guidance on when and where to get additional help/resources and whom to contact for such help;</li> <li>f. Direction on how to implement the camp MESH plan; and</li> <li>g. Incident reporting, including to Scouting America, the council and any reporting required to an authority having jurisdiction.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p>RP-551-4</p>	

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<b>RP-551</b>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SOCIAL HEALTH (MESH) SUPPORT</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">(Effective January 1, 2027)</p>
<p><b>B. Long-term Camp MESH plan.</b> Each long-term camp and multi-day day camp has a MESH plan that meets the requirements of this Recommended Practice, is consistent with Scouting America camp staff MESH training resources, and is approved by the council health supervisor/designee. The plan shall include the following elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training for camp staff in recognizing and responding to MESH incidents;</li> <li>2. Identification of a qualified mental health professional or network on call to assist camp leadership in responding to MESH incidents;</li> <li>3. Guidance on proper communication with council leadership, family, and outside agencies in a way that both protects and respects the individuals with a MESH incident; and</li> <li>4. A MESH response outline, which may also be a separate stand-alone pamphlet, which provides guidance on handling of MESH incidents, when escalation to outside resources or transfer out of the camp environment is appropriate, and in-camp reporting protocols.</li> </ol> <p><b>C. Short-term camp MESH plan.</b> The council has a plan that includes elements of the Long-term Camp MESH plan (see Specific Recommendation B) that are appropriate for general short-term camp experiences reviewed and approved by the council health supervisor/designee. For short-term camps that in the judgment of the council health supervisor/designee present unusual risks, the council develops a camp MESH plan for that camp including the elements of Specific Recommendation B.</p> <p><b>D. Communication to camp leadership.</b> The camp leadership of each long-term camp or multi-day day camp has completed the MESH training recommended by this Recommended Practice prior to staff week. The camp leader or designee of any short-term camp and the camp health officers of any camp have completed an orientation on the short-term camp MESH plan applicable to the camp prior to the start of the camp. The training or orientation includes how to access the resources provided for in the plan and any required reporting. Records of this training are retained and made available for any assessment.</p> <p><b>E. Annual review.</b> Each year, the council in conjunction with its council health supervisor/designee reviews MESH incidents at its camps and makes appropriate adjustments to the MESH plans, staff training, and MESH outlines as appropriate.</p>	<p><b>Applies to:</b></p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">Day camp</div> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">Short-term camp</div> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">Long-term camp</div> </div> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 100px;">RP-551-5</p>

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# MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SOCIAL HEALTH (MESH) SUPPORT

(Effective January 1, 2027)

**RP-551**

### Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

### INTERPRETATION:

Camp leadership for purposes of this Recommended Practice includes the camp director, program director, camp health officer, and camp commissioner (if any) for a long-term camp or multi-day day camp. For short-term camps, camp leadership for purposes of the orientation includes the camp leader or designee and the camp health officer. The council may train additional camp leadership at its discretion but the absence of an additional individual is not a deviation from the Recommended Practice.

The council health supervisor/designee is either the council health supervisor (see Standard HS-505), if capable and willing, or that individual's designee to act on their behalf on mental health issues.

Sole reliance on the "988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline" service is not allowed unless the council health supervisor/designee determines in writing, after reasonable investigation, that no additional MESH resources are available.

### VERIFICATION:

1. Certification page for council MESH plan signed by council health supervisor/designee signed within last 15 months.
2. Copy of the ~~camp~~-MESH plan with certification statement signed by camp leadership (outlined in Interpretation).
3. Discussion with camp leadership of how MESH incidents are handled under camp MESH plan and reporting.

### REFERENCES:

Scouting America's SAFE Scouting Medical Subcommittee has developed resources to assist councils and camps in developing MESH plans. These resources provide general direction, questions and answers, and list some resources at the following locations:

- [filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/680-064\(23\)-MESH-Planning-Template.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/680-064(23)-MESH-Planning-Template.pdf)
- [scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/MESH-Facilitator-Guide-01132025.pdf](https://scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/MESH-Facilitator-Guide-01132025.pdf) (MESH Facilitator Guide for Camp Staff Training)
- [scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/MESH-Camp-Staff-Training-01132025.pptx](https://scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/MESH-Camp-Staff-Training-01132025.pptx) (MESH Camp Staff Training Slides)

Additional information can be found at the Alliance for Camp Health at: [allianceforcamphealth.org/education-and-resources/mesh-resources](https://allianceforcamphealth.org/education-and-resources/mesh-resources)

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### Rationale for the changes:

The principal goal of the changes is to make current recommended practices more available to local councils and camps and to clarify the different functions of the council and camp MESH plans, where the council plan provides overall guidance and discusses training and briefing for camp leadership while the camp plans are intended for use by camp staff to identify, de-escalate, and refer campers needing MESH support to appropriate family or professional resources.

