



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL



Narragansett Council's
UNIT ACTIVITY SAFETY
AWARENESS WORKSHOP
Resource Packet

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Forward

Narragansett Council's Unit Activities Safety Awareness Resource Packet Overview

For the Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, the number one priority is the safety of our youth, leaders, staff, and other participants. In Scouting, we will not compromise the safety of our Scouts, volunteers, and employees. Safety is a value that must be taught and reinforced at every opportunity. We are all responsible and must hold each other accountable to provide a safe environment for all participants. We are committed to injury and illness prevention by integrating safety measures in our handbooks, literature, and training materials, including the Guide to Safe Scouting. We expect leaders to use the four points of SAFE when delivering the program. SAFE Scouting measures include:

- Youth are Supervised by qualified and trustworthy adults who set the example for safety.
- Activities are Assessed for risks.
- Pre-requisite Fitness and Skill levels are confirmed before participation.
- Appropriate Equipment is utilized, and Environmental conditions are monitored.

When incidents do occur, we expect a timely, clear, and complete incident report. We are committed to learning from the data and modifying program guidance for the prevention of future occurrences.

Without question, all participants in official Scouting activities should be familiar with the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) and applicable program literature or manuals, and be aware of state or local government regulations that supersede Boy Scouts of America practices, policies, and guidelines. The *Guide to Safe Scouting* is an overview of Scouting policies and procedures gleaned from a variety of sources. For some items, the policy statements are complete. Unit leaders are expected to review the additional reference material cited prior to conducting such activities. This packet is designed to increase the awareness of Scouters of the resources provided by the Boy Scouts of America, as well as guidance, trainings, and restrictions for the safe planning of Scouting 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 Scout motto, and safety policies and practices commonly prescribed for the activity by experienced providers and practitioners. This packet will review some of these mentioned resources.

Perhaps this quote by Sir Robert Baden-Powell from his 1914 book *Quick Training for War* is appropriate to include here: *"... The books lay down definite principles and examples which serve to guide the leaders when applying their common sense to the situation before them. No two situations are ever precisely the same, and it is therefore impossible to lay down exact rules that should guide in every case, but a man who carries precedents and principles in his head has no difficulty in applying their teaching in supreme moments of sudden emergency ..."*

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me!

Diane

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The online version of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is updated periodically. Go to www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss

Must-Knows for Popular Activities

Besides the obvious Youth Protection requirements of proper adult leadership supervision, and appropriate attire for the activity, also needed is an adequate water supply, bug spray, sunscreen, safe equipment and registration/permitting when necessary, some popular Scouting activities have additional mandatory training and may have certain restrictions. Below is a summary of a few of the most popular, and potentially hazardous, activities and the BSA's requirements for safely offering those Scouting activities.

Cub Camping: Cub camping is a strictly family-centric activity, families must tent together. **Cub Packs can only camp at Council approved CUB CAMPING sites and/or facilities.** At least one registered adult leader with the unit must be BALOO trained.

Camping for Scouts BSA, Sea Scouting, and Venturing Units: As of September 1, 2023, every adult who attends an overnighiter with a Scouts BSA Troop, Sea Scout Ship, or Venturing Crew **MUST BE** registered to the unit as an adult leader and have current Youth Protection Training.

Swimming/Aquatics: Before a BSA group may engage in swimming activities of any kind, a minimum of one adult leader must complete Safe Swim Defense training, have a commitment card (No. 34243) with them, and agree to use the eight defenses in this plan.

Boating/Kayaking/Canoeing: Safety Afloat training is designed for all authorized boating activities. Adult leaders supervising those activities must have completed their Safety Afloat training within the previous two years.

Shooting Sports: Shooting sports are to be offered only at District, Council, and/or National-run events where proper certification and safety procedures can be insured. A unit **CANNOT** run their own shooting sports program under any circumstances.

Climbing and Rappelling: Climb On Safely (www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/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 my.scouting.org).

Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts can only 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.

In addition, Webelos Scouts can: Rappel with a trained adult belayer and backup.

In addition, Scouts BSA members can: Belay with supervision and a backup.

Project COPE-High Ropes Challenge Course: COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) is a program of the Boy Scout of America, and must be run by trained volunteers and staff. Instructors and staff members are locally trained, and the course is overseen by a nationally-trained director. It is required that the entire COPE-high ropes challenge course program, facilities, policies, and operations be inspected and certified annually.

ATVs: ATVs may only be used in Council-run programs. With the exception of council-run ATV programs, ATVs, UTVs, and side-by-sides are banned from program use, a restriction that includes their use within units. Youth must be 14+ years old and registered in any BSA program to ride an ATV at council-run programs. Youth are not allowed to drive or ride UTV's.

Policy Regarding Prohibited and Unauthorized Activities

The Boy Scouts of America's Charter and Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, policies, and program guidelines help provide a safe and consistent program. Council and unit charters as well as individual registration are conditioned upon adherence to those requirements.

