NATIONAL CAMP
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

National Camp Standards

Scouting America

National Camp Accreditation Committee · National Council, Scouting America

Scouting America'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.

Prepared. For Life.®

BIN 430-056
2026 Revision

NATIONAL CAMP
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

NATIONAL CAMP STANDARDS

Scouting America

National Camp Accreditation Committee · National Council, Scouting America

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INTRODUCTION TO THE NATIONAL CAMP STANDARDS

PURPOSE OF THE STANDARDS

Scouting America National Camp Standards are established to:

1. Promote the health, safety, and well-being of every camper, leader, visitor, and staff member while participating in a Scouting America-accredited camp.
2. Guide councils so that each camper and leader obtains a quality program consistent with the Scouting America brand.

The local council is responsible for maintaining Scouting America National Camp Standards. The National Camp Standards are the foundation of the National Camp Accreditation Program, which assesses council and camp conformance with the requirements of the National Camp Standards.

THE NATIONAL CAMP ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

The purpose of Scouting America's National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP) is to help councils elevate camps to new levels of excellence in delivering Scouting's promise to youth. Councils will engage in rigorous review of camps and properties, continuous improvement, and correction or elimination of substandard practices.

In addition to the National Camp Standards, the NCAP involves three separate but interrelated cycles that both support the standards and ensure that camps meet continuous improvement goals: (1) the multiyear Authorization cycle; (2) the continuous camp improvement program, which has multiyear and annual components; and (3) the annual Assessment and Accreditation cycle.

Multiyear Authorization Cycle

The multiyear Authorization cycle starts with the council submitting an application to the National Council. The application contains a description of all the council's camps for which it is seeking an Authorization to Operate and accreditation. For each camp property and camp (or group of camps for day camps or short-term camps), the application will describe the program goals; the facilities; how the council will meet the standards; the recommended practices, if any, the council intends to adopt; and any additional quality commitments that the council intends to meet to provide the safest and highest possible quality program to participants. The application requires approval by the council executive board or executive committee. All councils will also submit Council Sustainability Data Sheets. Based on the data sheet, the National NCAP Committee may request that the council submit additional information as part of the application process.

The Authorization to Operate represents a determination by the National Council, through the National NCAP Committee, that the council has demonstrated that its camp properties and camps meet the requirements for accreditation. The Authorization to Operate identifies additional commitments, if any, made by the council concerning the operation of its camp properties and camps. Specified terms and conditions of the Authorization to Operate are treated in the same fashion as standards. Authorizations to Operate remain valid for five years, unless there is a basis to revoke the Authorization to Operate or to issue an Authorization to Operate for fewer than five years.

As part of the continuous camp improvement program (discussed below), the council will submit a camp strategic improvement plan for its camps. The camp strategic improvement plan will be attached to the Authorization to Operate to record the council's plans. A council may amend the camp strategic improvement plan by submitting changes or alternatives to the National NCAP Committee. Camp strategic improvement plans are not terms or conditions of the Authorization to Operate, but are evidence of the council's commitment to continuous camp improvement.

In addition, the Authorization to Operate will include the terms of any variances issued to a camp property or camp. If questions arise on the application of a standard to a camp, the authorization should be consulted to determine if it provides resolution. The Authorization to Operate is binding on both the council and the camp assessment team.

At the time noted in its Authorization to Operate, the council will need to file a new application to renew its Authorization to Operate, and the multiyear Authorization cycle starts over.

If a council wishes to add a new camp property or a new long-term camp, or start a day camp or short-term camp program when the council has not previously been authorized to conduct such a program, it must submit an application for authorization to the National NCAP Committee for assignment to a national authorization team. A new application is not required to add sessions of an existing long-term camp, day camp, or short-term camp.

Questions about the multiyear Authorization cycle should be directed to the National NCAP Committee or national outdoor program staff.

The Continuous Camp Improvement Program

The continuous camp improvement program is a process during which the council, after consultation with affected stakeholders and camp staff, develops goals to maintain and to improve the quality of the camp experience for participants, consistent with Scouting's commitment to continuously improve the camp experience. The council identifies areas of strength that should be maintained and then outlines areas of improvement. The continuous camp improvement program should identify improvements across all facets of camp operation, including:

- Staff
- Program
- Program equipment
- Facilities
- Sustainability
- Marketing and communication
- Attendees and participation

The continuous camp improvement program has two components: a multiyear camp strategic improvement plan, and an annual camp improvement program. The camp strategic improvement plan identifies one or more areas of improvement and one or more areas of strength that the council will address over the next four to seven years, which collectively should address at least five of the continuous camp improvement categories.

For each identified area, the camp strategic improvement plan sets forth improvement measures, an approximate time for initiation and completion, and how the camp will determine the success of its measures. This plan can be revised as needed by the council by submitting a letter to the National

NCAP Committee. Councils are encouraged to review this plan as part of the application process and then again at the annual progress review (and may do so more frequently).

The annual camp improvement program identifies one or more areas of improvement and one or more areas of strength that the camp will address during the year or camping season, which collectively address at least four of the continuous camp improvement categories. Some of the measures may come from the camp strategic improvement plan, while others may come from camp staff reports, postcamp and precamp inspections, or customer surveys. These programs are intended to be living documents used by the camp staff. Like the camp strategic improvement plan, they should include definite goals, metrics, and success criteria to help the camp evaluate progress toward improvement.

Annual Assessment and Accreditation Cycle

In addition to the multiyear Authorization cycle, there is an annual Assessment and Accreditation cycle that ensures that each camp meets the requirements of the National Camp Standards and the Authorization to Operate (once issued). The annual cycle includes the following steps:

1. **Intent to Operate**

   The Intent to Operate is to be completed by October 31 the year prior to operation for long-term camps and camp properties. It is the application for approval for the camp to operate on behalf of the council. Long-term camps and camp-property intent-to-operate submissions are approved by the National Outdoor Programs Team on behalf of the National NCAP Committee. The long-term Intent to Operate is used by NCAP leadership to facilitate the scheduling of the assessments of the camps and properties. An Intent to Operate is not needed for short-term camps or day camps.

2. **Postcamp/Precamp Inspection**

   Postcamp/Precamp Inspection is an inspection conducted by the council to help prepare each camp property for the upcoming program year. At least once during each Authorization cycle, the council will use the Camp Facility Evaluation tool to provide a brand fitness evaluation.

3. **Declaration of Readiness (Long-Term Camps)**

   The Declaration of Readiness for long-term camps is due to the assigned zone assessment team leader by May 15 or 30 days in advance if the event is not held in the summer. The declaration is a statement by the council that the long-term camp is ready to open and will comply with the standards. Councils are encouraged to attach much of the paperwork required for demonstrating compliance with the standards to the Declaration of Readiness to save time during the assessment. Councils will also include in their Declaration of Readiness their prior-year annual camp improvement program goals, metrics, success criteria, whether the camp achieved the goals, and if not, the lessons learned. The Declaration of Readiness will also present the initial annual camp improvement program goals, metrics, and success criteria for the current year, which collectively address at least four of the continuous camp improvement categories.

4. **Assessment and Accreditation**

   Each year, the assigned NCAP national zone camp assessment team (for long-term camps) the council self-assessment team (for day camps, COPE/Climbing courses, and camp properties), or the Short-Term Camp Administrator (for short term camps) will visit the camp property or camp

to assess whether it qualifies for accreditation. If the camp assessment team finds that the camp property or camp complies with the standards and Authorization to Operate and is appropriately implementing the continuous camp improvement program, it will confirm the camp property's or camp's accredited status. If there are issues, the team will work with the council to address them. A camp that promptly corrects items that are not serious will maintain its accredited status. Short-term camps are assessed by their short-term camp administrator.

A camp that cannot correct promptly is placed into conditional accreditation or, in serious cases, the camp assessment team may recommend to the national NCAP committee the possible reopening or revocation of its Authorization to Operate. In cases of possible threat to life or health, the camp assessment team may direct that the program causing such threat be closed until the threat is removed. The National NCAP staff advisor will be notified immediately and will provide leadership in this situation.

Assessments done on short-term camps and day camps will be done by using the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration forms and retained by the council for a review done annually by the assigned zone leadership. Questions about the annual cycle of assessment and accreditation should be directed to the assigned zone camp assessment coordinator.

5. Annual Report

Councils will be asked to submit information on the number of camps held by type, assessment results and attendance information through the annual Intent to Operate process. This annual report is due October 31.

VARIANCES, EQUIVALENCY DETERMINATIONS AND WAIVERS

There will be times when a standard is not appropriate for a particular council camp or camp property. When this occurs, it is appropriate for the council to seek a variance or waiver from the standard. A variance is granted when the camp demonstrates that it is achieving the goals of a standard in another way. Once granted, a variance is permanent, subject to periodic review during the authorization renewal process. An equivalency determination may be granted for individuals that have equivalent experience to that required by Standards SQ-406 through SQ-412. A waiver is granted for one season due to an unanticipated event.

The procedure for obtaining a variance, equivalency determination, or waiver is set forth below.

PROCEDURE FOR VARIANCE

A variance is granted by application to the National Camp Accreditation Committee upon recommendation of the national standards chair after review and recommendation by appropriate Scouting America committees and task forces. A variance establishes an alternative to a national standard that achieves an equivalent or higher level of protection or program quality. The applicant must demonstrate that the variance addresses each aspect of the standard for which variance is sought. Once granted, the applicant complies with the variance rather than the standard. Variances are permanent but subject to review for continued applicability during the authorization renewal process. Variance application forms are available on the NCAP website (scouting.org/NCAP) and should be submitted to NCAP@scouting.org. Contact the national NCAP staff advisor if there are questions about applying for a variance. Variances typically require several months to process.

PROCEDURE FOR EQUIVALENCY DETERMINATION

An equivalency determination is similar to a waiver and is a finding by the National NCAP Committee that an individual's training and experience with a camp program are "equivalent" to the program quality and safety training required by the relevant standard. Unlike a waiver, an equivalency determination will remain in effect while the individual continues in the same role at the same camp. Equivalency determinations should be submitted to NCAP@scouting.org using the waiver form. Contact the National NCAP staff advisor if there are questions about applying for an equivalence determination.

PROCEDURE FOR WAIVER

A waiver is granted by application to the national standards chair. A waiver may be granted for a standard due to emergency or other good cause shown. A council seeking a waiver must demonstrate that it will achieve substantial compliance with the intent of the standard for which the waiver is sought. A waiver may be conditional and require the requesting council or camp to meet an alternative or equivalent control. All waivers will be in writing. All waivers will be scored as deviations unless the waiver specifies otherwise. Waivers generally may be renewed only once (e.g., a waiver may be in effect for a maximum period of two years). Waiver application forms are available on the NCAP website (scouting.org/NCAP) and should be submitted to NCAP@scouting.org. Contact the national NCAP staff advisor if there are questions about applying for a waiver.

ASSESSING COMPLIANCE

A camp assessment team is a group of trained Scouters charged with the responsibility of assessing a camp property's or camp's conformance to the standards; recommended practices; and terms, conditions, and commitments of the Authorization to Operate. The team will undertake three primary tasks: scoring, narrative assessment, and making the accreditation decision. Each task is addressed below. National-led assessments are conducted on long-term camps; council self-assessments are conducted on camp properties and for day camps.

Short-term camp and day-camp assessments are conducted using the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration form. Completed forms must be submitted to the council, which retains the document for its records and a council assessment review. Short-term camps are assessed and reported by their Short-term Camp Administrator. Day camps are assessed by the trained local council assessment team.

SCORING: THE OBJECTIVE REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE

The first task the assessment team will undertake is scoring whether the camp property or camp is complying with the National Camp Standards, the terms and commitments of its Authorization to Operate and any variances or waivers. This is an objective assessment with the goal of treating similarly situated camps in a similar manner. Careful adherence to the standards, interpretation, and verification provisions is needed.

Scoring Options. The following scoring options are available for scoring standards, recommended practices, variances, and waivers. Authorization terms and commitments, if the authorization has been issued, are scored the same way.

Passing Scores

Compliant. A standard, authorization term or commitment, variance, or waiver is scored as "compliant" if the facility meets the terms and intent of the standard, authorization term or commitment, variance, or waiver.

Deviation. A standard, authorization term or commitment, variance, or waiver is scored as a "deviation" if the exact terms are not met, but the facility has met the substantial intent of the standard, authorization term or commitment, variance, or waiver with adequate levels of safety and quality. Deviations are particularly appropriate where the camp property or camp has incidentally missed an item, but other aspects of the camp suggest that the camp's program is generally in good shape. An example might be a single incidence of a dead battery or a single missing utility cut-off drawing. Multiple instances, which suggest a systemic problem, should be scored noncompliant.

The score sheet should reflect the nature of the deviation and any comments from the camp assessment team on how the deviation could be remedied.

Upgraded from noncompliant. A standard, initially scored as noncompliant, is corrected by the camp prior to the departure of the assessment team to the assessment team's satisfaction. If the deficiency cannot be corrected prior to departure, but the camp has a corrective action plan approved by National NCAP staff advisor, this score may also be used. The score sheet should reflect the nature of the noncompliance and the camp's steps to correct it.

Failing Scores

Noncompliant. A standard, authorization term or commitment, variance, or waiver is scored as "noncompliant" if the facility does not meet the requirement and does not meet the criteria for a deviation (discussed above). The score sheet should reflect the nature of the noncompliance and any comments from the camp assessment team on how the noncompliance could be remedied.

Other

Not Applicable. A standard is scored as "not applicable" if it does not apply to the camp property or camp program. A standard that is "not applicable" does not affect accreditation status.

Examples

This section provides guidance on frequently asked questions concerning whether a practice that does not conform to a standard constitutes a noncompliant (failing) or a deviation (passing) score.

- Failure to have a required certification (e.g., National Camping School card, approved Lifeguard status, etc.), or an approved alternate (listed in the standard, authorization, variance, or waiver) warrants a noncompliant finding.
- Failure to meet an age standard is a noncompliant finding.
- A single instance of not having a first-aid kit prominently marked in an otherwise well-marked camp is a deviation.
- Failure to have a certificate of insurance, when other proof of insurance is available, is a deviation.
- Minor changes from the approved training plan, but where the material elements were met, is a deviation.
- Multiple fire extinguishers that are expired is a noncompliant, but if all are fixed prior to the assessment team's departure, may be scored as "upgraded from noncompliant."