Based on the still evolving framework for MESH in the camp environment, NCAP will continue RP-551 as a Recommended Practice and not convert it to a standard in the immediate future.

### AO-802. AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE

(Revised January 1, 2026)

#### SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

[Revise Specific Requirement E as follows]

#### E. Declaration.

1. Until December 31, 2026, each council has submitted its declaration of readiness for long-term camps to the camp assessment team lead by May 15 for camps starting in June, July or August or a date 30-60 days before the start of camp established by the zone assessment coordinator.
2. After January 1, 2027, each council has submitted its declaration of readiness by electronic file share including all required elements for long-term camps to the camp

assessment lead by May 15 for camps starting in June, July or August or a date 30-60 days before the start of camp established by the zone assessment coordinator.

#### INTERPRETATION:

[Add a new paragraph after the final paragraph as follows]

An electronic file share system means a password-protected or otherwise secured Sharepoint, Dropbox or similar system of the council's choice that can store and share files electronically with the council, camps, and assessment team.

#### VERIFICATION:

[Add a new bullet at the end as follows]

- All returning staff in the same position will have NCS certifications available and any new staff (or staff obtaining new NCS certifications) will have NCS certifications available or proof of registration at NCS (or a waiver or variance, as applicable). Missing certifications must be provided during the assessment.

#### Rationale for the changes:

*The Declaration of Readiness provision is amended to make it clear that the May 15 date applies to camps during the summer season (June, July, August). Councils should discuss due dates for camps in other months with the zone assessment coordinator to agree on a mutually satisfactory date. If no contact is made, the zone assessment coordinator will assign a date.*

*Starting January 1, 2027, NCAP is requiring councils to share their*

*Declaration of Readiness and supporting files using an electronic file share system such as Sharepoint, Dropbox or similar offerings. NCAP has determined that this process reduces lost documents, provides backup for critical camp documents, and generally facilitates communication. In the rare case of a camp without internet connectivity, the files can be shared with the camp via a jump drive or similar storage device. Councils encountering difficulty in obtaining an electronic file share system should reach out to the National Outdoor Program staff.*

***This requirement takes effect on January 1, 2027, but councils and camps are encouraged to use this approach sooner.***

### AO-803. INSURANCE

(Revised January 1, 2026)

[The Interpretation is revised as follows]

#### INTERPRETATION:

Relevant insurance typically includes:

- Scouting America commercial general liability insurance
- Property insurance to include Business Interruption and Extra Expense Fire and extended-risk on buildings (replacement cost recommended)
- Automobile liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 for owned or non-owned unowned vehicles. Unlicensed vehicles do not require automobile liability insurance.
- Workers' compensation (must meet state requirements)
- Accident and sickness (council-wide program recommended)

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Additional insurance may be required for trek or high-adventure programs. Examples of additional insurance councils may wish to consider include ~~business interruption~~, flood insurance (if relevant), and crime/theft of funds. Policies for outside group rentals are covered with this standard.

The council must provide a written

assessment in its application of its risks and how it will address those risks, either through insurance or self-insurance. If self-insurance is selected, the council must indicate what assets it will use to provide the self-insurance.

### **Rationale for the changes:**

*The National Camp Standards are being revised to conform to the*

*current recommendations from Scouting America's Risk Management Group, with increased emphasis placed on business interruption. Councils with questions on insurance issue should contact National Outdoor Programs staff or Risk Management.*

## Clarification on Required Abuse Training under Standard SQ-402

Scouting America has long required that camp staff receive training on how to prevent abuse at all ages, which has been called youth-on-youth and peer-on-peer abuse training at various times in the past. The current requirement, in Standard SQ-402, Specific Requirement B.2, calls out *Understanding and Preventing Peer on Peer Abuse*. Scouting America has just released an updated training program entitled **Peer-On-Peer Abuse**, which was not the preliminarily identified title for this course. The announcement of *Peer On Peer Abuse* states:

[Scouting America is] excited to announce the launch of our new online training course, "Peer-On-Peer Abuse" which supersedes the previous facilitated course "Understanding and Preventing Youth-on-Youth Abuse". This essential training is specifically tailored for camp and NYLT staff and focuses on the prevention of youth-on-youth incidents that may arise during camp activities that fulfills the specific NCAP requirement outlined in SQ-402.B.2. Completion will award the training code CS95 with a one-year expiration. CS95 will no longer be available for manual entry.