Adult volunteer leaders and units that allow youth or units to engage in prohibited or unauthorized activities in contravention of program requirements, and leaders who fail to take steps to stop any such activities, put youth and the organization at risk.

Only leaders possessing the educational, emotional, and moral qualities necessary for leadership are permitted to register and serve as Scouters. Actions which put youth or the organization at risk call into question the suitability of a Scouter for leadership.

If it is determined that youth were allowed to participate or engage in unauthorized or prohibited activities, a leader's registration and/or the unit's charter may be subject to adverse action, including revocation.

Approved by the National Executive Committee, February 13, 2018

Activity Safety Resources and Risk Assessment Tools

[Activity Planning and Risk Assessment | Boy Scouts of America \(scouting.org\)](#)

No organization, including the Boy Scouts of America, can anticipate every possible activity that could be conducted as part of a unit, district, or council event. As such, it is neither the intent nor the desire of the BSA to provide specific guidance on subjects that are not core to the program or part of our literature.

For those activities that support the values of the Boy Scouts of America, there are several tools available for participants that will help them plan for a fun and safe tour, activity, or event. Good planning and preparedness prior to executing the activity is key to success. This guide is one of those tools. Other such resources are the Program Hazard Analysis, safety checklists, and the PAUSE card.

As you use these tools, reflect on the words of Robert Baden-Powell: *Be Prepared ... the meaning of the motto is that a Scout must prepare himself by previous thinking out and practicing how to act on any accident or emergency so that he is never taken by surprise.*

Program Hazard Analysis

This tool is primarily used for program areas within camp properties, camps or high-adventure bases. It covers specific risks to the program areas. This tool has a defined way of assessing probability and severity of risks. This tool assesses risks initially, as if there are no protective measures in place, then looks at the risks again with protective measures.

Reference: www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/680-009.pdf

Safety PAUSE

The Safety PAUSE process stresses the importance of a last-minute safety check in the field. By encouraging each youth or adult leader to pause and reflect on the tasks at hand just before beginning, you have an opportunity to take necessary precautions to prevent any present or potential hazards.

Reference: www.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-046.pdf

The SAFE Checklist

Scouts and their parents expect all Boy Scouts of America activities to be conducted safely. To ensure the safety of participants, the Boy Scouts of America expects leaders to use the four points of SAFE when delivering the Scouting program.

Reference: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safe/

Prohibited Activities— from the *Guide to Safe Scouting 2023*

The Scouting program incorporates common activities such as swimming, climbing, cycling, archery, and snowboarding that, depending on the details, may include both real and perceived risks to participants. Those risks are managed by BSA policies, procedures, and guidelines that set limits and incorporate specific features such as safety equipment or qualified supervision. Guidance is provided by, but not limited to, the [Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities](#), [Safe Swim Defense](#), [Safety Afloat](#), [Climb on Safely](#), [Belay On](#), and the BSA [shooting sports](#) program. Activity components outside of BSA program guidelines are prohibited as follows:

1. Nonadherence to the [Scouter Code of Conduct](#)

2. Any activity that is not aligned with the current [Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities](#)

3. Aquatic Activities that fail to comply with [Safe Swim Defense](#) and/or [Safety Afloat](#)

4. Activities Related to COPE or Climbing that fail to comply with [Climb on Safely](#) and/or [Belay On](#). This includes activities on courses that are not constructed to comply with standards set by the [Association for Challenge Course Technology \(ACCT\)](#) and/or are not inspected annually for integrity.

5. Flying—use of hang gliders, ultralights, experimental aircraft, or nontethered hot-air balloons, or flying in an aircraft as part of a search-and-rescue mission (*exceptions: transportation to Scouting events by commercial airlines; flying or [tethered hot-air balloon flights](#) following completion of the [Flying Plan Checklist](#)*)

6. Motorized Vehicles used as program or activities—including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-road vehicles, motorized personal watercraft (PWC), snowmobiles, E-Bikes and motorized speed events (*exceptions: council-approved ATV and PWC programs that comply with [National Camp Accreditation Program \[NCAP\] standards](#); go-karting conducted at a commercial facility that provides equipment and supervision of cart operation; youth completing the Motorboating merit badge*)

7. Shooting or Throwing Sports outside of BSA program literature and guidance.

Examples of prohibited activities (with exceptions in italics) include:

- Anvil shooting, flintlocks, exploding targets, and devices regulated by the National Firearms Act
- Blow guns, boomerangs, and ballistae
- Homemade firearms and air cannons, potato cannons, and tennis ball cannons
- Throwing of shovels, torpedoes, spikes, stars, shotput, logs, hammers, and cabers
- Inappropriate ammunition such as pumpkins, hard slingshot ammo, and tracers
- Cannons
- Crossbows (*except at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve*)
- Reloading ammunition, and using reloaded ammunition (*except at Philmont Scout Ranch*)
- Spears, including atlatls, pole spears, and spear guns (*except at Philmont Scout Ranch*)
- Open or concealed carry or use of firearms at any Scouting activity, *with the following exceptions:*
- *Law enforcement officers who are required to carry firearms within their jurisdiction*
- *Use as part of an official [BSA shooting sports program](#)*
- *Appropriate hunting in Venturing*

8. Intramural, interscholastic, or club sport competitions or activities

Some activities considered by youth and leaders are not compatible with the Scouting program. Some have unacceptable risks that have been confirmed by serious or even fatal consequences. Others are not compatible with the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The activities listed here are strictly prohibited as part of any Scouting program.