Any standard, authorization term or commitment, variance, or waiver that is not met at the time of assessment, but which is corrected during the assessment to the satisfaction of the assessment team, should be scored as a "upgraded from noncompliant" and not as "noncompliant." This is to assist the National Council in tracking standards of concern and the local council in reviewing its camp procedures to ensure that the issue is not repeated in the future.

Scoring Recommended Practices. The following scoring options are available for scoring recommended practices:

- Yes = recommended practice is applicable and satisfied
- No = recommended practice is applicable and not satisfied
- NA = not applicable (e.g., does not apply to the camp at all)

A recommended practice either is met or is not met.

THE NARRATIVE: THE SUBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE PROGRAM

The second part of the camp assessment process consists of the narrative assessment. This part of the assessment is more subjective and is where the camp assessment team should do its best to provide constructive comments to improve the camp's program.

The Narrative Assessment

The narrative assessment should address:

1. How well the program delivers the promise included in its written descriptive materials, advertising, and leaders' guide
2. How well the camp implements the Continuous Camp Improvement Program
3. How well the program delivers the promise of Scouting to participants

In order to prepare for the narrative assessment, the camp assessment team should review written descriptive materials, such as the camp's website (if any) and leaders' guide (if any). Any divergence between the described program and the delivered program should be noted to assist the council in ensuring that it is delivering on the promises it made. Similarly, it is appropriate for the team to note whether, in the team's view, the camp is delivering the promise of Scouting to its participants. If the team concludes that there may be an issue, concrete examples of specific problems should be identified for the council's consideration.

The assessment team should remember that it has seen the camp and its program only briefly and should couch its recommendations in a respectful, helpful tone. It is important for the camp assessment team to recognize that the narrative assessment and recommendations are there to be considered and acted upon by the camp staff and local council. A camp's or council's disagreement concerning a recommendation is not a basis for denying or conditioning accreditation. A camp's accreditation status is determined solely by the objective scoring portion of the assessment.

The narrative assessment should also review the camp's implementation of the Continuous Camp Improvement Program. The description should include a note of the results of the prior year program (not applicable during the first year), number of goals selected, some representative goals, how goals are being tracked, and whether the camp seems to have integrated continuous improvement into its program or if additional support may be needed.

The Recommendations

The recommendations should address:

1. Specific recommendations for improving the quality of the existing programs and activities
2. Specific recommendations for improving the quality of facilities provided
3. Recommendations for improving program design or additional programs or activities that would enhance the camp program

This part of the assessment is where the camp assessment team can provide recommendations to the camp on how to improve its program based on the assessment team's experience and knowledge. Recommendations should be constructive and made in the spirit of improving the particular camp's programs in light of the physical and other restrictions imposed by its environment. Recommendations should be made with the knowledge that it is the role of the *camp and council* to decide whether they should be implemented, and not the role of the assessment team. The assessment team's role is to provide a third-party review to assist the council in implementing its program. Careful, constructive comments will likely be well received.

CAMP RESPONSE TO NONCOMPLIANT AND DEVIATION FINDINGS

The purpose of the National Camp Standards and National Camp Accreditation Program is to ensure that all youth receive a safe, high-quality camping experience and that the quality and safety of the experience continuously improves. Findings of "noncompliant" reflect a departure from the standard established by Scouting America for a Scout facility and must be promptly remedied. Findings of "deviation" reflect a weakness in meeting the standard that should be addressed prior to the next season. This section discusses the camp assessment team's options upon making a finding of noncompliant or deviation.

Noncompliant finding. If the camp assessment team finds a standard that is scored "noncompliant," the team leader shall promptly notify the camp director and Scout executive or designee. The team leader should encourage the camp to correct the noncompliant finding before the assessment team completes its assessment. If the noncompliant finding is remedied to the camp assessment team's satisfaction, the standard should be scored as "upgraded from noncompliant" and the issue noted in the score sheet. If the noncompliant finding cannot be remedied to the camp assessment team's satisfaction, the zone assessment coordinator or designee and National NCAP staff advisor should be notified and a corrective action plan or plan schedule drawn up to address the noncompliant finding as expeditiously as possible. If the corrective action plan can be completed promptly, the camp will be conditionally accredited while the corrective action plan is in place. The camp cannot be restored to accredited status until it demonstrates that it has completed the corrective action plan to the zone assessment coordinator and National NCAP staff advisor's satisfaction. The report of the successful implementation of the corrective action plan shall be submitted in accordance with the schedule developed in conjunction with the zone assessment coordinator and National NCAP staff advisor, and in no event later than the declaration of readiness for the following season.

In the rare event the camp assessment team finds a situation that constitutes an *imminent danger to life or health,* the team leader should close that activity or area in consultation with the camp director

and council leadership. The NCAP staff advisor and zone assessment coordinator shall be notified immediately. If there is disagreement, the NCAP staff advisor and zone assessment coordinator will provide leadership. A camp in this situation must immediately resolve the situation to the satisfaction of the National NCAP staff advisor in accordance with the terms and time schedule set forth in a corrective action plan developed in consultation with the NCAP staff advisor and zone assessment coordinator. The report of the successful implementation of the corrective action plan shall be submitted in accordance with the schedule developed in conjunction with the zone assessment coordinator and National NCAP staff advisor.

Deviation finding. A camp that receives a deviation is on notice that there is a weakness in its program. The camp should correct the deviation prior to the start of the next camping season. Second and subsequent deviations for the same standard may be scored as a noncompliant at the discretion of the assessment team. The report of the successful implementation of the corrective action plan shall be submitted in accordance with the schedule developed in conjunction with the zone assessment coordinator.

If a camp exceeds 10 deviation findings in any assessment, the camp must prepare a timely corrective action plan and submit it to the zone assessment coordinator and National NCAP staff advisor. If the corrective action plan can be completed promptly, the camp will be conditionally accredited while the corrective action plan is in place but may be restored to accredited status upon demonstrating that it has completed the corrective action plan to the zone assessment coordinator and National NCAP staff advisor's satisfaction. The report of the successful implementation of the corrective action plan must be submitted no later than the declaration of readiness for the subsequent year.

THE ACCREDITATION DECISION

The accreditation decision is based upon the results of the scoring of the standards, authorization terms and commitments, variances, and waivers.

Accredited

1. A camp property or camp shall be accredited if it has no noncompliants and 10 or fewer deviations.
2. A camp may be accredited if it has one “upgraded from noncompliant” (UNC) score in accordance with Standard SA-004 and has five or fewer deviations or has two UNC scores and no deviations.

If these conditions are met, the camp is accredited and the camp assessment team should present the accreditation certificate and pennant (if applicable) in an appropriate fashion.

Conditionally Accredited

A camp property or camp shall be conditionally accredited if any of the following conditions are met:

1. Any applicable standard, term, condition, or commitment of an Authorization to Operate, variance, or waiver is scored “noncompliant.”
2. More than 10 standards, terms, conditions, or commitments are scored “upgraded from noncompliant” or “deviation,” with any “upgraded from noncompliant” being counted as equivalent to 5 deviations.
3. A waiver or letter of relief states that it requires conditional accreditation.

As noted under the subsection *Camp Response to Noncompliant and Deviation Findings*, if the camp corrects a significant noncompliant finding while the assessment team is present, the finding should be scored as an “upgraded from noncompliant” and not “noncompliant.” If this is not possible, but the findings are relatively minor and the camp’s program and corrective action plan is strong, the assessment team may request that the zone assessment coordinator and National NCAP staff advisor obtain approval for full accreditation from the National NCAP Assessment Leadership or, if necessary, an approval of a corrective action plan allowing full accreditation with the concurrence of the zone assessment coordinator and NCAP staff advisor. The camp may be accredited until such time as the corrective action is completed.

As discussed in *Camp Response to Noncompliant and Deviation Findings*, the council and camp leadership should develop a corrective action plan with the camp assessment team to correct any noncompliant findings. Most noncompliant findings should be addressed within a week or two, unless the council demonstrates that more time is needed and the additional time will not adversely affect the health or safety of the campers or result in an unacceptable level of program delivery. If a mutually agreed-upon schedule cannot be developed while the assessment team is onsite, the assessment team should consult with the NCAP staff advisor. Once the schedule is established, or upon direction from NCAP national assessment leadership granting more time to develop the corrective action plan, conditionally accredited credentials should be granted.

A camp may terminate its conditionally accredited status by submitting to the zone assessment coordinator and National NCAP staff advisor proof of completion of its corrective action plan. The zone assessment coordinator will schedule a reassessment if necessary, restore accredited status, or deny the request.

Denial of Accreditation

A camp may be denied accreditation if:

1. Any applicable standard, any term or commitment of its Authorization to Operate, or the conditions of any variance or waiver, is scored "noncompliant" and
2. Either the camp is already conditionally accredited or the camp poses an imminent danger to life or health, and this danger cannot be eliminated by closing parts of the camp or program.

If the camp assessment team believes that denial of accreditation may be appropriate, it must consult immediately with the zone assessment coordinator and the NCAP staff advisor. The zone assessment coordinator assisted by the National Outdoor Programs staff will work with council leadership to develop a corrective action plan to restore either conditionally accredited or fully accredited status.

A camp that is denied accreditation is not required to close during its current season unless there is imminent danger to life or health, but it may not reopen the following season using the name, trademarks, or trade dress of Scouting America without approval from the National NCAP Committee.

Any denial of accreditation is subject to automatic review by the National camp accreditation committee.

Request for Review of Authorization

If a camp assessment team determines that there are pervasive problems at a camp that draw into question whether its program delivers the promise of Scouting or may injure the Scouting brand—whether or not the camp meets the criteria for accreditation or conditional accreditation—the camp assessment team shall document those findings in the narrative assessment and request that the National NCAP leadership authorize a review of the authorization. **A camp assessment team is not authorized to issue a conditional accreditation or denial of accreditation unless the conditions outlined in the section on "The Accreditation Decision" are met.**

REOPENING AND REVOCATION OF ACCREDITATION OR AUTHORIZATION

REVOCATION OF ACCREDITATION

A camp that has been conditionally accredited and fails to comply with the terms of the conditional accreditation may have its accreditation status revoked at any time by the national camp accreditation committee.

A camp that has been conditionally accredited for three years in a row, regardless of the reason, may have its accreditation status revoked at any time by the national camp accreditation committee. The NCAP committee will provide written notice of such revocation.

Appeal of a revocation shall be to the national camp accreditation committee. There is no appeal from a decision of the national camp accreditation committee, but the council may request a reconsideration hearing.

Accreditation is automatically lost if the council loses its charter as a local council of Scouting America. Automatic loss of accreditation in this circumstance is not appealable under NCAP.

REOPENING OR REVOCATION OF THE AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE

Conditional accreditation of a camp may require reopening of the Authorization to Operate to incorporate additional terms and conditions that the camp must meet to restore full accredited status. Revocation of any camp accreditation will trigger reopening of the entire Authorization to Operate and may result in additional conditions or potential revocation of the Authorization to Operate.

Reopening or revocation of an Authorization to Operate may be initiated at any time by the designated zone assessment coordinator through the national NCAP committee or by the national NCAP committee. Any such reopening or revocation will occur only after notice and an opportunity to respond by the local council and will be decided by a panel of the national camp accreditation committee.

The Authorization to Operate is automatically lost if the council loses its charter as a local council of Scouting America. Automatic loss of the Authorization to Operate in this circumstance cannot be appealed under NCAP.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

Informal resolution of a camp assessment disagreement. If a council disagrees with the decision of the camp assessment team, it should contact the zone assessment coordinator for informal resolution. If informal resolution is not successful, an appeal should be filed.

Appeal of a camp assessment team accreditation decision. An appeal of a camp assessment team accreditation decision must be filed in writing to NCAP@scouting.org within five working days of the camp assessment and should set forth the basis for the council's argument for why the findings of the camp assessment team should be set aside or its accreditation decision changed. The appeal will be decided a panel of National NCAP assessment leadership. The panel will determine whether any additional conference or submittals are needed and will communicate its decision to the council and the zone assessment coordinator.

NATIONAL CAMP STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

The National Camp Standards consist of two parts: the standards, which are mandatory for any covered facility or activity; and the recommended practices, which are best practices that all camps are encouraged to follow.

Standards are designated by a two-letter code indicating the type of standard:

- **SA** = Standards Applicability
- **PD** = Program Design
- **PS** = Program Specific
- **SQ** = Staff Qualification and Training
- **HS** = Health and Safety
- **FS** = Commissary and Food Service
- **FA** = Facilities
- **AO** = Administration and Operational Management.

Recommended practices are designated **RP** and are included at the end of the standards category to which they apply.

The National Camp Standards and recommended practices are organized in the following manner to assist with review and interpretation:

Title. A brief descriptive title for the standard or recommended practice, used for reference.

Revised date. The date the standard or recommended practice becomes effective; assures that the most current standard or recommended practice is being used.

Applies to. This section describes which camp properties and camps are subject to the standard or recommended practice. A standard that applies to a camp property also applies to all camps and/or COPE or climbing courses located on the camp property.

Standard *or* **Recommended Practice.** This section sets forth the standard or recommended practice in declarative form.

Specific Requirements of the Standard. This section provides more detailed requirements for what the standard requires. Both the standard and the specific requirements of the standard must be met to satisfy a standard unless the camp has a variance or waiver from a standard.

Interpretation. This section, when present, provides additional interpretative assistance to councils and camp assessment teams in applying the standard or recommended practice to real-world situations.

Verification. This section describes the steps that the council should take, and the camp assessment team review, to demonstrate compliance with the standard or recommended practice.

References. This section provides cross-references to other locations within the Standards Manual or other Scouting America literature that support the standard.

STANDARDS APPLICABILITY (SA)

This part of the National Camp Standards defines the camp properties and camps that are subject to the National Camp Standards and defines the basic parameters of the National Camp Accreditation Program: Authorization to Operate, and Assessment and Accreditation.