Here are some of the key highlights of the course:

- Abuse and Problematic Behavior Module: Understand the types of abuse that can happen between youth participants and how to proactively build safeguards into Scout meetings, outings, and camp activities.
- Peer-On-Peer Behavior Module: Recognize different kinds of behavior using the traffic light analogy (green, yellow, red) and understand the importance of supervision and monitoring.
- Barriers to Abuse Module: Explore the highly effective safeguards designed for prevention and ensure the protection of youth members and adult leaders in Scouting.
- Reporting Peer-On-Peer Abuse Module: Learn the steps that

must be taken to report peer-on-peer abuse and understand the NCAP standards that require timely incident reporting.

Together, through awareness and preparation, we can foster a safe and supportive environment where every Scout can thrive. We look forward to your participation in this important training.

**NOTE:** NCAP will accept *Peer-On-Peer Abuse*, as satisfying Standard SQ-402 even if the National Council subsequently elects to revise the course title to *Understanding and Preventing Peer on Peer Abuse* as originally contemplated.

NCAP regrets any confusion caused by the evolution in the name of this important training.

## Notice of Possible Policy Change

NCAP is considering a change in 2027 to its policy for granting waivers for the Staff Qualification (SQ) standards. NCAP has received increasing numbers of waiver requests due to candidates "not being available" to attend National Camping School (NCS). NCS training, or its equivalent, is the standard and a candidate who

does not have the required training by camp does not meet the standard. If the policy change is approved, NCAP would no longer grant waivers to candidates not already holding the required NCS card except in exigent circumstances.

Comments on this proposal should be sent to [NCAP@scouting.org](mailto:NCAP@scouting.org).

## NCAP Guides Assist Camps and Councils

NCAP offers a series of *Guides* to different aspects of the National Camp Accreditation Program to assist councils and camps with compliance and reduce burdens by providing practical “how to” explanations. The *Guides* do not expand the requirements of the National Camp Standards but set forth how the standards are intended to be applied to achieve the goal of elevating camp performance over time.

In this article, NCAP will highlight its newest *Guide*, the *Guide to Council Program Design, Safety, and Risk Review under Standards PD-112, PD-111, PS-222 and PS-223*, and the other existing *Guides*. Councils may suggest additional guides or make comments on existing *Guides* by submitting comments to [NCAP@scouting.org](mailto:NCAP@scouting.org).

### **New Guide: Guide to Council Program Design, Safety, and Risk Review under Standards PD-112, PD-111, PS-222 and PS-223.**

NCAP has received feedback over the years that the periodic review required by Standard PD-112 needs additional explanation and requests for help with structuring the review process. The new *Guide* responds to those requests.

In the first two sections, the *Guide* explains the purpose of Standard PD-112 and explains how that review relates to the other risk standards PD-111 (new programs/activities), PS-222 (adventure programs/activities) and PS-223 (other programs/activities). It explains the importance of the council’s role in establishing program design goals and setting risk expectations to be followed by

council staff, employees and volunteers and how these decisions are propagated and reinforced using Standard PD-112. Preparing the required Plan of Review is discussed.

The next section provides **recommendations** on how to implement the review process, including steps council staff can take to prepare, orientation of reviewers, and specific discussions of the program design and quality review (fulfilling the program design requirement) and the safety and risk review (fulfilling the safety and risk review requirement). Important elements including guidance on appropriate programs, correctness, when a program hazard analysis (PHA) is required, and how to review the program and its PHA.

The final sections discuss the annual review meeting, evaluation by the council of the results, and implementation.

The requirements for Standard PD-112 remain those set in the standard itself but the *Guide* seeks to provide a process that councils and camps can follow to make the review meaningful—not overwhelming—and consistent with the council’s objectives

An example Excel spreadsheet, available at [scouting.org/NCAP](http://scouting.org/NCAP) under Additional Resources, provides examples of a plan of review and tracking the review cycle.