The list is not comprehensive, but it serves as a definitive list of prohibited activities and it offers a broad sense of what is not allowed as a Scouting activity. Scouting leaders should refer to this list when deciding on activities, and they should reflect vigorously on how any activity outside our published program would resonate with the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the following activities (with exceptions in italics):

1. Extreme or action sports and associated activities that involve an unusually high degree of risk and often involve speed, height, a high level of exertion, and specialized gear or equipment. These activities include but are not limited to:

- Parkour
- Cliff diving or jumping
- Whitewater paddling on rapids rated Class V or above
- Tree climbing
- Free or solo climbing
- Aerobatics while snowboarding, skiing, wakeboarding, or mountain biking
- Parachuting, BASE jumping, or wingsuiting
- Parasailing or any activity in which a person is carried aloft by a parachute, parasail, kite, flying tube, or other device
- Participation in amateur or professional rodeo events, council or district sponsorship of rodeos, and use of mechanized bulls or similar devices (*This restriction does not apply to bicycle safety rodeos.*)
- Jumping with bungee-cord devices (sometimes called shock-cord jumping)
- Bubbleball, Knockerball®, zorbing, Battle Balls™, bubble soccer, bubble football, and similar orb activities where participants collide or roll around on land or water
- Flyboarding/jet-boarding
- Highlining
- XPOGO
- Trampolines and trampoline parks (*exception: commercial facilities that meet or exceed current ASTM Standard F2970-15*)

2. Use of accelerants, chemicals, or pyrotechnics to start fires or in ceremonies (*exception: solid fire starters designed and manufactured for this purpose*)

- Using homemade or modified equipment that fails to comply with the BSA [Chemical Fuels and Equipment policy](#)
- Burning any solid, liquid, gel, or gas fuel in a tent—including tents or teepees that feature or support stoves or fires

3. Excavations or entry into fox holes, makeshift caves, tunnels, trenches, or ditches. Includes digging in sand dunes. (*exception: snow quinzees and caves — see Okpik, Cold-Weather Camping, No. 34040*)

4. Activities where participants strike at each other, including martial arts, boxing, combat games, gladiator games, and reenactment activities such as live action role-playing games (LARP) and Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) activities (*exception: tai chi*)

5. Activities where participants shoot or throw objects at each other, such as rock-throwing, paintball, laser or archery tag, sock fights, or dodgeball

6. Service projects that fail to comply with federal, state, or local laws regarding the safety of youth.

7. Use of power tools by youth, including chainsaws, log splitters, wood chippers, and power saws or mills (*Youth may use age-appropriate tools following tool manufacturers' guidelines. See also SAFE Tool Use: filestore.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-028.pdf*)

9. Exploration of abandoned mines

10. Fireworks, including selling of fireworks (*exception: fireworks displays by a certified or licensed fireworks control expert*)

11. Water chugging, and eating or drinking competitions such as “chubby bunny” or hot dog eating contests

12. Hunting (*Venturing crews may conduct hunting trips, and councils may host special adult hunting expeditions provided that all participants have obtained necessary permits and/or licenses from state or federal agencies and have completed a hunter safety education course.*)

**NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
YOUTH PROTECTION AND
CAMP FACILITIES RENTAL PROCEDURES**

Important Rules and Regulations

- Groups must check-in upon arrival and checkout upon departure with the Ranger and/or the Campmaster on duty. Check-in is no earlier than 5:00 PM Friday. Checkout is no later than 12:00 noon Sunday. (The Ranger must clear exceptions in advance.) A completed roster must be submitted upon arrival.
- Cub Scout outdoor activities – Cub Scout groups must follow the Narragansett Council Cub Scout Camping Policy and Guidelines. Family Camping, picnics, and pack overnights – are encouraged at our Council camps. At least one leader present must have successfully completed the BALOO Training Program. Guidelines established in the BALOO Program must be observed. While all Narragansett Council facilities are approved for Cub Scout use, packs will find Cub World, Champlin, Buck Hill, Norse, Cachalot and Aquapaug most “Cub friendly” for overnight use.
- Cub Scout tent camping is prohibited when temperatures are below 40°F (roughly November 1-April 1).
- The following are prohibited at all facilities or properties: alcoholic beverages, marijuana, illegal drugs, sheath knives, personal firearms, hunting, chopping or carving of live trees, trenching or ditching of tents, rollerblading, skateboarding, scooters, recreational vehicles, pets, and the destruction or defacing of any facility or property.
- Groups are responsible for any damage to the property.
- Open fires in established and designated areas are allowed only with the permission of the Ranger or Campmaster on Duty. Open fires include all types of liquid, chemical, or gas stoves, wood fires, or the use of charcoal. State fire regulations in Rhode Island prohibit open fires from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM from March 15th to May 15th. This includes charcoal and stoves. Suitable fire-fighting equipment must be on hand at all times. Full buckets of water and shovels are acceptable.
- Wooden pallets are not allowed as firewood at any Narragansett Council facility.
- All youth participants should be registered members of the BSA or have interest in registering. Siblings of Cub Scouts are only allowed to participate as outlined in BALOO.
- Portable propane or gas grills, stoves and lanterns are not allowed inside any Narragansett Council enclosed structure. Space heaters of all kinds are prohibited in any structure.