This section also defines the requirements for councils seeking a variance, equivalency determination, or waiver from the National Camp Standards and the training and certification requirements for individuals participating in the National Camp Accreditation Program.

SA-001

NATIONAL CAMP STANDARDS APPLICABILITY

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

National Camp Standards apply to any Scouting America-branded *camp property* or *camp.* All *camp properties* and *camps,* regardless of type, must comply with the standards applicable to the facilities and programs offered. When applicable, at *camp properties* and *camps*, the National Camp Standards take precedence over other national or local council policy or requirement except as provided herein.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

Scouting America National Camp Standards apply to each of the following *camps* or *camp properties*:

A. **Camp property.** A *camp property* includes any property over which a council exercises long-term control that is made available to units or individuals for use in Scouting America-branded program activities. A Scouting America camp property does not include the following:

   1. Property held for use, investment, or sale that is not made available to Scouting America units or youth for use in Scouting America program activities;
   2. Service centers and Scout shops where activities of a primarily office or sales nature occur, except that Scout shops located in conjunction with a Scouting America camp (e.g., a camp trading post) are covered by the standards. A COPE or climbing course located at a service center or Scout shop is subject to the standards.

B. **Camp.** *Camp* includes any program that provides a Scouting America-branded program to individuals or youth using the same or substantially the same personnel. Except for day camps as provided below, a camp is an overnight program. In determining the length of a camp, count all nights where any participants (other than staff) are present with substantially the same camp leadership or camp staff, regardless of what the camp is called, unless there is a gap of five or more nights between sessions. *Camp* includes the following classifications:

   1. **Day camps.** A *day camp* is a council-organized program designed for Scouts for two or more days, under council-retained leadership at an approved site with no overnight. The program may operate at age-appropriate Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, Venturer, or Sea Scout level. A council may choose to treat a one-day event (without an overnight) as a day camp.
   2. **Short-term camps.** A *short-term camp* is any council-organized overnight camping program, whether one-time or continuing, that

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

is one, two or three nights in length where the council or its agents provide the staffing and may provide program and food services, and includes camps conducted off council properties. National training courses, specifically National Camping School, Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor, National Youth Leadership Training, Wood Badge, OA trainings such as NLS, are subject to the short-term camp requirements, regardless of format or duration. All other national training courses designation must be determined based on the number of nights of the camp.

3. **Long-term camps.** A *long-term camp* is a council-organized camp of four nights or more that operates under council-retained leadership and can include static campsites, transient campsites, adventure or trekking programs, or some combination thereof. A long-term camp may operate at multiple age-appropriate Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, Venturer, or Sea Scout levels, but each program level must be offered a separate camp experience meeting the relevant program design standards and cannot be combined into a single camp experience.

C. **Covered personnel.** All NCAP, National Camping School personnel and card holders, and council personnel with camping responsibilities, as described in Standard SA-006, and all camp staff and camp personnel, as described in Standard SQ-401, must comply with the National Camp Standards in the exercise of their duties:

D. **Exclusions from National Camp Standards.** The World Scout Jamboree, National Scout Jamboree, and the National Order of the Arrow Conference are excluded from coverage under Scouting America National Camp Standards. The following programs are excluded from coverage under Scouting America National Camp Standards, except when conducted on a camp property, in which case the *camp property* must meet the standards applicable to a *camp property:*

1. Scouting America council meetings
2. Events. An event is a council-sponsored activity that is not overnight and not a day camp. Events at a *camp property* are subject to the National Camp Standards applicable to the *camp property.*
3. Unit activities. A unit activity is subject to the *Guide to Safe Scouting* in lieu of the National Camp Standards even if located at a camp property. The council must continue to meet any standards applicable to the camp property and the unit must comply with council policies that implement the standards.

E. **Precedence.** At *camp properties* and *camps*, the National Camp Standards take precedence over inconsistent statements in other Scouting America policy statements, manuals and guides, regardless of whether issued at the national or local council level, except in the following circumstances:

1. The National Camp Accreditation Committee issues an NCAP Circular that states it supersedes certain sections of the National Camp Standards.
2. The National Camp Accreditation Committee issues a variance, waiver, equivalency determination, or other relief in accordance with Standard SA-005, which is binding upon the parties covered.
3. The National Camp Standards expressly reference and adopt another policy, manual or similar document, such as the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, as controlling for certain issues. Additionally, the National Camp Standards explicitly allow councils and *camps* to adopt more stringent requirements. Where a council or camp exercises that authority, the more stringent requirement prevails.
4. The National Camp Standards take precedence only over inconsistent statements in other Scouting America publications only at *camp properties* and *camps*. For activities not at *camp properties* or *camps*, other Scouting America publications provide the applicable requirements.
5. Notwithstanding the above, *camp properties* and *camps* must always operate in compliance with federal, state and local laws, regulations and permits. Those legal requirements prevail over inconsistent Standards. *Camp properties* and *camps* are expected to comply with both law and the Standards to the extent consistent and possible. Councils facing this situation should apply for a variance pursuant to Standard SA-005 to eliminate inconsistency or tensions.

INTERPRETATION:

Scouting America council includes the National Council and its service territories, subdivisions and subsidiaries and any Scouting America-chartered local council and its districts, subdivisions and subsidiaries.

Scouting America-branded program includes any program offered using the name, trademarks, copyrights, or trade dress of Scouting America.

A **long-term camp** is a camp of four or more nights. A short-term camp is one to three nights. The question arises of how to distinguish them when the camp is repeated. The answer is that the total number of nights of the program using

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

essentially the same leadership and staff and within less than five days of each are counted to determine program length. Examples:

- A five-night camp is followed by a two-night camp using the same staff. This is a seven-night program and both camps must meet the long-term camp standards.
- A three-night camp is followed by a day off followed by another three-night camp using the same staff. This is a six-day camp and the camps meet the long-term camp standards.
- The council offers a campmaster program where a varying staff offers a generally consistent program each weekend. Because these programs are five days apart, they are separate camps. This is a *short-term camp.*
- A Cub Scout camp is offered for four or more night sessions using the same program and staff. This is a long-term camp.

When the National Council or a National Council entity (such as the Order of the Arrow or a national committee) sponsors a camp within the boundaries of a local council, the national sponsor shall be responsible for compliance with the National Camp Standards in cooperation with the local council in which the camp will occur. The sponsor shall present a plan for addressing NCAP compliance to the local council, which shall issue a local council authorization and assessment declaration upon receipt of an adequate plan. If multiple councils collaborate to hold a camp, they shall agree in writing on how NCAP compliance will be maintained and upon that agreement, the council within whose boundaries the camp is offered shall issue the local council authorization and assessment declaration. The assessment of the camp shall be returned to the council issuing the local council authorization and assessment declaration for its files. Long-term camps may require a waiver or variance if not within the scope of an existing authorization to operate.

Long-term control means that a council or affiliated entity owns or leases the property or has a multiyear permit or license to operate a camp on the property. A council or affiliated entity that makes non-trivial improvements to facilities at a property is presumed to exercise long-term control over that property.

A council meeting is a meeting of a council executive board, any of its committees, subcommittees, or task forces, or of council members in a governance capacity.

NATIONAL CAMP STANDARDS APPLICABILITY

(Revised January 1, 2025)

Events. An event may not be subdivided to avoid application of the National Camp Standards. For example, a camp that runs over five days cannot be split into daily activities to avoid the standards. *Events* not subject to the National Camp Standards are subject to the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and Youth Protection policies. Events at a camp property are subject to the standards applicable to the camp property, including any requirements of an applicable Authorization to Operate, for that camp property.

Exclusions. The World Scout Jamboree, National Scout Jamboree, and National Order of the Arrow Conference are mass events subject to additional health and safety requirements specific to those events which are equivalent to or more stringent than the National Camp Standards. Unit activities are subject to the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

Specific national training courses, National Camping School, Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor, National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT), Wood Badge, and OA trainings such as NLS, are subject to the short-term camp requirements, regardless of format or duration.

All other national training courses designation must be determined based on the number of nights of the camp.

VERIFICATION:

- Verification of compliance by a council with this standard will be determined during the zone conducted council NCAP program administration assessment and not individual camp assessments.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

SA-002

AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE REQUIRED

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

No *camp property* or *long-term camp* shall operate without a current *Authorization to Operate* as provided by the standards. No *day camp* or *short-term camp* shall operate without a current NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration issued by the local council pursuant to a current *Authorization to Operate*. Camps shall operate only at approved locations.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Camp properties.** Each *camp property* shall have a current Authorization to Operate issued by the National Council.

B. **Day camps and short-term camps.** A council authorized to operate day camps and short-term camps by its current Authorization to Operate shall issue a NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration authorizing each day camp or short-term camp no less than 30 days prior to the camp. Each day camp and short-term camp not held on an accredited NCAP camp property shall also have a current NCAP Site Appraisal Form approved by the council.

C. **Long-term camps.** Long-term camps shall have an Authorization to Operate from the National Council.

D. **Application required.** When required by the National Camp Accreditation Committee but not less frequently than once every five years, a local council shall submit an application for an authorization to operate a Scout camping program.

1. The application shall be submitted on the approved NCAP forms, shall include all required information indicated on those forms, and shall address each camp property and long-term camp that the council intends to operate during the term of the authorization to operate, which is normally five years.

2. Effective January 1, 2026, the application shall include, for each long-term camp and the group of day camps and short-term camps generically, a copy of the council's plan of review and current tracking sheet required pursuant to Standard PD-112, Specific Requirements A and G. In addition for any program or activity at a camp authorized pursuant to Standard PD-111 or Standard PS-223, a statement of the program or activity, an identification of the program syllabus used, and an identification of the program hazard analysis supporting the program, with an indication of the date they were last reviewed under either Standard PD-112 or on an individual program or activity basis. The information required may be combined into a single tracking sheet at the council's discretion.

AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE REQUIRED

SA-002

(Revised January 1, 2025)

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

INTERPRETATION:

All camp properties and long-term camps must be authorized by the National Council. If the National Council Authorization to Operate authorizes the council to offer day camp or short-term camp or if the council has interim Authorization to Operate such camps pursuant to Standards AO-802 and AO-811, the council must issue a NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration for each such day camp or short-term camp. The NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration and the NCAP Site Appraisal Form shall be issued using the current national forms found on the NCAP website at scouting.org/NCAP/.

VERIFICATION:

- Council issuance and administration of the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration and NCAP site appraisal forms will be assessed during a nationally coordinated NCAP program administration assessment of the council.
- Short-term camps must produce a copy of their NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration for signature by the short-term camp administrator prior to program start when the camp is assessed.
- Day camps must produce a copy of their NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration for signature by the local council assessment team when the camp is assessed.

SA-003

ASSESSMENT REQUIRED

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

No *camp* or *camp property* shall operate without an assessment conducted in accordance with the National Camp Standards.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Camp properties.**

1. Each camp property shall be assessed at least annually by the local council using NCAP trained personnel.
2. Each COPE/climbing course shall annually receive a professional inspection pursuant to ANSI/ACCT Standard 03-2019, Chapter 1, Sections B.1.2 and B.2. In addition, each COPE/climbing course shall be assessed annually by the local council using NCAP-trained personnel. These assessments should be at separate times.
3. Camp properties used for long-term camps shall also be assessed by the National Council assessment team during the long-term camp assessment.

B. **Camps.** Camps shall be assessed as follows:

1. **Day camps** shall be assessed by the local council using NCAP trained personnel using the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration.
2. **Short-term camps** shall be assessed by the short-term camp administrator using the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration.
3. **Long-term camps** shall be assessed by the National Council assessment team using NCAP certified personnel.

C. **Reporting.** Each assessment shall be reported as follows:

1. **Camp properties and COPE/Climbing courses.** A copy of each camp property assessment conducted pursuant to Specific Requirement A.1 shall be submitted to the camp ranger (if present), council president, Scout executive, and council NCAP chair within five working days of completing the assessment and to the National NCAP Committee using the official Assessment Scoresheet found at scouting.org/NCAP

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

2. **Long-term camps.** A copy of each camp assessment conducted pursuant to Specific Requirements A.2 (if a stand-alone operation), and B.3 shall be provided to the camp director, council president, Scout executive, council NCAP chair, zone assessment coordinator, and to the National NCAP Committee using the official Assessment Scoresheet found at scouting.org/NCAP
3. **Short-term camps and day camps.** Completion of the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration is required and the file retained at the Council Service Center for review by the national NCAP committee when requested.
4. **Recommended Practices are to be scored as follows:**

   Yes = recommended practice is applicable and satisfied
   No = recommended practice is applicable and not satisfied
   NA = not applicable (e.g., does not apply to the camp at all)

INTERPRETATION:

All terms are defined in Standard SA-001. All long-term camps must be assessed by the National Council. All other camps must be assessed by the local council. Local council inspections, under specific requirement A.2, may use a mix of NCAP-trained and otherwise qualified personnel, but the team lead must have the required NCAP training.

VERIFICATION:

- During the council NCAP program administration assessment, the lead council assessor will review the council's self-assessment plan to verify that all day camps were properly assessed and that all short-term camps were assessed by the short-term camp administrator and the NCAP Site Appraisal Form and the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration forms were completed.

SA-004

ACCREDITATION OF CAMPS AND CAMP PROPERTIES

(Revised January 1, 2023)

STANDARD:

Each camp and camp property shall be accredited in accordance with the specific requirements of this standard. A camp or camp property denied accreditation may continue to operate using Scouting America trademarks and trade dress only pursuant to an approved plan of improvement, corrective action plan, or letter of authorization from the national NCAP staff advisor.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Authorization to Operate.** No camp or camp property shall be accredited unless it has current Authorization to Operate and Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration, if required, as set forth in Standards SA-002 and AO-802.