### **Existing Guides**

In addition to the new *Guide* on Standard PD-112, NCAP currently has guides on the following standards and issues:

- **Council Implementation Guide.** This guide provides an overview of NCAP’s ele-

ments, discusses the Authorization cycle and the council’s role, including application for Authorization to Operate and how to organize the council’s part in NCAP. It also provides guidance on interpreting the National Camp Standards, Assessment operations, both on the council and zone level, and specific councils functions like the Intent to Operate, Declaration of Readiness, Pre/Post camp inspection and similar functions.

- **Guide to the Continuous Camp Improvement Program.** This guide introduces the CCIP and discusses how the camp strategic improvement plan (CSIP or long-term plan) and the annual camp improvement program (ACIP) relate and work together. It also explains how NCAP assesses the adequacy of the council’s and camp’s CCIP.
- **Guide to Reviewing the Continuous Camp Improvement Program.** This guide is a companion to the prior one used by assessors and authorization reviewers.
- **Camp Facilities Evaluation Tool.** This guide provides a useful step-by-step review of how to use the CFET to document camp conditions and assess improvements.
- **Guide to Preparing the Authorization to Operate.** This guide explains the steps used to review an authorization.

All guides can be obtained at [scouting.org/NCAP](http://scouting.org/NCAP) under “Additional Resources.”

## NCAP National and Zone Leadership

NCAP Position	Name	Email Address
<b>National Chair Special Projects</b>	Carl Nicolaysen* Jason Kasiorek*	cnicolaysen@esoen.com jkasiosek@comcast.net
<b>Staff Advisor</b>	Brian Gray	Brian.Gray@Scouting.org
<b>Standards Chair Assistants</b>	Eric Hiser* Richard Koch* Chrystene Speed* John Vesey*	Eric.Hiser@scouting.org richard.a.koch@gmail.com cspeed@speedpainting.com jvesey@aol.com
<b>Authorization Chair Vice Chair Team Leads</b>	Steve Phillips* Bob Hemmerly* Curt Brookhart* Larry Healey* Ken Estes* Bob Longoria* John Young* Doug Ferguson*	shp1aa@gmail.com msgtbobh@gmail.com crbrookhart@nktelco.net lahealey@comcast.net johnkestes@comcast.net rjlongo3@comcast.net youngarea7@gmail.com hdfergusonjr@msn.com
<b>Assessment Chair Vice Chair Lead Zones 1-8 Lead Zones 9-16 Assessment Mentor Zone 1 Coordinator Zone 3 Coordinator Zone 4 Coordinator Zone 5 Coordinator Zone 6 Coordinator Zone 7 Coordinator Zone 8 Coordinator Zone 9 Coordinator Zone 10 Coordinator Zone 11 Coordinator Zone 12 Coordinator Zone 13 Coordinator Zone 14 Coordinator Zone 15 Coordinator Zone 16 Coordinator</b>	Barry Simays* Randy DeFrank* Brent Worley* Jay Cash* Bob Miller* Lee Welch Cap Casperson Chuck Gitzen Rob Richardson Peter Erdelyi Fritz Maxwell Gray Strickland David Ehrlich George Bacalles John Willemain Dave Carlson Jim Korcienski Bobby Bloodworth Jeff Irving Matt Kamat	barry.simays@gmail.com rrdefrank@gmail.com brentw@wallties.com jayhcash@gmail.com ramag64@aol.com leland4811@gmail.com casperc@p@gmail.com cfgitzen@usfamily.net richardsonbrothersdevelopment@gmail.com perdelyi@cromedesign.com fritz.maxwell@sbcglobal.net gray@graystrickland.com dehrlich2@gmail.com gbacalles@gmail.com johnwillemain@comcast.net carlsonbsa@gmail.com jimmyk@ptd.net rbloodworth@reagan.com jeffreyirving@cox.net matthew.kamat@gmail.com

\*National Camp Accreditation Committee

### Future NCAP Developments

Recommendations for Standards changes for 2027 and beyond are requested. Please send to [NCAP@scouting.org](mailto:NCAP@scouting.org) by **February 15, 2026**, if possible. Any errors or concerns with the 2026 Standards or comments on the possible policy change to waivers under the SQ standards should be sent **before April 15, 2026**.

NCAP is always open to feedback and questions. If you have questions that cannot be answered by your council NCAP chair or zone NCAP coordinator, please email [NCAP@scouting.org](mailto:NCAP@scouting.org) or reach out to a relevant member of the NCAP national leadership team.

*Please always download and use current NCAP forms from [www.scouting.org/NCAP](http://www.scouting.org/NCAP)*