Be Prepared for a Successful Outing

1. Secure permission from parents. Let them know your destination, arrival and departure times. As well as names and phone numbers of all leaders that will be present.
2. Have on hand a current health history for each participant, plan program, meals, etc. ☑ Ensure proper clothing, and footwear for all possible weather conditions.
3. Provide adequate adult leadership for the group considering the number of youth participants, their age, their training, and experience for the type of outing you are planning .
4. Establish an emergency contact with a responsible adult in the unit’s home community. Specify when an adult on the outing will check in.
5. Be alert to weather conditions. The BSA requires that at least one leader on every outing be Hazardous Weather Trained. Direct leaders must complete the training as well.
6. All leaders should read the BSA Guide to Safe Scouting. An updated copy should be on hand for every outing.

Refunds

A refund will be made to those units who give 4 weeks notice of cancellation. Cabins are in high demand, please be considerate of other units who would like to use the facility.



Youth Protection Guidelines for Group Outings*

Adult Supervision

At least two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including meetings. There must be a registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth. Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age- and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided. (Youth Protection and Barriers to Abuse FAQs)

All adults who participate in any overnight activity MUST be registered adults with the BSA (as of 9/1/23) with the only exception being parents of cub scouts attending a family camping overnighter with their child.

Accommodations

For the Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting, and Exploring Programs, separate accommodations for adult males and females and youth males and females are required.

For Cub Scout overnighters, families should tent together.

Tenting

Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth.

Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.

In Cub Scouting, parents and guardians may share a tent with their family.

In all other programs, youth and adults tent separately. (Youth Protection and Barriers to Abuse FAQs)

Spouses may share tents.

Lodging/Cabin Accommodations

Separate cabins or lodging should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. Where separate accommodations cannot be provided due to group size or limited availability, modifications may be made. Where completely separate accommodations are not available, additional supervision is required. (Youth Protection and Barriers to Abuse FAQs)

If adults and youth of the same gender occupy single-room accommodations, there must be a minimum of two adults and four youth, with all adults being Youth Protection trained.

Physical separation by other means, including temporary barriers or space, should be used only when no other arrangements are possible.

These modifications are limited to single-gender accommodations.

Restrooms

Separate shower and latrine facilities should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. If separate facilities are not available, separate times should be scheduled and posted.

Privacy of youth is respected.

Adults and youth must respect each other's privacy, especially in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp. Adult leaders should closely monitor these areas but only enter as needed for youth protection or health and safety reasons.

Program Requirements

The buddy system must **always** be used.

The use of smartphones, cameras, mirrors, drones, etc., in places or situations where privacy is expected is prohibited.

All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.

The BSA does not recognize any secret organizations as part of its program.

Hazing and initiations are prohibited and have no part during any Scouting activity.

All forms of bullying and harassment including verbal, physical, and cyberbullying are prohibited.

Inappropriate public displays of affection are prohibited.

Sexual activity is prohibited.

Appropriate attire is required for all activities.

Reporting Requirements

Adult leaders and youth members have a responsibility to recognize, respond to, and report Youth Protection violations and abuse.

Reporting Youth Protection Policy Violations

Serious Youth Protection policy violations or behaviors that put a youth's safety at risk must be reported to the Scout executive. Alternatively, policy violations may be reported to the Scouts First Helpline 1-844-SCOUTS1 (1-844-726-8871) when the Scout executive is not available. Additional online reporting information is available at [Incident Reporting | Boy Scouts of America \(scouting.org\)](#)

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse

All persons participating in Scouting programs are mandated reporters of child abuse.

Reports must be made to local law enforcement and child protective services. State law may require additional reporting.

This reporting duty cannot be delegated to any other person.

Reporting to the Scout executive or Scouts First Helpline ensures that follow-up can occur for the safety of our youth. Scout executives and Scouts First coordinate follow-up actions.

Scouts First Helpline

As part of its "Scouts First" approach to the protection and safety of youth, the BSA has established a dedicated 24-hour helpline to receive reports of known or suspected abuse or behavior that might put a youth at risk.

