

Guide to Safe Scouting

FOR UNIT ACTIVITIES



A Unit Leader's Guide for Current Policies and Procedures

BOY SCOUTS  OF AMERICA®



Preface

The purpose of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is to prepare adult leaders to conduct Scouting activities in a safe and prudent manner. The policies and guidelines have been established because of the real need to protect members from known hazards that have been identified through 90-plus years of experience. Limitations on certain activities should not be viewed as stumbling blocks; rather, policies and guidelines are best described as stepping-stones toward safe and enjoyable adventures.

All volunteers participating in official Scouting activities should become familiar with the *Guide to Safe Scouting*. Unit leaders should be aware of state or local government regulations that supersede Boy Scouts of America policies and guidelines.

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 Boy Scout motto, and safety policies and practices commonly prescribed for the activity by experienced providers and practitioners.

BSA Rules and Policies

Bold type throughout the *Guide to Safe Scouting* denotes BSA rules and policies.

Versions of the Guide

In addition to this printed version, the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is available online at www.scouting.org. Go to the Site Map; it is listed under Activities.

Two versions are available:

- One for reading on-line this version is divided into chapters and includes a search engine.
- Another for reading off-line the entire publication is presented in a single interface to facilitate print-out.

To obtain additional printed copies of this printed book, contact your local council or call 1-800-323-0732 to request an Official Boy Scout Catalog.

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