B. **Accredited.** A camp or camp property *shall* be accredited if it receives no noncompliant findings and not more than 10 deviation findings. A camp or camp property *may* be accredited if it receives not more than one "upgraded from noncompliant" findings and a total of not more than five deviation findings or two "upgraded from noncompliant" findings and no deviation findings *if and only if:*

1. The camp or camp property corrects any noncompliant finding prior to departure of the assessment team to the team's satisfaction *and* the team receives the approval of the zone assessment coordinator (or the national NCAP staff advisor, if the zone camp assessment coordinator cannot be contacted). Any standard scored "noncompliant" during the assessment and corrected while the assessment team is onsite shall be scored as an "upgraded from noncompliant" ("UNC") on the assessment score sheet with an explanation of the circumstances; or

2. The camp or camp property commits to a corrective action plan to correct the noncompliant finding as soon as possible, the plan is approved by the Scout executive (or designee), *and* the plan is approved by the zone assessment coordinator and the national NCAP staff advisor. Any noncompliant findings adjusted under this procedure shall be scored as "UNC" on the assessment score sheet. An explanation for any adjustments must be provided in the score sheet. A conditional accreditation may be issued if the assessment team believes the program is safe while the necessary plan approvals are obtained.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

3. Notwithstanding Specific Requirements B.1 and B.2, if the total number of UNC and deviation findings exceeds 10, with each UNC counting 5, the camp or camp property must be conditionally accredited.

C. **Conditionally Accredited.** A camp or camp property shall be conditionally accredited if either of the following conditions occur:

1. One or more standards is scored noncompliant and the conditions in Specific Requirements B.1 or B.2 are not met; or
2. If there are more than 10 deviations or UNCs scored with each UNC counting 5.

A conditionally accredited camp must prepare a plan of improvement to address the deficiencies leading to conditional accreditation as directed by the zone assessment coordinator or the National NCAP staff advisor.

D. **Denied Accreditation.** A camp or camp property shall be denied accreditation if any of the following conditions are met:

1. The local council's charter from Scouting America is revoked.
2. The local council's Authorization to Operate is revoked or terminated in whole or with respect to the camp or camp property.
3. The camp or camp property was conditionally accredited in the prior assessment and cannot satisfy the conditions for full accreditation in Specific Requirements B.1, B.2, or B.3.
4. The camp is conditionally accredited and does not timely comply with its corrective action plan or plan of improvement.

E. **Appeal.** An accreditation decision may be appealed informally and then formally as follows:

1. An accreditation decision may be appealed informally by the camp or an assessment team member to the zone assessment coordinator, who will hear the camp's position and the assessment team's position and issue a final decision or defer a decision to the formal appeal process. This is the only appeal route for an assessment team member.
2. An accreditation decision may be appealed by a camp to the National NCAP committee as set forth in this Manual within five working days, unless the national NCAP staff advisor grants an additional time. The camp's appeal must be in writing and must set forth the basis for appealing the assessment team's decision. The

zone assessment coordinator and assessment team shall have five working days, or more if granted by the national NCAP staff advisor, to respond in writing. A panel of the national NCAP committee may decide the appeal on the written submissions or may hold a hearing in person, over the phone or virtually and decide the appeal. This decision shall be in writing.

F. **Plan of Improvement.** A camp that is conditionally accredited shall prepare a plan of improvement to address the noncompliant and deviation findings and submit it to the national NCAP staff advisor for approval by the national NCAP committee. Failure to implement the plan of improvement constitutes grounds for denial of accreditation. Conditions in a plan of improvement may be appealed pursuant to Specific Requirement E.3.

G. **Reinstatement After Denial of Accreditation.** A camp that was denied accreditation may petition the national NCAP committee for approval of a plan of improvement to reopen the camp. Approval of a plan of improvement is at the national NCAP committee's discretion.

INTERPRETATION:

NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration approvals may be issued by a council in accordance with Standard AO-811. All councils have interim authorization to issue such approvals until they receive their Authorization to Operate specifically addressing this authority or receive written notice from the National Council or National NCAP Committee stating affirmatively that they do not have such authority.

For purposes of Specific Requirements B.3 and C.2, each deviation is counted as a finding and each UNC is counted as five findings. So, a camp with 2 deviations and 1 UNC has seven findings.

VERIFICATION:

- Compliance with Standard SA-004 by a camp or camp property is demonstrated by the issuance of the camp assessment score sheet for long-term camps and camp properties and the issuance of the on-site verification for day camps and short-term camps.
- Verification of compliance by a council with this standard for its self-assessed day camps, short-term camps and camp properties will be determined during the nationally coordinated council NCAP program administration assessment and not individual camp assessments.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

SA-005

VARIANCES, WAIVERS, AND RELIEF FROM NATIONAL CAMP STANDARDS

(Revised January 1, 2022)

STANDARD:

The National Camp Accreditation Committee may grant a variance, waiver, equivalency determination, or other relief from the National Camp Standards in accordance with the specific requirements of this standard.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Application.** All applications for a variance, wavier, or other relief shall be made in writing and submitted to NCAP@scouting.org using the required form in accordance with the instructions on the form and supported by such additional information as needed to allow the National Camp Accreditation Committee to act in the best interest of Scouting. An incomplete application may be denied.

B. **Variances.**

1. An application for variance must conform to the instructions and show (a) that the proposed alternative will achieve at least the same or preferably a higher level of program quality and safety as the existing national camp standard and (b) a need for the variance. The application must address each aspect of the standard for which a variance is sought, including the specific requirements, interpretation, and compliance verification. The application must demonstrate how the variance will meet Scouting's aims, safety requirements, quality goals, and intended results.
2. A variance is usually granted for the life of a camp or program. Variances will be reviewed during each authorization cycle to ensure that they remain appropriate. A variance may be surrendered by the camp or council or terminated or modified by the National Camp Accreditation Committee after notice and an opportunity for hearing.

C. **Waivers.**

1. An application for waiver must conform to the instructions and show (a) that the council has exercised reasonable "best efforts" to comply with the standard; and (b) that the proposed alternative will achieve substantially the same level of program quality and safety as the existing national camp standard. This demonstration must address each aspect of the standard, including specific requirements, interpretation, and compliance verification provisions, for which a waiver is sought.
2. A waiver is issued for the current camping season and may be renewed once.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

3. Unless otherwise specified in the waiver, the national camp standard for which a camp has obtained a waiver shall be scored as deviation during assessment.

D. **Equivalency Determinations.** Applications for an equivalency determination under Standards SQ-404 through SQ-412 should be completed using the "waiver" form and following the equivalency instructions. The committee may issue an equivalency letter finding that an individual meets the relevant SQ standard training or experience requirements (other than age). The equivalency determination shall remain in effect while that individual is employed by that council at that camp unless the relevant standard or NCAP equivalency determination provides otherwise. An equivalency determination is binding on the camp and the assessment team.

E. **Other Relief.** Applications for other relief should be completed using the "waiver" form and following waiver instructions. The committee may grant such other relief from the standards as may be required by the best interests of Scouting.

F. **Committee Action.**

1. The committee may grant, deny, modify, or condition a variance, waiver, or request for relief. The committee may request additional information from the applicant.
2. If granted, a variance, waiver, or other relief will be in writing over the signature of the NCAP chair or the national camp standards chair. The variance, waiver, or relief is binding upon the council, camp(s), and assessment teams it covers in the same manner as a national camp standard. A camp may elect to comply with the standard in lieu of a waiver or relief, but must comply with a variance unless it obtains a waiver or relief from the variance.
3. The committee may delegate action on certain classes of waivers to its officers, a group of designated members, or staff.

G. **Modification and Termination.** A variance, waiver, or other relief may be reviewed at any time at the discretion of the committee, during reauthorization, or upon request. The committee will provide notice and an opportunity to respond before modifying or terminating a variance, waiver, or other relief except in exceptional circumstances.

VARIANCES, WAIVERS, AND RELIEF FROM NATIONAL CAMP STANDARDS

(Revised January 1, 2022)

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

INTERPRETATION:

The National NCAP Committee is distinct from National Camping School and therefore cannot “continue” an expired National Camping School certification. The National NCAP Committee may consider an applicant’s prior experience and training in determining whether to grant a waiver from or equivalency determination for the National Camping School requirement. Councils seeking such a waiver or equivalency determination should be sure to detail any such experience and training in appropriate detail with supporting evidence, where possible.

VERIFICATION:

Verification of a variance, equivalency determination, waiver or other relief occurs in two steps:

A. The NCAP committee will verify the appropriateness of the request by issuing a written determination.

B. Camp assessors will verify compliance with the written determination during assessment.

SA-006

NCAP TRAINED AND CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

All NCAP authorization reviewers, NCAP assessment personnel, and council NCAP chairs and their respective staff advisors shall have current NCAP training with a current NCAP Assessment training certificate, if required, appropriate to their responsibilities. NCAP leadership may revoke a certification at any time for cause.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Assessment Team Leaders. All NCAP assessment team leaders** shall have completed current-year team leader training from the National Council and hold a current NCAP assessor certification. Assessment team leaders at a local council shall have completed assessor training from the National Council and hold a current NCAP assessor certification.

B. **Assessors.** All NCAP zone assessors shall have completed NCAP assessor training provided by the National Council and hold a current NCAP assessor certification. Assessors at a local council shall have completed NCAP assessor training provided by the National Council or the local council.

C. **Others.** Other NCAP personnel shall review relevant NCAP training materials and participate in training as directed by the local or national council.

INTERPRETATION:

NCAP personnel include all members of the National Camp Accreditation Committee and its staff, national authorization team members and peer reviewers, zone assessment leads and coordinators and their assistants, any person leading or conducting an assessment of a camp or camp property, council NCAP chairs and council camp assessment chairs, and the council professional advisor to the council NCAP chair.

NCAP zone assessment team leader means a zone assessment lead, a zone assessment coordinator, a council camp assessment chair or the team leader of a camp assessment team at any camp or camp property

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

SA-007

RESPONSIBILITY OF PERSONNEL WITH CAMP RESPONSIBILITIES

(Effective January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

All NCAP personnel, National Camping School staff and certificate holders, camp staff, camp personnel and council staff with camping responsibilities shall comply with and uphold the National Camp Standards in a manner that achieves the goal of the standard in the performance of their duties. Failure to comply with and apply the standards in their intended fashion may be grounds for discipline, including but not limited to revocation of NCAP certifications or banning from future responsibility for or service at a Scouting America-accredited camp or camp property.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

INTERPRETATION:

Scouting expects all individuals involved in Scout camping to uphold the standards of Scouting America as set forth in the National Camp Standards and to maintain the quality and safety of Scout camping. Standards and their Specific Requirements are to be interpreted to achieve the health, safety and program quality purposes of the Standard. If a Specific Requirement specifies that the camp has an item such as, but not limited to, a helmet, bow, first aid kit, refrigerator or other item, that item must be present, maintained, fully functional in a safe fashion, and staff or participants, if applicable, expected to use it are trained or instructed in its use and the use of any accompanying safety gear or procedures. Similarly, when a Standard requires a plan or procedure, that plan or procedure must be up-to-date, reflect current facilities, equipment, and staffing, and address the purpose of the relevant standard or requirement. Disregard of the National Camp Standards and camp policies and procedures that implement them is grounds for a noncompliant finding and, if willfully, recklessly or grossly negligently maintained by an individual, for discipline, including but not limited to banning from future service as camp staff or camp personnel.

If a standard is unclear, camp staff or personnel must seek guidance as directed by their camp director. If a camp director is unclear, they should seek guidance from the council NCAP chair and/or their professional advisor. If the standard remains unclear, guidance should be sought from NCAP@Scouting.org or by calling the National NCAP Staff Advisor. In appropriate circumstances, a written NCAP interpretation may be issued by the National Camp Accreditation Committee. Such interpretations are binding on NCAP, the local council and the camp. A form is available on the NCAP website as part of the assessment packet to bring unclear standards to NCAP's attention.

NCAP assumes that all individuals with Scouting camping responsibilities are proceeding with good intentions and noncompliance is the result of misunderstanding. NCAP personnel should first seek to educate or counsel a to achieve the standards. If, however, an NCAP assessment team finds that

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

an individual has willfully, recklessly or negligently disregarded a National Camp Standard and refuses to correct the violation when counseled and, after discussion with the camp director, the issue persists, the assessment team leader shall notify the zone assessment coordinator and the National NCAP staff advisor. Similarly, if a camp director or council NCAP staff advisor believes an NCAP assessor has willfully, recklessly or grossly misconstrued the National Camp Standards, they should contact the zone assessment coordinator and National NCAP staff advisor immediately. The NCAP Committee will investigate, consult with the local council, and ensure appropriate action is taken in both cases.

Procedures for investigation and resolution are set forth in the NCAP Standards Manual.

PROGRAM DESIGN (PD) STANDARDS

This part of the National Camp Standards sets forth the requirements for program design for a Scouting America camp type. The purpose of the standards is to encourage each Scouting America council to develop a safe, high-quality program that meets the needs of the youth in the area it serves. The standards have been designed to give councils substantial latitude in the design of their type.

The program design (PD) standards apply to camps based upon the intended audience. All camps offering program are subject to Standards PD-101 General Program Design; PD-107 Outdoor Ethics; PD-108 Communication with Units, Participants, and Parents; PD-110 Program Accessibility for Persons with Special Needs; PD-111 New Programs and Activities; and PD-112 Council Program Design, Safety, and Risk Review.

PD-102 Cub Scout Program Design, PD-103 Scouts BSA Program Design, and PD-104 Venturing and Sea Scouting Program Design apply to camps designed for those Scouting programs. The Application for Authorization should identify the target programs for each camp.

PD-106 applies to any camp offering Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Venturing, or Sea Scouting advancement opportunities.

All applicable standards must be met for accreditation.

PD-101

GENERAL PROGRAM DESIGN

(Revised January 1, 2020)

STANDARD:

The overall program supports Scouting's aims using methods appropriate to the youth being served.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Camp programs support the aims and methods of Scouting as appropriate to the youth being served. The camp has a written statement of overall goals for participants, including desired behavioral outcomes. This statement is provided in the leaders' guide.

B. The camp provides a description of the overall program, showing how it implements the following camp program essentials and the applicable requirements of PD-102, PD-103, or PD-104, depending on the participants served.

All areas of camp program are re-examined annually and compared with the results of end-of-session surveys to validate program effectiveness.

INTERPRETATION:

The methods appropriate to the various ages of youth are detailed in Standards PD-102 (Cub Scouts), PD-103 (Scouts BSA) and PD-104 (Venturers and Sea Scouts).

