

POLICIES OF CUB SCOUTING

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WHY WE HAVE POLICIES

The Boy Scouts of America operates under a congressional charter. Copies of the *Charter and Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America* and *Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America* are available upon request through your local council.

Generally, Cub Scouting is flexible. There are many different ways of managing a pack to fit the needs of its members. But *although the program is flexible, the policies are not.*

All aspects of Cub Scouting and its activities must comply with the policies and procedures of the BSA.

All leaders agree to uphold the policies of the BSA when they sign the Adult Application for registration. The policies of the BSA have been established for these reasons:

- To make sure the objectives of Cub Scouting are the natural outcome of the activities
- To protect the health and safety of all members and assure them of a program that will hold their interest
- To protect the BSA and its good name against misuse by those who would exploit boys and the organization for personal gain
- To protect each leader while he or she is conducting the program

TRIPS AND OUTINGS

- It is the policy of the BSA that trips and outings may *never* be led by one adult. Two registered adult leaders, or one registered adult leader and a parent of a participating Scout, one of whom must be at least 21 years of age, are required for all trips and outings. This is known as the policy of *two-deep leadership*.
- The chartered organization is responsible for informing the committee and leadership of the pack that sufficient adult leadership must be provided on all trips and outings.
- You should obtain a signed permission slip from the parent or guardian of each boy.
- You should have read *Guide to Safe Scouting* and have the most current edition of this publication in their possession on all trips and outings. (The *Guide to Safe Scouting* is also available on the BSA's Web site at <http://www.scouting.org/pubs/gss>.)
- Adequate, safe, and responsible transportation must be used for all Scouting activities.
- Passenger cars, vans, or station wagons may be used for transporting passengers. Trucks are approved for transporting *equipment only*—no passengers, except in the cab.
- Individual seat belts are required for, and must be used by, each passenger and the driver. Passengers should not ride on the rear deck of station wagons or on the floor of vans.

- All drivers must have a valid driver's license that has not been suspended or revoked for any reason. If the vehicle to be used is designed to carry more than 15 people, including the driver (more than 10 people, including the driver, in California) the driver must have a commercial driver's license (CDL).
- Cub Scout trips are normally one-day excursions. On occasion, one-night stopovers are permitted, although they are not encouraged. When overnight stops are necessary, participants will stay in private homes, hotels, or motels. Overnight camping on such trips is not permitted.
- The local council may approve lock-ins or overnight programming at local museums.
- Cub Scout packs are encouraged to visit military installations for one-day trips only.
- You should inform the pack committee and Cubmaster of all den trips.
- Den families should be notified any time that the den is away from the regular meeting place. It is recommended that Informed Consent Agreement (see page 34-38) be obtained for all den trips.

TOUR PERMITS

A Local Tour Permit Application (see page 34-39) should be filed with the local council service center two weeks before scheduled activities for proper clearance.

- Packs should file a Local Tour Permit Application for any pack trip of less than 500 miles, including pack overnighters. A National Tour Permit Application should be filed for trips longer than 500 miles.
- Webelos dens should file a Local Tour Permit Application before Webelos overnight campouts.
- Check with your council service center for local policy on tour permits for den trips and outings.

The Local Tour Permit Application is required for the following reasons:

- It is designed to help you plan a safe, interesting, and enjoyable trip.
- In case of emergency, your local council service center may get calls to which they must respond. When a tour permit has been filed, the service center will know the plans and location of your pack.
- When it has an accurate record of local tours and short-term campouts, the council can give each pack proper credit in its records and news releases.

- You will take satisfaction in the fact that your travel plans are officially recognized and that you are a responsible Scouting group.
- Local officials in state and federal parks and forests can be assured that touring and camping groups have official status. Some organizations may require a tour permit for entry.
- Certain courtesies—not privileges—are sometimes extended to Scouting groups when official status has been determined.

You should read "Our Pledge of Performance" found on the back of the Local Tour Permit Application so that you will be familiar with the requirements.

For more information on tour permits, see the *Guide to Safe Scouting* or contact your local council service center.

DRUG, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO USE

- The BSA prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the BSA.
- The BSA prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at any activity involving the participation of youth members.
- As an adult leader, you should support the attitude that youth members are much better off without tobacco, and you may not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants.
- All Scouting functions, meetings, and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas for adults located away from all participants.

COMMERCIALISM

- No BSA member, unit, or local council may enter into a contract or relationship of a commercial nature involving the BSA unless duly authorized to do so by the National Executive Board.
- No local council or unit may enter into a contract or business relationship with a business, corporation, commercial agency, or individual that could be construed as using the Scouting movement to conduct business, sell, or give endorsement for commercial purposes.
- This policy does not interfere with any boy earning money for his own Scouting equipment or for his unit, provided that the money is earned through service actually rendered and not through the exploitation of the name or goodwill of the BSA.