1-844-SCOUTS1 (1-844-726-8871)

When to use it:

Anytime you believe a youth has been harmed or their safety and well-being is at risk, and you cannot immediately reach your Scout executive or local council.

If a youth is bullied because of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability, and local help is unable to resolve the problem.

If someone is at immediate risk of harm, always call 911

*Youth protection guidelines as of 3/2023. Check the [Guide to Safe Scouting | Boy Scouts of America](#) for the most up to date requirements.



AGE APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

Age- and rank-appropriate guidelines have been developed based on many factors. When planning activities outside of program materials or handbooks, ask this question: *Is the activity appropriate for the age and for Scouting?* Not every activity needs to be conducted.



LIONS
(WITH ADULT PARTNER)



TIGERS
(WITH ADULT PARTNER)



WOLF/BEAR SCOUTS



WEBELOS SCOUTS



SCOUTS BSA



OLDER SCOUTS BSA, SEA SCOUTS, VENTURERS

("Older Scouts BSA" are age 13 and have completed eighth grade or 14 years old and up.)



Outdoor Skills

Hunting							Venturers Only
Mountaineering/Scrambling/Cross-Country Travel							✓
Search and Rescue Missions							✓
Search and Rescue Practice						✓	✓
Fueled Devices (Stoves and lanterns)						✓	✓
Hiking—Multiple Day						✓	✓
Mountain Boards						✓	✓
Orienteering						✓	✓
Wilderness Survival Training					Castaway Elective	✓	✓
Camporees					Day Visit Only	✓	✓
Fire Building					✓	✓	✓
Pioneering					✓	✓	✓
Cooking Outdoors				Bear Necessities Requirement	✓	✓	✓
Horseback Riding				✓	✓	✓	✓
Map and Compass		Map Only	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pioneering Towers (Check requirements for height restrictions.)					Council/District Events Only	✓	✓
Rope Bridges (Check requirements for height restrictions.)					Council/District Events Only	✓	✓
Conservation Projects	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fishing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hiking—Day	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Tools (See SAFE Project Tool Use Guidelines: filestore.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-028.pdf)

Power Tools—Chain Saws, Log Splitters, Wood Chippers, Power Saws					Adult Use Only		
Power Tools							See Age Guidelines for Tool Use
Axes						✓	✓
Bow Saws					✓	✓	✓
Pocketknife				Bear Only	✓	✓	✓
Hand Tools		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Trekking

Horse Treks							✓
Backpacking—Overnight, Backcountry						✓	✓
Bike Treks—Multiple Overnights						✓	✓
Ski Touring—Multiple Days and Nights Carrying Gear						✓	✓
Day Hikes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Shooting (See shooting sports guides at www.scouting.org. Note: Shooting at each other is prohibited.)

Centerfire/Large-Bore Rifles							Venturers and Sea Scouts
Pistols							Venturers and Sea Scouts
Pistol Safety and Marksmanship Programs							Council-Run Program
Specialty Programs—Cowboy Action Shooting						✓	✓
.22 Rifle						✓	✓
Archery—Field						✓	✓
Muzzleloaders						✓	✓
Shotguns						✓	✓
Specialty Programs—Airsoft						✓	✓
Specialty Programs—Chalkball						✓	✓
Air Rifle (pellet guns)					Webelos Long-Term Camp Only	✓	✓
BB Guns					Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	✓	✓
Archery—Target, Action (moving targets)					Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	✓	✓
Slingshots/Wrist Rockets					Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	✓	✓
Catapults/Trebuchets					Projectiles must be soft and small (no larger than a tennis ball).		



Camping (See Guide to Safe Scouting: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss)

Unit-Coordinated Camping				Camping as a Den or Pack at Council's Designated Locations	✓	✓
Council-Coordinated Camping	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

AGE APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

Age- and rank-appropriate guidelines have been developed based on many factors. When planning activities outside of program materials or handbooks, ask this question:
Is the activity appropriate for the age and for Scouting?
Not every activity needs to be conducted.



LIONS
(WITH ADULT PARTNER)



TIGERS
(WITH ADULT PARTNER)



**WOLF/BEAR
SCOUTS**



**WEBELOS
SCOUTS**



SCOUTS BSA



**OLDER SCOUTS BSA,
SEA SCOUTS,
VENTURERS**

(*Older Scouts BSA* are age 13 and have completed eighth grade or 14 years old and up.)



Vehicles

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV)					Approved Council Use Only; No Unit Use	
Personal Watercraft (PWC)					Approved Council Use Only; No Unit Use	
BMX Biking			✓	✓	✓	✓
Mountain Biking			✓	✓	✓	✓
Bike—Day Trip	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Cave and Climbing

Caving (other than simple novice activities)						✓
Lead Climbing						✓
Snow and Ice Climbing						✓
Belaying					✓	✓
Rock Climbing					✓	✓
Amusements—Aerial Adventure Parks					✓	✓
Amusements—Canopy Tours					✓	✓
Amusements—Zip Lines					✓	✓
Rappelling				✓	✓	✓
COPE	Age-Appropriate Initiative Games				✓	✓
Bouldering	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Climbing (age-appropriate man-made facility)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Aquatics (See Safe Swim Defense, and Safety Afloat for restrictions based on skills, such as swimming ability, rather than age.)