VERIFICATION:

- Review of camp literature
- Discussion with staff about how the camp-provided program description is implemented
- Observation of program implementation

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

PD-102

CUB SCOUT PROGRAM DESIGN

(Revised January 1, 2021)

STANDARD:

Programs for Cub Scouts are exciting, dynamic, and appealing to today's youth; meet the needs of the youth and units attending camp; and are fun and safe.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Specific activities offered are designed to meet unit and youth needs (e.g., safety, variety, fun, advancement), to support the philosophy that Scouting is fun with a purpose and to be appropriate for participants' ages. Programs stress adventure and fun over just advancement. Program resources are allocated based on participant characteristics. In designing camp program activities, the camp reviews relevant national publications, links to other council camps, and consults with the appropriate council committees (e.g., camping, aquatics, range and target activities).

B. Where appropriate, the camp uses the methods of Cub Scouting to achieve its goals:

1. Living the ideals
2. Belonging to a den
3. Advancement
4. Family involvement
5. Activities
6. Serving the neighborhood
7. Uniform

C. Cub Scout programs meet the following requirements:

1. Day camps use a special fun-based theme (e.g., sea adventures, athletes, space explorers, folklore). Themes are rotated annually so that no youth experiences the same theme twice. Program staff members are encouraged to wear costumes appropriate to the theme. The themes are very visible, hands-on programs that are available to all participants.
2. Provide progressive, age-appropriate program opportunities for Cub Scouts.
3. Provide hands-on activities. Provide a variety of activities, such as water activities, range and target activities, games, ceremonies, songs, and ecology/conservation elements.
4. Offer indoor programs for inclement weather.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

5. Emphasize games and sports under the basic principle that each youth gets to learn the rules and play, regardless of ability.
6. Begin and end the daily program with a meaningful patriotic or Cub Scout ceremony.
7. Allow ample time for rest and lunch breaks, especially a half-hour quiet program following lunch. For both short-term camps and long-term camps, at least nine hours of sleeping time is scheduled.
8. Involve parents or family as appropriate.

All areas of camp program are re-examined annually and compared with the results of end-of-session surveys to validate program effectiveness.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of camp literature
- Discussion with staff about how the camp-provided program description is implemented
- Observation of program implementation

REFERENCES:

- *Day Camp Administration Guide,* No. 430-338
- Guidance on using the methods of Cub Scouting is available at scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/aims-and-methods/

PD-103

SCOUTS BSA PROGRAM DESIGN

(Revised January 1, 2021)

STANDARD:

Programs for Scouts BSA members use the appropriate methods and are exciting, dynamic, and appealing to today's youth; meet the needs of the youth and units attending camp; and are fun and safe.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Specific activities offered are designed to meet unit and youth needs (e.g., safety, variety, fun, advancement), to support the philosophy that Scouting is fun with a purpose and to be appropriate for participants' ages. Programs stress adventure and fun over just advancement. Program resources are allocated based on participant characteristics. In designing camp program activities, the camp reviews national publications, links to other council camps, and consults with the appropriate council committees (e.g., camping, aquatics, range and target activities).

B. Where appropriate, the camp uses the methods of Scouting to achieve its goals:

1. Patrols
2. Ideals
3. Outdoor programs
4. Advancement
5. Adult association
6. Personal growth
7. Leadership development
8. Uniform

C. Scouts BSA programs meet the following requirements:

1. Offer activities that strengthen the patrol method (e.g., patrol cooking, patrol competitions, patrol leaders' council meetings). Long-term camps offer at least three opportunities of different types over the course of a session.
2. Provide a strong Order of the Arrow program. Examples include a campfire presentation, OA members wearing their sashes to a retreat ceremony, a Brotherhood ceremony, a call-out ceremony, or an OA gathering.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

3. Stimulate troop program by offering campwide program events (e.g., aquatics events, intertroop campfire, sports, intertroop/patrol Scoutcraft competition). Long-term camps offer at least two of these events over the course of a session.
4. Offer a separate first-year camper program at long-term camps that emphasizes the adventure of Scouting. This program should be fun and active and should support the patrol method. The program should expose Scouts to different program areas in camp. If part of the program, rank advancement focuses on requirements that are appropriate for the camp environment and are difficult for the troops attending camp to accomplish on their own. If advancement opportunities are offered at least one age-appropriate, non-Eagle-required merit badge is offered, either as part of the first-year camper program or from the general camp program.
5. Include at least two special program opportunities at long-term camps for second-, third-, and fourth-year campers that are not available to first-year campers and are of an advanced nature. Examples include wilderness survival, COPE, climbing/rappelling, scuba, mountain biking, and mountain boarding, or specific merit badge-oriented themes.

All areas of camp program are re-examined annually and compared with results of end-of-session surveys to validate program effectiveness.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of camp literature
- Discussion with staff about how the camp-provided program description is implemented
- Observation of program implementation

PD-104

VENTURING AND SEA SCOUTING PROGRAM DESIGN

(Revised January 1, 2021)

STANDARD:

Programs for Venturers and Sea Scouts use appropriate methods and are exciting, dynamic, and appealing to today's youth; meet the needs of the youth and units attending camp; and are fun and safe.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

A. **General.** Specific activities offered are designed to meet unit and youth needs (e.g., safety, variety, fun, advancement), to support the philosophy that Scouting is fun with a purpose, and to be appropriate for participants' ages. Venturing and Sea Scouting programs stress adventure and fun over just recognition. Program resources are allocated based on participant characteristics. In designing camp program activities, the camp reviews national publications, links to other Venturing or Sea Scout programs, and consults with the appropriate council committees (e.g., camping, aquatics, range and target activities).

B. **Venturing Programs.** Venturing programs should be designed with the following considerations:

1. Use the methods of Venturing: leadership and mentoring; group activities and adventure; recognition; adult association; ideals; group identity; and service.
2. Offer young adult–oriented programs and social programs.
3. Provide ample unstructured time for leisure activities.
4. Offer adventure activities relative to the teenage level, including such things as climbing/rappelling, caving, sailing, board sailing, scuba diving, orienteering, fishing, wilderness survival, mountain biking, cycling, water skiing, hunter education, backpacking, horseback riding, Leave No Trace, COPE or climbing, and Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILSC) course.
5. Offer programs that assist the Venturer in completing requirements and challenges for the Venturing, Discovery, Pathfinder, and Summit ranks; Ranger, Quest, or TRUST awards; or Range and Target Activities Outstanding Achievement, or religious awards.
6. Provide adequate opportunities for individual leadership and growth.

C. **Sea Scouting Programs.** Sea Scouting programs should be designed with the following considerations:

1. Use the methods of Sea Scouting: ideals; group activities; advancement; adult association; high adventure; outdoors and nautical activities; uniform; teaching others; and leadership.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

2. Offer young adult–oriented programs and social programs.
3. Provide ample unstructured time for leisure activities.
4. Offer adventure activities relative to the teenage level, including such things as climbing, sailing, board sailing, scuba diving, orienteering, fishing, water skiing, and Sea Scouts Introduction to Leadership Skills for Ships course.
5. Offer programs that assist the Sea Scout in completing requirements and challenges for the apprentice, ordinary, and able ranks; the Quartermaster Award; or the Small-Boat Handler bar.
6. Provide adequate opportunities for individual leadership and growth.

D. **Program review.** All areas of camp program are re-examined annually and compared with the results of end-of-session surveys to validate program effectiveness.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of camp literature
- Discussion with staff about how the camp-provided program description is implemented
- Observation of program implementation

RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

PD-106

SKILLS PROGRESSION AND ADVANCEMENT

(Revised January 1, 2020)

STANDARD:

If offered, advancement opportunities are appropriate for the age group and facility, emphasize that Scouting is fun with a purpose, are presented by qualified personnel, and are consistent with Scouting America advancement policies.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

INTERPRETATION:

Camps that offer advancement opportunities ensure that they are appropriate for the age, skill level, and maturity of the age group. Advancement opportunities are appropriate for the facilities at camp and the outdoor environment.

When offered, advancement opportunities focus on the fun and adventure of the Scouting program. All advancement must be consistent with Scouting America advancement policies.

For day camps and long-term camps, advancement is not the primary objective of the program. In a short-term camp where advancement is a primary objective, advancement activities are interspersed with other activities consistent with Scouting's goal of being a game with a purpose. Recognizing that an important part of the merit badge program is that the Scout meets with a qualified counselor, due care is taken to ensure that all merit badge requirements are met. Some merit badges may not be appropriate for offering at summer camp. Advancement offered and camp personnel instructing advancement programs are approved, as appropriate, by the council advancement committee.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of proposed program implementation
- Written approval from council advancement committee (may be part of general program design approval pursuant to Standard PD-112)
- Discussion with camp director and/or staff

REFERENCES:

- The *Guide to Advancement* for the current year may be found at: filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf

PD-107

OUTDOOR ETHICS

(Revised January 1, 2020)

STANDARD:

The camp property demonstrates Scouting America outdoor ethics. The camp practices, teaches, and demonstrates Scouting America outdoor ethics.

INTERPRETATION:

The camp property uses signage or other means to reinforce Scouting's outdoor ethics message. The camp program incorporates elements of the Scouting America outdoor ethics program (e.g., the Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace Seven Principles) into camp activities or programs. Scouting America outdoor ethics, including the Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace Seven Principles, or Tread Lightly!, could be included in a first-year camper program or camp craft skills or a separate program, such as offering Scouting America Leave No Trace Basic. Alternatively, including an outdoor ethics theme in a camp activity would also meet the standard.

VERIFICATION:

- Director/staff description of procedures in practice
- Evidence of Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace Seven Principles in practice (e.g., absence of litter, minimization of erosion, reducing visible impact where reasonable, and similar steps)

REFERENCES:

- Leave No Trace Seven Principles used with permission of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: lnt.org

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

PD-108

COMMUNICATION WITH UNITS, PARTICIPANTS, AND PARENTS

(Revised January 1, 2020)

STANDARD:

The camp property and/or camp provides sufficient information to unit leaders, participants, and parents to help them plan for and participate in the camp's program.

INTERPRETATION:

The camp communicates with unit leaders, participants, and parents prior to camp via promotional literature and a leaders' guide containing ideas, methods, and procedures for the unit to build its in-camp programs and youth growth. The literature must describe the conditioning, experience, and training required to successfully complete the camp program and must include a risk advisory statement, where appropriate. The camp program delivers fully on the promises in the promotional literature and leader's guide.

For **day camps and long-term camps,** the council conducts a camp information meeting, which may include webinars and similar electronic communication prior to the start of camp. The camp conducts an on-site orientation for those arriving at long-term camp. Daily in-camp communication opportunities are provided to help camp leadership support the building of unit leadership.

For **day camps and short-term camps**, an orientation is held during registration or on the first day of camp.

For camp properties not being used for day camp or long-term camp, a leaders' guide is not required, but adequate information should be available to assist units and participants in understanding the camp property's rules and regulations, facilities, and program opportunities.

The camp posts activity schedules, maps, and rules/reminders in central locations.

VERIFICATION:

- Leaders' guide shown at assessment (may be included in declaration)
- Observation of posted notices
- Discussion of communication practices with staff or adult participants

REFERENCES:

- *Day Camp Administration Guide,* No. 430-338
- Council Supplemental Risk Advisory Template scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/680-67519-Council-Risk-Advisory-Template-WEB.pdf

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

PD-109

OUTSIDE PROVIDERS OF PROGRAM, ACTIVITIES, AND SERVICES

(Revised September 1, 2023)

STANDARD:

If a council uses public or private outside (non-Scouting America) providers of programs, activities, or services, the council has a written agreement with each provider that outlines the responsibilities of both parties, consistent with Scouting America standards and policies.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

The council selects only providers who:

A. Present programming in keeping with Scouting America standards.

B. Provide an adequate number of instructors/guides with verified qualifications.

C. Use equipment that is safe, age-appropriate, and in good repair.

D. Provide evidence that they meet or exceed Scouting America insurance requirements.

E. Meet or exceed the requirements outlined in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

F. If outside vendor personnel will remain at the camp overnight, will be present regularly at the camp, or will have unsupervised contact with camp participants, the camp must:

   1. Either conduct criminal background checks on such personnel or obtain a written certification from the vendor that such personnel have received a criminal background check meeting Scouting America's minimum requirements; and

   2. Verify that the outside vendor personnel have completed either Scouting America's Youth Protection Training or received equivalent youth protection training meeting Scouting America's minimum requirements.

G. Additional guidelines for specific programs:

   1. Scuba contractors shall also comply with the requirements of Standard PS-203.

   2. Transportation contractors shall also comply with the requirements of Standard PS-216.

The council requires staff to accompany campers participating in outside programs and ensures that these staff members are well-informed of their responsibilities for camper supervision.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

OUTSIDE PROVIDERS OF PROGRAM, ACTIVITIES, AND SERVICES

(Revised September 1, 2023)

PD-109

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

INTERPRETATION:

Councils and camps arranging for outside vendors required to have criminal background checks and youth protection pursuant to Specific Requirement F should contact the National Service Center for current minimum requirements by emailing NCAP@scouting.org. Written agreements must reflect vendor's agreement to meet or exceed minimum requirements of Scouting America National Camp Standards or policy.

When accompanying campers to programs or activities presented by outside private or public providers, staff supervisory responsibilities include, but are not limited to, camper behavior management, youth protection, communication, and health and safety-related matters.

Overnight and ongoing program providers must demonstrate compliance with Scouting America Youth Protection policies. Day on-site providers must demonstrate compliance with Scouting America Youth Protection Policies or be accompanied by youth protection-trained staff at all times. Day off-site providers providing service at a place of public accommodation (e.g., general public swimming pool, public beach) should meet as many of these policies as is reasonably possible, and accompanying staff should ensure maintenance of Youth Protection at all times. An "ongoing" vendor is one who is present during much of camp; a "day" vendor is one who appears sporadically (delivery personnel or delivers program during only a single day with no overnight or unsupervised access).