UNIT MONEY-EARNING PROJECTS

- Units may conduct money-earning projects only when the chartered organization and local council have approved the project and it is consistent with BSA policies. This approval is obtained by submitting a Unit Money-Earning Application (see pages 34-45 through 34-46) to your council service center well in advance of the proposed date of your money-earning project. (Also see Chapter 11, “Pack Finances.”)
- The official Scout uniform is intended to be worn primarily in connection with Scouting activities; however, the executive board of the local council may authorize wearing of the uniform in connection with council-sponsored product sales programs. (See Article X, section 4, clause 6, of the *Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America*.)
- Individuals and units should not, under the name of the Boy Scouts of America, engage in raising funds for other organizations (including bikeathons, walkathons, etc.) unless specifically approved by the local council to do so.

CONTRIBUTIONS

(From Article XI, section 1, clause 2, of the *Charter and Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America*)

- Contributions may be solicited only by the National Council, local councils, or districts on behalf of the local council (Friends of Scouting).
- Youth members shall not be permitted to serve as solicitors of money for the pack or the council or in support of any other organizations.
- Adult and youth members shall not be permitted to solicit contributions in order to participate in local, national, or international events.
- Youth members are permitted to secure sponsors only for council or district activities approved by the executive board.

POLITICAL QUESTIONS

- The Scouting movement shall not be involved in any question of a political character (i.e., involving elections or administrative or legislative matters) other than color guard or “get-out-the-vote” activities.
- This shall not, however, be interpreted to prevent the teaching of the ideals of patriotism and good citizenship as required to fulfill the BSA’s aims.
- This policy shall not limit the freedom of thought or action of any official or member as an individual.

RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES

In its *Charter and Bylaws*, the BSA maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God. No matter what the religious faith of a member might be, this fundamental need of good citizenship must be kept before the member. Although the BSA recognizes the religious element in the training of a member, it is *absolutely nonsectarian* in its attitude toward that religious training.

- The BSA does not define what constitutes a belief in God or the practice of religion.
- The BSA does not require membership in a religious organization or association in order to join Scouting but strongly encourages membership and participation in the religious program and activities of a church, synagogue, or other religious association.
- The BSA respects the convictions of those who exercise their constitutional freedom to practice religion as individuals without formal membership in religious organizations.
- When a Scouting unit is associated with a church or other distinctly religious organization, no members of other denominations or faiths shall be required, because of membership in the unit, to take part in or observe a religious ceremony distinctly unique to that organization or church.

Only people willing to subscribe to these declarations of principles shall be entitled to certificates of leadership in carrying out the Scouting program.

MEMBERS WITH DISABILITIES

Boys older than 11 who are either mentally or severely physically disabled (including those with visual, hearing, and emotional impairments) may register and participate in the Cub Scout advancement program if they meet the following criteria:

1. The chartered organization determines, with the approval of appropriate medical authorities, whether a youth member with a disability is qualified to register beyond the normal registration age.
2. The Cubmaster’s signature on the boy’s application or on the unit’s charter renewal application certifies this approval of the chartered organization.
3. A licensed physician, using the Personal Health and Medical Record form, must certify the medical condition of all candidates for membership beyond the normal registration age.

4. In the case of membership for mentally disabled or emotionally disturbed candidates, a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist must certify their condition.
5. The local council service center retains all current health, medical, or certification records of all members with disabilities beyond the normal registration age.
6. All current requirements for advancement awards must be met. No substitutions or alternatives are permitted except those specifically stated in the requirements from current BSA literature. "Do your best" applies to all requirements.

For more information, see Chapter 17, "Cub Scouts With Disabilities." Also check with your council service center for additional local information and resources.

UNIFORM RULES AND REGULATIONS

All uniforms, badges, and insignia may be used only by members of the BSA who are registered and in good standing. No alteration of or addition to the official uniform, badges, or insignia—or the rules and regulations concerning the wearing of the uniform—may be authorized by anyone except the National Executive Board.

Badges awarded by other organizations may not be worn on the official uniform, with the exceptions of the Historic Trails Award and religious emblems.

See the *Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America* and *Insignia Guide* for additional information on uniform rules and regulations. Also see Chapter 12, "Uniforms and Insignia."

Cub Scouts and adult leaders should wear their uniforms to all den and pack events.

Uniforms may also be worn

- To school, church, or any family function
 - During a councilwide product sale or event authorized by the local council's executive board
- Cub Scouts or adult leaders may not wear uniforms when
- Advertising any commercial product or business
 - Involved in any distinctly political endeavor
 - Appearing on the stage professionally without special approval from the National Executive Board
 - Taking part in parades, except when rendering service as a Cub Scout or leader or when officially representing the BSA
 - Participating in demonstrations not authorized by the BSA

UNIT MEMBERSHIP

A Scouting unit has the authority to determine its own youth membership on the basis of considerations such as group size or youth behavior as long as it is faithful to Scouting's membership philosophy set forth below:

- Scouting welcomes all boys and young people regardless of race or ethnic background who are willing to accept Scouting's values and meet other requirements of membership.
- Young people of all religious backgrounds are welcomed in Scouting, some participating in units for youth of a particular religious faith and the greater majority participating in units open to members of various religious backgrounds.

(See Article XI, section 3, clause 8, of the *Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America*.)