Aerial Towed Activities (kitesurfing, parasails)	Not Authorized					
Cliff Jumping, High Dives	Not Authorized					
Triathlon: Swim Races in Open Water						Sanctioned Events
Paddle Sports: Youth Operated on Class III or Above Whitewater						✓
Personal Water Craft (PWC)	Approved Council Programs Only					
Paddle Sports: Whitewater With Professional Guide on Board					✓	✓
Paddle Sports: Youth Operated on Class I or II Whitewater					✓	✓
Motorboats: Youth Operated (check state regulations)					✓	✓
Overnight Cruise on Live-Aboard Vessel					✓	✓
Sailboats and Sailboards: Youth Operated					✓	✓
Snorkeling in Open Water					✓	✓
Scuba					✓	✓
Surfing					✓	✓
Towed Activities (waterskiing, knee boarding, floats)					✓	✓
Tubing (floating in gently flowing water)			✓	✓	✓	✓
Paddle Sports: Youth Operated on Calm or Gently Flowing Water	Passengers Only		Paddle Sports Include Canoes, Kayaks, Pedal Boats, Rafts, Rowboats, SUP			
Commercial Marine Transport (ferries, excursion ships)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Day Rides on Large Private Craft With Trained Adult Operator	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swimming	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Snorkeling in Confined Water	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Parks, Slides, and Floating Attractions	Appropriate Age Varies by Feature					

Campout Safety Checklist

Campout Description: _____

Campout Dates: _____ Campout Location: _____

Unit Single Point of Contact (not a participant in the campout)

Name: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

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

Documentation Needed

General (common for nearly all outings)

- [Guide to Safe Scouting](#)
- [Permission slips](#)
- [Medical records](#)
- Maps of campsite
- Maps to and from campsite
- Other _____

Specialized (less common)

- Float plan
- [Flying Plan Checklist](#)

Training

General (needed for nearly all programs)

- Youth Protection Training
- Hazardous weather
- First aid/CPR
- Drivers/[Risk Zone](#)
- Safe Swim Defense
- Safety Afloat
- BALOO

Program or Activity Specific (Boy Scouts and Venturers)

- [Wilderness First Aid](#)
- [Climb On Safely](#)
- Trek Safely
- NRA instructor
- Range safety officer
- Other _____

Planning (Has the following been confirmed?)

- Weather conditions
- Route conditions
- Drivers licensed
- Drivers insured
- [BSA swim check](#)
- [Service project guidelines](#)
- Other _____

Equipment (If the following equipment will be used, is it in good order/inspected?)

- Trailer
- [Personal vehicles](#)
- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Tools
- Road emergency kit
- Other _____

Emergency Planning (Are plans in place for the following?)

- Local police/fire/EMS
- Local hospital
- Lightning
- Severe weather
- Lost Scout
- Active shooter
- Other _____

Program (Have the following program areas been addressed?)

- [Age-appropriate activities](#)
- Adult supervision
- Safety equipment
- [Hazards identified and discussed](#)
- Other _____



The BSA's Commitment to Safety

In Scouting, we will not compromise the safety of our youth, volunteers, and employees. Safety is a value that must be taught and reinforced at every opportunity. We are all responsible and must hold each other accountable to provide a safe environment for all participants. We are committed to abuse prevention by utilizing:

- Mandatory youth protection training.
- Criminal background checks.
- Banning one-on-one adult and youth interactions.
- Mandatory reporting of suspected abuse to law enforcement.
- A volunteer screening database.

We are committed to injury and illness prevention by integrating safety measures in our handbooks, literature, and training materials including the Guide to Safe Scouting. We expect leaders to use the four points of [SAFE](#) when delivering the program. **SAFE** Scouting measures include:

- Youth are **Supervised** by qualified and trustworthy adults who set the example for safety.
- Activities are **Assessed** for risks.
- Pre-requisite **Fitness** and **Skill** levels are confirmed before participation.
- Appropriate **Equipment** is utilized, and **Environmental** conditions are monitored.

When incidents do occur, we expect a timely, clear, and complete incident report. We are committed to learning from the data and modifying program guidance for the prevention of future occurrence.

LOADING AND TOWING TRAILERS SAFELY

Trailers used by packs, troops, crews, and other units in the Boy Scouts of America are commonly used for two reasons. The trailers usually serve as storage for the unit's equipment and gear. The second use is to be towed behind the leader's vehicle for trips and outings. **LOADING AND TOWING TRAILERS SAFELY** can prevent accidents that lead to a ruined trip.

When loading gear or cargo into the trailer, load the trailer heavier in the front half of the trailer. Load 60 percent of the weight near the axle and toward the front and 40 percent of the weight behind the axle. Always secure the load with ropes or tie-downs, even in enclosed trailers. Unsecured loads can shift and cause a dangerous driving situation.