Where compliance with the standard as written cannot be achieved due to unusual circumstances, the council should seek a variance pursuant to Standard SA-005.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of the agreement and discussion with staff and/or director
- Review of list(s) of outside vendor personnel who will remain at the camp overnight, will be present regularly at the camp, or will have unsupervised contact with camp participants on council or vendor letterhead stating that criminal background checks have been completed and all personnel cleared for work at camp

REFERENCES:

- *The Guide to Safe Scouting* is available at scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/
- Current minimum requirements for equivalent background checks and youth protection training can be obtained by contacting ncap@scouting.org

PD-110

PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

(Revised January 1, 2014)

STANDARD:

The council has a plan for making the camp's programs accessible to Scouts, leaders, and visitors with special needs to the extent feasible.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. To the extent practical and safe, Scouts with special needs are included in camp programs. An individual familiar with the conditions and abilities of participants is available to assist.

B. New construction, sleeping areas, dining areas, toilets, bathrooms, and program facilities should be designed to be available to Scouts and leaders with special needs to the extent practicable. For existing facilities, the council has a plan for making the camp's campsites and other physical facilities accessible to Scouts and leaders with special needs to the extent reasonably feasible.

INTERPRETATION:

Specific Requirement A means that the program of the camp is made available to Scouts with special needs whenever possible. If access is difficult, the camp should evaluate whether the program can be offered to the Scout in a different location or way. The camp should ensure that an individual familiar with the conditions and abilities of a participant with special needs is available to assist when needed. This individual can be a professional caregiver, a family member, or an individual designated by the participant's parent or legal guardian who is familiar with the condition of the participant.

VERIFICATION:

- Discussion of how the camp makes its programs available to persons with special needs

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

PD-111

NEW PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

(Revised January 1, 2024)

STANDARD:

When a camp develops a new activity not addressed by these standards or part of current program, it must develop the program following the guidelines in Scouting America's *Guide to Safe Scouting*, Youth Protection policies, program hazard analysis process, and age-appropriate guidelines.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Written procedures set forth criteria for success, staff skill levels and training, safety considerations and procedures, equipment required, needed property support, and site-specific considerations.

B. If the risk assessment for the new activity, before controls are developed in the risk management process, is classified as IA, IB, IC, ID, IIA, IIB, IIC, IID, IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC on the Risk Assessment Chart in Program Hazard Analysis, No. 680-009, the council must submit a variance request prior to commencing the new activity.

INTERPRETATION:

Camp leadership is actively encouraged to create new, exciting, and dynamic nontraditional camp activities. Care must be exercised to ensure maximum camper and staff safety, securing necessary certificates and training (as needed), and should include procedures for care of equipment and grounds.

Scouting America's program hazard analysis process is available at scouting.org/filestore/pdf/680-009.pdf

The Program Hazard Narrative Form is at scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/doc/Narrative.doc

The Program Hazard Analysis Chart is at scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/doc/ProgHazAn.doc

Variance requests should be submitted to NCAP@scouting.org at least three months prior to the proposed program or activity.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of program in process and/or leader and staff evaluations and staff leadership comments to help review the program
- Observation of program hazard analysis narratives and chart for the new activity

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

PD-112

COUNCIL PROGRAM DESIGN, SAFETY, AND RISK REVIEW

(Revised January 1, 2026)

STANDARD:

Council standing committees review camp properties and camp program design and activities to ensure they support the council program, conform to Scouting America and council risk management and health and safety policies, and meet council quality objectives. The camp director is responsible for implementing the program and supervising staff and program activities in accordance with approved policies during camp.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

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 to four years, a minimum of three times every 10 years. The plan shall also call for a review of any serious incidents at each the camp or a camp activity during the prior year. The plan shall indicate the council committee or team responsible for completing the review.

B. Review Scope. The council committee or team responsible for reviewing an activity under the plan must review the activity, any syllabus, any program hazard analysis and any relevant Scouting America standards, policies or insurance requirements with an understanding of where and how the activity is usually conducted. For an incident, the council committee should review the incident, the activity at which it occurred, and any safety procedures or risk mitigation measures in place, and any relevant Scouting America standards, policies or insurance requirements. If the committee finds that additional safety or quality measures are required, these must be specified and, if necessary, approved using the council's normal procedures.

C. Recordkeeping. The council committee or a staff member must record the review and any adopted measures on a tracking sheet.

D. Camp director/camp leader responsibility.

1. *For long-term camps and day camps*, the council must communicate any required safety and quality measures to the camp director, make them available to the assessment team, and must ensure that the camp is adequately resourced to implement them. The camp director has primary responsibility to ensure that the measures are executed at the camp.
2. *For short-term camps*, the council must communicate any required safety and quality measures to the camp leader, short-term camp administrator and the staff advisor, who share responsibility to ensure that the measures are executed at the short-term camp. The council must ensure that the camp is adequately resourced to implement the required measures.

COUNCIL PROGRAM DESIGN, SAFETY, AND RISK REVIEW

(Revised January 1, 2026)

PD-112

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

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 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.

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:

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 representaitve 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

RP-151

PRECAMP MARKETING

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp has a marketing strategy that reaches its customers and conveys an exciting program.

INTERPRETATION:

Through the customer needs assessment performed as part of the Application for Authorization, the camp has an identified list of customers. The camp develops a marketing strategy that reaches these identified customers. The marketing strategy includes messaging that describes the camp in fun and exciting terms. Visual materials convey action, excitement, and adventure.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of marketing strategy and associated materials

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

RP-152

SERVICE PROJECTS

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp encourages participants to perform projects that improve the camp property or community.

INTERPRETATION:

The camp has a list of service projects covering conservation, facilities, and camp items. The list is available to staff and participants. The camp incentivizes units or groups of participants to participate in service opportunities.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of list of projects

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

RP-153

ADULT PARTICIPANT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

(Revised January 1, 2025)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

Adult leaders are provided the opportunity to participate in supplemental training opportunities, including three or more of the following:

A. **Understanding and Preventing Peer on Peer Abuse**
B. **Safe Swim Defense**
C. **Swimming and Water Rescue**
D. **Climb on Safely**
E. **Paddlecraft Safety**
F. **Safety Afloat**
G. **Other training approved by the council training committee**

INTERPRETATION:

Training completion cards are issued for each course completed, and the camp keeps a record of all courses completed.

VERIFICATION:

- Written records of training offered and completed
- Director/staff description of procedures in practice
- Observation of procedures in practice

Applies to:

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

RP-154

MERIT BADGE ROTATION

(Revised January 1, 2020)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp offers some different merit badges each year.

INTERPRETATION:

Scouts BSA camps that offer merit badges rotate offerings so that new merit badges are offered every year and some merit badges from previous years are not offered. This recommended practice does not require that certain merit badges be retired.

VERIFICATION:

- Schedules posted during visit or commitment in application

Applies to:

Long-term camp

RP-155

MERIT BADGE AND PROGRAM COUNSELOR TRAINING

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

There is an on-site visit by the council advancement committee or other relevant council committee personnel, as appropriate, to meet, review example programs, and counsel advancement program counselors to ensure quality, appropriateness, and consistency with Scouting America advancement policies.

INTERPRETATION:

Examples of relevant committees might include camping, aquatics, COPE/climbing, and range and target activities.

VERIFICATION:

- Discussion with camp staff

Applies to:

Long-term camp

RP-156

MERIT BADGE PROGRAM DESIGN

(Revised January 1, 2020)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

Merit badge coursework should not consume the majority of a youth's waking time on any program day.

INTERPRETATION:

While merit badges are an important part of the long-term camp program, they are not the main purpose of Scout camp. A Scout should have the opportunity to try new skills and activities just to learn about it or to have fun. Are the Scouts sitting in class all day (like school), or are they experiencing a true outdoor Scouting program working with their peers? The measure of a Scout's experience in camp is what they come home with in their head (values, growth)—not in their hands (badges). Does the camp program recognize this distinction and provide opportunities for growth, leadership, and group development?

VERIFICATION:

- Review of camp schedule and discussion with staff, youth, and unit leaders

Applies to:

Long-term camp

RP-157

INSPIRATIONAL CEREMONIES

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp provides inspirational programs, including starting and ending ceremonies.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of camp schedule

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

RP-158

CUB SCOUT PIZZAZZ

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

Cub Scout camps contain special programs that emphasize the mystique of camp.

INTERPRETATION:

Cub Scout camps include several elements that make camp memorable in the minds of the youth. Elements may include:

- OA involvement
- Excellent campfire programs
- Special evening programs
- Pack photos
- Digital video of the experience
- Returning camper recognitions

VERIFICATION:

- Observation and/or description by staff

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

RP-159

TRADING POST

(Revised January 1, 2025)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

Trading post operations support the aims of Scouting and program objectives.

INTERPRETATION:

A trading post, if present, supports character, citizenship, and physical fitness, as well as the program's objectives. Specific trading post practices include the following:

- Offer healthy foods, including fresh fruits or vegetables.
- Minimize sugary and fattening foods, including candy bars, energy drinks, and sodas. Elimination of sugary and fattening foods is not required.
- Provide items that are age-appropriate to the participants.
- Provide program- or camp-specific memorabilia/merchandise.
- Unless provided through the health lodge, provide appropriate menstrual products with sensitivity that needs vary.

At least three of the items must be met.

VERIFICATION:

- Visit to trading post

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

RP-160

CAMPER RETENTION AND RECOGNITION

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp recognizes campers who have spent more than one season in the camp.

INTERPRETATION:

The camp encourages camper retention through the use of a camper recognition program. The camper recognition program promotes the mystique of camp by incorporating local/natural history elements and/or folklore, using elaborate ceremonies and unique recognition items (e.g., patches, regalia). The Order of the Arrow may be involved in this program, or the program may be unique to the camp.

VERIFICATION:

- Staff description of camper recognition program

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Long-term camp

RP-161

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PROGRAM

(Revised January 1, 2019)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp fosters involvement of alumni for fundraising, service, staffing, and/or recruitment purposes.

INTERPRETATION:

The camp has an alumni association program fostering involvement of former staff and participants. The alumni association's structure and activities provide additional sources of funding, perform service projects to the benefit of the camp, and recruit both staff members and participants.

VERIFICATION:

- Staff description of alumni association program from camp staff

Applies to:

Camp properties

Long-term camp

RP-162

EXPOSURE TO SCOUTING AMERICA PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp exposes participants to the next Scouting America program the participant is eligible to join.

INTERPRETATION:

The camp encourages retention in Scouting America via exposing participants to the next level of the Scouting program. Arrow of Light Scouts are exposed to the Scouts BSA program. Members of Scouts BSA are exposed to the Venturing program. The exposure is age-appropriate and does not dilute enthusiasm for continuing in the Scouting program.

VERIFICATION:

- Staff description of exposure plan and how it is implemented

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

RP-163

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp provides fellowship opportunities for participants.

INTERPRETATION:

The camp encourages fellowship and fosters social interaction through fellowship events (e.g., cracker barrels, cookouts). Fellowship opportunities may be for specific groups (e.g., Order of the Arrow, Eagle Scouts, Venturing Summit Award, Sea Scout Quartermaster Award).

VERIFICATION:

- Staff description of fellowship events

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

PROGRAM SPECIFIC (PS) STANDARDS

The program specific (PS) standards apply to a camp that offers the subject matter program. Thus, if a camp offers aquatics activities, it must comply with Standards PS-201 Aquatics: General and PS-202 Large “Living-Aboard” or Chartered Boat Programs, and/or PS-203 Aquatics: Scuba Programs, if those standards apply to the camp. Similarly, if a camp or camp property offers a tot lot, it must comply with Standard PS-215 Tot Lot Programs.

All applicable standards must be met for accreditation.

PS-201

AQUATICS: GENERAL

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

If provided, swimming pools, waterfront facilities, and aquatics equipment (including watercraft) are safe, neat, clean, and operated in compliance with the policies of Scouting America, U.S. Coast Guard, and other governing jurisdiction regulations.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat procedures are used for all on-site and off-site swimming and boating activities. All campers and staff adhere to the buddy system and restrictions based on swim classifications. Life jackets are worn by everyone aboard small craft. In addition, emergency action plans specific to aquatics must be developed along with training as described in the staff qualification (SQ) standards.

B. Life jackets, paddles, and other equipment are properly sized for all participants.

C. Reach poles, rescue tubes, ring buoys, backboard with straps and head restraint, and other emergency items such as radios or communication gear are present in sufficient numbers, are in good repair, and are easily accessible for use by appropriately trained staff. Safety and emergency equipment, including rescue tubes, personal protective equipment (PPE), backboards, sun protection, and communication gear, is provided as specified by the CDC Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) or local authority having jurisdiction over swimming activities, whichever is more stringent.

D. Aquatics amusement features, such as floats and water slides, are operated in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines, as well as local and state regulations. All points of Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat are followed.

E. Long-distance swimming in open water must follow Distance Swimming in Open Water safety guidelines as set forth in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

F. Pools and/or pool shower systems, including sanitation, are overseen by and documentation is maintained by personnel trained according to state regulations. (Note: The camp ranger may need pool operator certification in your state.)

Applies to:

- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

G. All motorboats, sailboats, and watercraft are in good repair, are licensed if required, and meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Disposable fire extinguishers, if used, must be less than 12 years old and appropriate for the use. Council-owned boats 26 feet or greater in length and/or 40 HP or greater must be registered with Risk Management at the National Council.

H. Campers may not operate motorboats without an adult or staff member who meets state requirements on board. Proper safety and environmental precautions are taken for fueling and fuel storage. If Scouts are towed behind or allowed to swim from the boat, the engine must be turned off prior to anyone entering or leaving the water. There must be a designated observer or lookout in addition to a qualified boat operator. That person and the boat operator will both visually inspect the water entirely around the boat and confirm by a headcount during a buddy check that everyone in the party is either securely on board or well clear of the propulsion system before the engine is restarted.

I. Proper training and equipment, including helmets, are in use for whitewater activities (Class II and above). *Note: Trips above Class IV are not allowed in any Scouting program.*

J. If a swimming program is conducted at a licensed swimming facility operated by another vendor not on council property (established pool, spray park, water park, or lakefront swimming area, for example), the council and the provider must prepare a written agreement noting their respective responsibilities (as stated in PD-109). Facility employees with state-regulated training may provide aquatics supervision. Participants are assigned buddies and limited to water depths appropriate to their ability unless approved life jackets are worn. Roll is taken at the beginning and end of the activity. Special precautions indicated by medical conditions are shared with facility staff. In areas from which the public is excluded, Safe Swim Defense policies are implemented as they would be at a council-staffed facility.