When hooking the trailer to the towing vehicle and before leaving, always check:

- The trailer is safely and securely hitched to the vehicle and locked if necessary.
- Safety chains of the trailer are secured to the vehicle's trailer hitch.
- Tires are inflated to the proper tire pressure and have sufficient tread.
- Plug in the light connection and make sure the trailer lights are working properly.

Driving with a trailer creates different driving characteristics than driving without a trailer. While towing a trailer, practice these safe driving habits:

- Reduce the speed when traveling.
- Leave extra distance in front and more room on the sides of the vehicle.
- If passing is necessary, remember it will take more time due to the added length.
- Slow down before going downhill.
- When turning a corner, pull out farther before making the turn to allow for the trailer to turn.
- Maintain constant speed without sudden acceleration and quick braking.
- If the trailer begins whipping side to side, take your foot off the gas pedal and do not brake.
- When parking, stop the vehicle in a place that you can pull forward when leaving.
- When parked, place chocks or something against the wheels to secure the trailer in place.

BE PREPARED. Properly loading and hitching a trailer can help provide for a safe trip. Proper driving habits will not only get you safely to the destination but can also help with fuel efficiency.



Transportation Checklist

The safety of our Scouts, volunteers, employees, and communities is our top priority. This two part SAFE Transportation Checklist and Pre-Trip Transporting Inspection is designed to help you manage the risks associated with transporting Scouts.

Date: _____ Destination: _____

Supervision—Youth are supervised by qualified and trustworthy adults who set the example for safety.

- Two-deep leadership for duration of trip

Assessment—Activities are assessed for risk during planning.

- Route is planned.
- Passenger list is planned for trip, both to and from destination.
- Breaks are planned.
- Drive time is no more than 10 hours within a 24-hour period.
- Meets or exceeds vehicle liability insurance minimums.
- Passengers have seats with factory-installed seat belts.
- Weather/environment contingencies and communications are planned.
- If operating a 15-passenger van, manufacture date is after 2005.

Fitness and Skills—Leaders have prerequisite fitness and skill to operate vehicle.

- Driver [Annual Health and Medical Records](#) are reviewed.
- Driver is an adult, age 18 or over.
- Driver has a valid driver's license, a commercial license if applicable.
- Driver understands expectation to follow all applicable traffic laws.
- Driver is rested and not fatigued.
- Driver meets training requirements to operating vehicle.

Equipment and Environment—Safe and appropriate vehicle for Scouting trip. Leaders inspect vehicles and monitor the environment for changing conditions.

- Vehicle inspection completed.
- Tires on each vehicle are no more than 6 years old.
- Weather forecast and conditions.
- Communication plan.

If there are any incidents:

1. Take care of the injured/find a safe place.
2. Preserve and document the evidence. Take photos if appropriate.
3. Immediately complete an incident report and notify your local council.
For more information, go to www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/.

Resources

Guide to Safe Scouting: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/>
SAFE: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safe/>



Pre-Trip Transportation Inspection

Motor vehicles used to transport Scouts must complete Pre-Trip Transportation Inspection before travel for each driver and vehicle. This includes correcting all deficiencies. Make copies for additional drivers and vehicles.

Driver's Information

Driver's License Number: _____ Driver's Phone Number: _____

Vehicle Information

Make and Model: _____ Year: _____

Inspection Current Registration Current Insurance Current Vehicle Inspection

Vehicle Inspection

Visual Inspection

- Cleanliness
- Fluid Leaks
- Loose Parts

Light Inspection

- Headlights
- Brake Lights
- Turn Signals
- Emergency Flasher

Driver Adjustments

- Pedals
- Steering Wheel
- Mirrors

Engine Inspection

- Oil
- Radiator
- Battery
- Exhaust

Operational Test

- Defrost
- Horn
- Brakes

Tire Inspection

- Tire Pressure
- Uneven Wear
- Tread Depth
- Spare Tire

Trailer Inspection

Trailer Gross Vehicle Weight: _____ Trailer Tongue Weight: _____

Vehicle Towing Capacity: _____ Vehicle Max Tongue Weight: _____

- Vehicle has capacity to pull trailer?
- Trailer overall visual inspection?
- Towing ball correct size?
- Safety chains connected?
- Trailer breakaway connected?
- Lights properly working, including taillights, clearance lights, brake lights, directional signals, hazard lights, reflectors?
- Tire inspection, including spare?
- Trailer's load is properly secured?

Commercial Driver's License (CDL)

- Driver meets CDL requirements, including valid CDL, medical card, and drug testing program?
- Vehicle meets all federal and state CDL requirements, including IFTA and electronic trip logs?
- Pro-Trip vehicle walk-around complete by CDL standards?

Emergency

- Passengers have seats with factory installed seat belts?
- Triangle reflectors and flares?
- First-aid kit and fire extinguisher?
- Emergency water, food, blankets?
- Incident reporting forms?
- Form of communication?

Near Miss Reporting Tool

General Incident Details

***Required Fields**

*Incident Date: _____ Incident Time (in 24-hour format): _____

*Report Date: _____

Date Reported to Council/BSA Location: _____

Reported by Name: _____

Reported by Primary Phone: _____ Reported by Secondary Phone: _____

*Reported by Email: _____

Reported by Address: _____

Reported by City: _____ Reported by State: _____ Reported by Zip Code: _____

*Council/BSA Location: _____ *Location of Incident: _____

Specific area where incident occurred: _____

Incident Address: _____

Incident City: _____ *Incident State: _____ Incident Zip Code: _____

*Description of Incident (clear/concise/complete facts):

Was an Agency or Authority Notified? Yes No Which one(s): _____

Near Miss Details

*Adventure/Program/Event: _____

*General Classification (Cub Scout/Registered Leader/etc.): _____

*Lessons Learned (what could be done to prevent future occurrences):

Attachments such as photos, statements, and this incident report form can be added during online entry and are helpful.

Return this completed form to your council's designated user for entry, or upload into Riskconnect.

INJURY INCIDENT REPORT

Check all that apply: Adult Youth Cub Scout Scouts BSA Venturer Sea Scout Explorer **STAFF**

Fill in all fields legibly. Date of incident: _____ Time: _____ Date of report: _____

Activity: _____ Exact location: _____

Address: _____ City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name of injured person: _____ DOB: _____

(Only for injured under 18) Parent's name: _____

Address: _____ City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Council: _____

Unit Number and Community: _____ Unit Leader: _____ Phone: _____

Incident description: _____

Nature of injury: _____

Actions taken at time of incident: _____

(Only for injured under 18) Who notified parents/guardians? _____

If patient was sent for additional medical evaluation, where? _____

Address: _____ City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Outcome of outside evaluation/diagnosis: _____

(Only for injured staff) Did injured staff miss work due to injury? _____ If yes, how many days? _____

Witness: _____ Phone: _____

Witness: _____ Phone: _____

Where police notified?: _____ If yes, Date: _____ Time: _____ By whom?: _____

Reported by: _____ Position: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Youth Protection/Membership Infraction Reporting Tool

Allegations of abuse, violations of BSA guidelines or policies, inappropriate behavior by a Scout/Scout leader/parent/other.

***All Fields Are Required**

Submitting this Youth Protection/ Membership Infraction Reporting tool does not eliminate your responsibility to immediately stop the behavior at issue and to protect the youth nor your obligations under BSA's mandatory reporting of child abuse and any other obligations imposed by state law.

Incident date: _____ Date incident reported to council: _____

Council/BSA location where incident occurred (if applicable): _____

Incident address: _____

City

State

Zip

Report type: Suspicion/allegation of abuse BSA policy or guideline violation(s)

Other inappropriate behavior by a Scout/Scout leader/parent/other

Details of incident: What alleged victim/target/injured party said, what reporter observed/was told, similar or past incidents involving the victim(s)/target(s)/injured party (parties) or violator(s)/offenders(s), etc.

PERSON FILLING OUT THIS FORM: _____

Scouting position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone(s): Primary _____ Alternate _____

Email: _____

PERSON WHO REPORTED THIS INCIDENT: _____

Scouting position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone(s): Primary _____ Alternate _____

Email: _____

Duplicate as needed.

Alleged Victim/Target/Injured Party Information

Adult Youth Registered Other

_____ Council _____ Unit _____ Chartered organization

_____ Name _____ DOB _____ Age _____ Gender

If a youth, parent(s) information: _____
Name

Address: _____
City State Zip

Phone(s): _____ Email: _____
Primary Alternate

Parent notified? Yes No if yes, by whom? _____ Date/Time _____

Alleged Policy Violator/Offender Information

Adult Youth Registered Other

_____ Council _____ Unit _____ Chartered organization

_____ Name _____ DOB _____ Age _____ Gender

If a youth, parent(s) information: _____
Name

Address: _____
City State Zip

Phone(s): _____ Email: _____
Primary Alternate

Parent notified? Yes No if yes, by whom? _____ Date/Time _____

Reports

Was this incident reported to law enforcement? Yes No I don't know

Name of law enforcement agency: _____

Date reported: _____ Approximate time reported: _____

If applicable, was appropriate children and family services/Child Protective Services agency notified?

Yes No I don't know

Name of agency: _____

Date reported: _____ Approximate time reported: _____

*Attachments such as photos, statements, and this incident report form can be added during online entry and are helpful.
Return this completed form to your council's designated user for entry, or upload into Riskconnect.*



INCIDENT REPORT- WITNESS STATEMENT

Date of Incident: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Persons Involved: _____

Description of Incident: _____

Signature of Witness: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name of Witness: _____

Address: _____ City/Town: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Unit: _____

Email: _____

Notes



Notes