K. Personal watercraft (PWC) used for program must be approved in advance in writing from National Council Outdoor Programs using the Personal Watercraft (PWC) Program Application, No. 430-045, and a copy must be available for the assessment team. The program follows the Scouting America PWC Lesson Plan. No deviation is permitted from the course outline. The program must comply with local and state laws and adhere to manufacturers' instructions at all times. The program must follow the Scouting America-approved lesson plan for instruction and practical experience. PWC used for program must be owned or leased by the council. Personal PWCs are not authorized.

AQUATICS: GENERAL

(Revised January 1, 2025)

INTERPRETATION:

Boats under 26 feet or under 40 HP are automatically covered under Scouting America liability insurance.

Personal watercraft (PWC) are motorized vehicles for personal use and subject to this standard. See the Personal Watercraft (PWC) Program Application, No. 430-045, for additional information on this program.

VERIFICATION:

- Check of water-quality records as required by applicable regulation
- Review of watercraft licenses, if applicable
- Check of emergency action plan (plans in place and staff trained in them)
- Review of emergency equipment against MAHC or local requirements (facility must have copy of current code or MAHC section)
- Observation of procedures in practice and program implementation
- If PWC program is offered, review of National Council approval and PWC operation manual, with staff assurance that the nationally approved operational plan and lesson plan are followed

REFERENCES:

Specific requirements for aquatics emergency action plans are found in Standard AO-805. Staff training requirements are found in Standard SQ-406.

The CDC Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) may be found at cdc.gov/mahc/index.html

MAHC 5.8.5.3 specifies safety equipment required for facilities with lifeguards.

General information on aquatics program supervision is found in *Aquatics Supervision,* No. 34346.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

PS-202

AQUATICS: LARGE "LIVING-ABOARD" OR CHARTERED BOAT PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2013)

STANDARD:

If offered, large boat (>20 foot) living-aboard or chartered boat programs are conducted in a safe manner and to provide a quality program for all participants. All boats and applicable equipment are inspected, operated, and licensed in accordance with local state and U.S. Coast Guard requirements and specific standard requirements as described herein. Insurance coverage for vessels must be provided per Scouting America requirements.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Written safety rules and guidelines establish the parameters for each activity. The reasons for the rules are reviewed with all participants.

B. Captains of vessels review man overboard, abandon ship, fire, and radio procedures with each crew (as applicable). Safety Afloat and Safe Swim Defense are also reviewed with the crews. These requirements will be applicable to all program participants.

C. Captains of vessels addressed by this standard are trained in the proper operation of their vessel and on how to explain emergency procedures to passengers. A pre-trip checklist is in use that includes an inspection of the vessel's safety and emergency equipment as well as the fuel and oil levels prior to each trip.

D. All chartered vessels are operated by U.S. Coast Guard–licensed captain. For the Florida Sea Base, captains must have attended a Sea Base Captain's Training Seminar to ensure safe operation of the vessel and a quality program for the participants.

E. All chartered vessels are inspected by authorized program personnel prior to operation to ensure their seaworthiness and that all required Coast Guard equipment is aboard and in good working order. All chartered vessels hold a current U.S. Coast Guard documentation for coastwise trade certificate and/or appropriate state registration. U.S. Coast Guard "inspected" vessels adhere to the restrictions of their current certificate of inspection.

F. All chartered vessels are properly insured as per National Council requirements and list Scouting America as additionally insured.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of written rules (may be submitted with declaration)
- Director/staff description of procedures in practice
- Observation of procedures in practice
- Inspection of captain's USCG license
- Review of vessel's documentation for coastwise trade certificate and/or appropriate state registration and insurance certificate per Scouting America National Council requirements

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

PS-203

AQUATICS: SCUBA PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2024)

STANDARD:

If offered, scuba programs are conducted in a safe manner and in accordance with the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, Scouting America Scuba Policy and applicable industry requirements.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Participation Limits**

1. Youth members in Cub Scouting are not authorized to use scuba in any activity.
2. Youth members in Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouting may participate in the introductory Scuba program and may obtain scuba certification as conducted by recognized agencies appropriate to their age. Recreational dives are allowed at a camp or council event provided such dives are consistent with their current level of certification and are under the direct, on-site supervision of a responsible adult currently certified as a divemaster, assistant instructor, or higher rating from a recognized agency. All such activities must meet all requirements of the Scuba Policy in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.
3. Standards of the recognized scuba agencies require students for open-water certification programs to be at least 15 years of age but allow special certification programs for younger students. Because all instruction for Scouting America scuba programs must be conducted by professionals certified by a recognized agency, additional agency-specific, age-related restrictions, and protocols apply to students under 15 years of age.
4. The divemaster or instructor supervising a recreational dive by a Scouting America group must implement the following policies for all divers under 15 years of age, as well as any additional junior diver restrictions and protocols adopted by that person's certifying agency:
   a. Depths are limited to 40 feet for divers under 12 years of age and to 60 feet for divers 12 to 14 years of age.
   b. Each diver under 15 years of age must have an adult buddy certified as an open-water diver who is either the junior diver's parent or an adult approved by the parent.
   c. Additional divemasters or instructors must be present to maintain a ratio of one trained supervisor to four buddy pairs (eight divers) containing no more than four divers under 15 years of age.

Applies to:

- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

B. **Program Supervision.** Any camp offering scuba must comply with this standard and deliver the scuba program using one of the following two options:

1. The scuba program is supervised by a recognized scuba contractor meeting the requirements of Standards PD-109 and PS-203; or
2. The camp is a nationally accredited scuba adventure program meeting the requirements of Standard PS-203, Specific Requirements E through I.

C. **Medical Requirements**

1. All scuba participants must submit a current (within one year) Annual Health and Medical Record. In addition, all scuba participants must submit a current (within one year) medical statement approved by the Recreational Scuba Training Council (RSTC). Each scuba training agency recognized by Scouting America requires a specific health history form prior to enrollment in a certification program. Scouting America requires review and approval of the completed form by a physician even if the scuba agency itself does not require physician approval. Various risk factors identified on the forms may exclude a person from scuba training, either temporarily or permanently. Risk factors include but are not limited to ear and sinus problems, recent surgery, spontaneous pneumothorax, asthma or reactive airway disease (RAD), seizure disorders, diabetes, leukemia, sickle-cell disorder, pregnancy, panic disorders, and active psychosis.
2. The divemaster or instructor supervising the program must review the Scouting America annual health and medical record and the RSTC Diver Medical Participant Questionnaire and evaluate risk conditions using medical standards consistent with those used by their certifying agency and Scouting America, whichever is more stringent. Either the divemaster/instructor or the camp health officer may disapprove a participant for a scuba activity but only the divemaster/instructor may approve a participant for a scuba activity. Scuba diving is prohibited for people with the following conditions:
   a. Participants with a history of seizures or epilepsy unless allowed under Scouting America Scuba Policy.
   b. Individuals with diabetes or similar conditions, unless well-controlled and allowed under Scouting America Scuba Policy.
   c. History of asthma or RAD unless resolution is confirmed in accordance with Scouting America Scuba Policy.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

d. Participants with ADD, ADHD, anxiety and depression, or related conditions requiring any medication unless allowed under the Scuba Policy.

e. Any person with conditions listed as “severe” by the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society.

D. **Risk Management.** Councils contracting a vendor to conduct scuba operations have an annual Letter of Agreement with Facility outlining requirements found in Scuba Policy and Standards PS-203.

1. The annual letter of agreement must meet Scouting America minimum requirements.
2. The annual letter of agreement must be specifically approved by the council’s enterprise risk management committee consistent with Standard PD-112.
3. Local council programs may not compress or sell air for scuba use, or sell, rent, or loan scuba equipment (scuba cylinders, regulators, gauges, dive computers, weights, or BCDs) All air and equipment for local council program use must be obtained from professional sources (dive stores, resorts, dive boats, etc.) affiliated with a scuba agency recognized by Scouting America. Use of personal air or equipment is not authorized.

E. **Recognized Scuba Contractor: Qualification**

1. The contractor must be a member, in good standing, of an RSTC agency. Recognized scuba agencies are:
   a. Professional Association of Diving (PADI)
   b. National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI)
   c. Scuba Schools International (SSI)
   d. International Diving Educators (IDEA)
   e. Professional Diving Instructors Corporation (PDIC)
   f. Scuba Diving International (SDI)
   g. National Academy of Scuba Educators (NASE)

   In addition to the agencies listed by name, any current member of the World Recreational Scuba Training Council (WRSTC), which includes all RSTC members, is also a recognized scuba agency.
2. The contractor (and its facility) must operate within local, state, and federal government laws and regulations.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

3. The contractor must have written safety plans for its facility or the camp or camp property at which the scuba program will be offered which include:
   a. Visibility and sea/water conditions constraints
   b. Inclement weather
   c. Lost diver
   d. Medical emergency at sea/on the water
   e. Vessel emergency; grounding, sinking, fire (if program is based off boat).
4. Contractor (and its facility) and any vessels used as part of the program must operate within USCG laws and regulations. Each vessel must submit to either a USCG Safety Examination or Inspection annually (depending on the size and weight of vessel) and submit to USCG Incident Reporting requirements and procedures.
5. Vessels must be equipped with USCG approved first aid kits, emergency equipment, rescue equipment, and emergency oxygen equipment along with an AED (not required by USCG). Oxygen equipment and AED are stored in a safe and accessible location.

F. **Recognized Scuba Contractor: Staffing Minimum Requirements**

1. Contractor must employ a Scuba Director, over the age of 25, with 5 or more years of industry experience, who is an RSTC Instructor or greater, PADI Emergency First Response Instructor or equivalent, PADI Emergency O2 Instructor or equivalent to provide leadership to scuba-based programs, facilities, and operations.
2. Scuba instructors employed by contractor are 18 years of age or older and hold a current RSTC Instructors certification along with PADI Emergency First Response or equivalent, and PADI Emergency O2 or equivalent certifications.
3. Scuba divemasters employed by contractor are 18 years of age or older and hold a current RSTC divemaster certification along with PADI Emergency First Response or equivalent, and PADI Emergency O2 or equivalent certifications.
4. Scuba staff with potential rescue responsibilities employed by contractor must possess a RSTC Rescue Diver or greater certification along with PADI Emergency First Response or equivalent, and PADI Emergency O2 or equivalent certifications.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

5. If required for program, USCG Captains subcontracted or employed by contractor must hold a current and active USCG license appropriate for the size of vessel operated along with PADI Emergency First Response or equivalent, and PADI Emergency O2 or equivalent, certifications OR USCG approved/required medical training.
6. Scuba staff members, including all listed in Specific Requirements F.1-4, must attend scuba department training annually and submit to a position specific skill review. This skill review may include training of other personnel under observation of scuba director or their designee.
7. Scuba staff members, including all listed in Specific Requirements F.1-5, must be active members of a USCG-sanctioned Drug Consortium and, where required, submit to annual and random drug screenings.

G. **Recognized Scuba Contractor: Minimum Medical Requirements**

1. Contractor must either have a formal relationship with an MD or DO who is versed in dive and hyperbaric medicine OR have a formal relationship with Divers Alert Network to review and provide guidance to safety standards and procedures, answer technical medical questions, and train staff members to recognize symptoms of dive related illness.
2. Contractor shall employ trained staff members to review scuba medicals in alignment with Scouting America Scuba Policy. Any individual outside of Scouting America Scuba Policy must be denied participation; concerning medical records are forwarded for review to the scuba medical director or referred to Divers Alert Network or to a licensed hyperbaric physician via a PCI compliant method.

H. **Recognized Scuba Contractor: Equipment Minimum Requirements**

1. Contractor maintains an up-to-date inventory of all equipment.
2. If contractor maintains equipment, maintenance must be done by trained and certified individuals. If maintained by a vendor, the vendor must be trained and/or licensed.
3. Contractor maintains a written maintenance and replacement schedule for all scuba equipment. Maintenance logs are kept for all equipment.
4. Contractor must conduct timely routine maintenance of air compressors such as filter and oil changes accomplished by a trained staff member or vendor, and a maintenance log is kept. An

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

annual inspection of the compressor is performed by a certified service center. The compressor area and fill station are enclosed and locked when unsupervised. There is an "Authorized Personnel Only" sign posted.

5. Air produced by compressors is tested a minimum of four times per year or as required by state law. Results are sent to the applicable state health department or other regulatory authority as required.
6. Qualified inspectors supervise the visual inspection of all scuba dive cylinders and tank valves annually. Official inspection stickers are affixed to each cylinder. Scuba cylinders are filled to a maximum of 3,000 PSI by trained staff members only.

I. **Nationally Accredited Scuba Adventure Program**. Nationally accredited Scuba Adventure programs are authorized to perform and shall comply with the requirements of the recognized scuba contractor under Specific Requirements E through H. The following programs are recognized as nationally accredited Scuba Adventure programs:

- Sea Base

VERIFICATION:

- Review of staff chart and certifications (may be submitted with declaration)
- Discussion of procedures in practice with director and staff
- Review of cylinders to ensure in accordance with standard
- Review to ensure proper health form and supplement are reviewed in medical screening
- Verification of written contract for recognized scuba contractor and verification of RSTC membership
- Review to ensure required plans in place
- Discussion of medical review procedures used by contractor
- Review of equipment logs and maintenance practices

REFERENCES:

- Scouting America Scuba Policy is found in the *Guide to Safe Scouting* at scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/
- UHMS Diving Medical Guidance to the Physician (current edition), available at uhms.org/

RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

PS-205

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2013)

STANDARD:

If offered, the camp provides a safe introductory program into all-terrain vehicle use and operation following the safety training program of the All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Only four-wheel, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) may be used for program, and they must be owned or leased by the council. Personal ATVs are not authorized.

B. The program must comply with local and state laws and adhere to manufacturers' instructions at all times.

C. The use of ATVs for program must be approved in writing in advance by the National Council Outdoor Programs using the All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Program Application, No. 430-044, and a copy must be available for the camp assessment team.

D. The course or program must follow the All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute (ASI) safety training program in its entirety. No deviation is permitted from the course outline.

VERIFICATION:

- Approval for the program presented on the All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Program Application, No. 430-044
- Review of the ASI safety training program and course outline, with staff discussion of how the program follows the outline

Applies to:

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

PS-206

COPE AND/OR CLIMBING PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

If offered, COPE or climbing programs are operated safely and in compliance with the policies of Scouting America, Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) Standards, and other governing jurisdiction regulations.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Program Equipment

1. All specialized equipment needed for conducting a safe COPE and/or climbing program must be available to participants and staff members and approved by a qualified person. Personal climbing helmets and harnesses may be used if inspected and approved by the on-site Level ll instructor or director. All equipment and cordage must be used, inspected, and retired according to the manufacturer's recommendations. In the absence of a manufacturer's recommendation, all soft goods must be retired no more than 10 years from the date of purchase.
2. Each participant and staff member in the fall zone of a climbing site or COPE high-course site must wear a rock-climbing helmet. Observation areas for onlookers must be outside of the fall zone.
3. An inventory of all cordage and rope used in the program must be kept, including: (a) manufacture date, (b) purchase date, (c) in-service date, and (d) any unusual or environmental or mechanical stress. All rope and cordage must be uniquely marked, permanently identified, and traceable in the inventory.
4. Equipment is retired according to the manufacturer's recommendations for inspection or age. In the absence of a manufacturer's retirement recommendation, all soft goods must be retired no more than 10 years from the date of purchase.
5. Staff members inspect all program equipment before and after each use and are taught how to inspect equipment for defects that render equipment unsafe for use. Disposal of retired equipment is done in such a way that it cannot be used for life safety systems.
6. When not being used, equipment must be kept in locked, protected storage, away from exposure to sunlight, heat, moisture, chemicals, and destruction or contamination by animals.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

B. Participant Requirements. Participation in COPE and climbing activities shall comply with the Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities available in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*. Additionally, program staff shall ensure that all participants have adequate maturity to participate in the activities.

C. Program Operation

1. All COPE and climbing staff use written procedures for:
   - Opening and closing the program site
   - Conducting a site and safety orientation before the program activity
   - Safety during program operation
   - Equipment use
   - Disabling or limiting access to program sites
2. No participant is ever coerced or pressured into attempting an activity. A participant may be encouraged to take the next small step, but the final choice of participation and performance is left entirely up to the individual.
3. The technique of spotting is explained, demonstrated, and practiced before any activity requiring that skill.
4. Prior to any activity using life safety systems, participants are trained in:
   - Proper belaying technique
   - Backup belay technique
   - Belay transfers
   - Signal use
   - CHECK (see RP-256) or equivalent procedure
   - Equipment use
5. The Level II instructor or director determines if a participant's safety might be compromised by course conditions, staffing, weather or any other factor, and is empowered to open and close the COPE or climbing program. Staff members are trained to monitor environmental conditions and their effect on participants during challenge activities. Alternative weather-appropriate activities should be available.
6. All participants are top-roped when climbing. When transferring from one belay system to another, a consistent process is used to ensure that the new belay attachment is secure before the old system is disconnected. All rappelling participants use an acceptable rappel belay method.

7. Only trained COPE and climbing staff may climb using lobster claws or similar tether systems to self-belay above the anchor, such as during a staple climb. Load-limiting or fall-arresting devices shall be used in these situations.
8. Measures are in place to provide for the safety of everyone at the program site, including observers. Everyone must be belayed or tethered when within 8 feet of an edge where a fall of more than 6 feet could occur. All zip line staff who are working on launch or landing areas where the staff member can come in contact with a moving participant must be tethered.
9. Until December 31, 2025, a consistent process is used by all COPE and climbing staff to ensure that clothing, helmet and harness head protection, environment, connections, and knots are double-checked in any belayed events for staff members and participants. This requirement must also be followed by staff at all times, including setup and takedown of life safety systems.

   Not later than January 1, 2026, a consistent posted or displayed process is used and verbalized by all COPE and climbing staff to ensure that clothing, helmet and harness head protection, environment, connections, and knots are double-checked in any belayed events for staff members and participants. This requirement must also be followed by staff at all times, including setup and takedown of life safety systems.
10. Written incident resolution plans identifying likely emergencies, including rescues, and procedures for resolving them are reviewed with COPE and climbing staff members and rehearsed annually. Plans must address emergency access (see Standard AO-805).
11. At least one person at the program site must have a valid certificate of training in first aid and American Red Cross Adult CPR/AED training or equivalent, and be physically present whenever the program is in operation. If the program site is more than 60 minutes away from emergency medical services (EMS), then a person trained to a minimum level of wilderness first aid must be present on the program site.
12. Rescue equipment and medical supplies appropriate for likely incidents must be on-site and accessible when the program is in operation, and at least one person must be trained in the use of all supplies.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

D. Temporary Anchor Systems

1. All temporary anchor systems must provide sufficient strength to limit potential falls. Anchors are placed to provide the most effective protection for both the climber and the belay.
2. Trees used as anchor points in an anchor system must be well-rooted, healthy, at least 6 inches in diameter at the point of attachment, and protected from damage.

INTERPRETATION:

A COPE course is defined as any challenge elements that are part of a challenge course program and artificial climbing structures. Climbing and rappelling programs include natural rock sites and artificial climbing structures. These standards apply to all COPE and climbing activities that are operated by councils and/or their districts at any location and any time of the year. Scouting units wishing to conduct climbing programs should consult the Climb On Safety guidelines and *Guide to Safe Scouting*. Unit leaders must take Climb On Safety training (available online at scouting.org) prior to taking their units on climbing activities.

Scout camp structures such as monkey bridges, obstacle courses, and pioneering towers are expected to meet safety standards in equipment and supervision comparable to COPE but are not subject to COPE and climbing standards under these conditions, do not require professional inspection, and do not require an onsite COPE Level II instructor or director. Councils may find their COPE and climbing committee to be a valuable resource for writing operating procedures and providing training for staff who supervise these activities.

Soft goods: Rope, webbing, cordage, helmets, harnesses, slings, etc.

Life safety systems: Life safety systems are generally required where a fall of more than 6 feet could occur. Some low COPE course elements such as “The Wall” may have a fall potential of more than 6 feet. Proper spotting techniques or life safety systems may be acceptable practices on these elements.

Proper belaying technique: Belayer’s position must be in direct line with a potential fall and allow for no slack between the anchor point, if used, and the belayer. Horizontal traversing elements require either a movable dynamic belay system with a belay team or a static belay system using an observer. **Back up belay is required**. In rare natural areas where there is not enough space for a backup belayer or during initial set up of a course with only two trained staff, using trained belayers to belay with an assisted-braking device or hitch is allowed. (Artificial climbing surfaces or elements that do not allow for a backup belay must be redesigned or their operating procedures modified to meet this requirement.)

COPE AND/OR CLIMBING PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2025)

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

Acceptable rappel belay methods: Rigged using a releasable rappel or other belay system that allows participants to be quickly and safely lowered if the rappel device becomes jammed.

- Recommended: Double-line rappel with an independent belay line
- Recommended: Single-line rappel with an independent belay line
- Acceptable: Double-line rappel with a fireman's belay
- Acceptable: Single-line rappel with a fireman's belay

Some activities employ life safety provisions similar to COPE or climbing (e.g., caving, canyoneering, ice climbing, via ferratas, spar pole climbing, etc.), and may involve the use of equipment and/or techniques that are not covered in typical Scouting America instructor training. Staff members must consult with experts familiar with and trained in the use of this equipment and these techniques prior to implementing the program. Specific training and assessment for instructors operating these programs must be documented prior to operating these programs.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of procedures in practice with participants
- Evaluation of program documents (may be submitted with declaration):
  - –Equipment record/inventory
  - –Daily orientation and operating procedures
  - –Plans for likely emergencies

REFERENCES:

- Many states regulate some or all COPE elements and may require permits. See Standard AO-801.
- Staffing requirements are set forth in SQ-409.
- Facilities requirements are set forth in FA-715.
- Additional information on COPE and Climbing programs may be found in *Belay On!,* No. 300-530.

PS-207

FISHING PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2021)

STANDARD:

If fishing is offered, the camp provides appropriate instruction and safe equipment and facilities.

INTERPRETATION:

If a camp offers fishing as a formal program offering (e.g., Cub Scout fishing programs, Fishing merit badge, Fly-Fishing merit badge, or as part of a fishing camp), the camp provides instruction and fishing gear as appropriate or clearly communicates the need to bring such equipment in its leaders' guide. Camp-provided equipment is well-maintained, and instruction on its use is available to campers.

Campers wishing to fish are provided reasonable access to aquatics facilities if necessary to enable their experience.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of procedures in practice

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

PS-208

HANDICRAFT PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2013)

STANDARD:

If offered, handicraft programs focus on typical camper learning opportunities, are properly supervised, and promote the safe use of equipment.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Staff members understand the specific skills and safety concerns of the crafts offered.

B. All equipment is serviceable and checked to meet safety concerns.

C. Campers and staff are provided safety equipment and skills training as appropriate.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of program implementation
- Discussion with staff concerning equipment and safety procedures

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

PS-209

HORSE AND STOCK PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2013)

STANDARD:

If a horseback riding or stock program is offered, all aspects of the program are safe, fun, and learning-based for campers while providing proper care and recordkeeping for horses and stock.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. A formal training plan is in place for horseback riding and stock staff. The rules and procedures for the horseback riding or stock activity must be in writing and clearly understood by staff and participants.

B. Instructions for the ongoing care, feeding, and maintenance of horses and other stock are in writing. There are adequate arrangements for veterinary and farrier care.

C. Before use by participants, each horse must be ridden by staff members and properly classified for appropriate activities. Records on each horse are kept in a bound book and show all problems, accidents, and activities.

D. Proper facilities and fenced areas (in good repair) are used for the animals. Adequate shelter for storing all equipment and feed is provided. The horse corral or stock facilities are located away from central camp facilities and campsites. Adequate fresh water is available. The area is reasonably free of accumulated manure.

E. All tack used in the program is in good repair, with a formal schedule of inspection and repair in place.

F. Riders should wear suitable attire for the activity, including long pants, shirts, and riding boots with heels (if stirrups are covered with tapaderos, tennis shoes or similar shoes without heels could be permitted). Riders, including staff, are required to wear properly fitting protective headgear that meets or exceeds ASTM-SEI standards and that is maintained and replaced according to manufacturer's instructions or if damaged in a fall.

G. When using English saddles, breakaway safety stirrups and Devonshire or Peacock style stirrups are acceptable.

Applies to:

- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

HORSE AND STOCK PROGRAMS

PS-209

(Revised January 1, 2013)

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

INTERPRETATION:

This standard applies where the horseback riding program is provided at the camp or is offered in a vendor-provided program.

If the camp provides for camper participation in a horseback riding program offered to the general non-Scouting public (i.e., not exclusive to Scouts during the time of the presentation), camp leadership is responsible for selecting providers who ensure safety and Scout experience in keeping with the requirements noted above.

Tapaderos are leather coverings on Western stirrups that can help prevent the shoe or boot from sliding too deeply into or going all the way through the stirrups.

VERIFICATION:

- Confirmation of training in accordance with plan
- Observation of procedures in practice

PS-210

MOUNTAIN BIKING AND MOUNTAIN BOARDING PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2021)

STANDARD:

If offered, mountain biking and/or mountain boarding program must be operated with appropriate training, supervision, safety procedures, and consideration of site-specific conditions.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

Camps that offer mountain biking and/or mountain boarding programs meet the following requirements:

A. Adult staff supervision is required during program operation to assure participants have adequate skill level.

B. Youth staff must receive training for skill and safety.

C. Equipment is in serviceable condition and checked to verify safety and conformance with manufacturer's recommendations, the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

D. Biking/boarding courses must be inspected annually to verify safe operation.

E. Camp must provide camper training/safety learning opportunities prior to unlimited participation.

F. Safety equipment for mountain biking must include helmets and shoes.

G. Safety equipment for mountain boarding must include helmets, knee pads, elbow pads, shoes, and eye protection for participants actually on the course.

INTERPRETATION:

Course trails, equipment, and staff must be monitored daily to ensure proper safety, maintenance, and skill levels are in compliance. The standards provide the minimum; additional safety gear may be necessary depending upon the course.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of last annual inspection (may be submitted with declaration)
- Observation of procedures in practice
- Review overall condition of mountain bikes/boards

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

PS-211

NATURE AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2013)

STANDARD:

If offered, qualified staff provide hands-on opportunities for conservation and ecological learning projects and provide opportunities for observation of the natural world. Instruction is provided on proper tool use and safety, when needed.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of program implementation
- Discussion with staff concerning elements of instruction

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

PS-212

SCOUTCRAFT, WOODCRAFT, AND OUTDOOR SKILLS PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2014)

STANDARD:

If offered, Scoutcraft, woodcraft, and outdoor skills activities are led by qualified staff, meet appropriate safety standards, use maintained equipment, and provide opportunities for learning, growth, and advancement.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Equipment used for this program area must be in serviceable condition and is checked to avoid potential injury.

B. Appropriate safety equipment, skills training, and supervision are provided in the programs where risk must be managed.

C. Pioneering projects where participants are elevated more than 6 feet above the ground are permitted only after review by the council enterprise risk management committee.

INTERPRETATION:

Scoutcraft, woodcraft, and outdoor skills activities include camping, outdoor cooking, wilderness survival, pioneering, and other Scoutcraft opportunities.

Prepared/trained staff will offer specific outdoor learning skills as selected by the program leadership.

Scout camp structures such as monkey bridges, obstacle courses, and pioneering towers are expected to meet safety standards in equipment and supervision comparable to COPE but are not subject to COPE standards, do not require COPE inspection, and do not require an on-site COPE Level II instructor.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of procedures in practice
- If a project has participants elevated more than 6 feet above the ground, evidence of council enterprise risk management approval. This approval may be part of the general program design review in Standard PD-112.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

PS-213

RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: ARCHERY, SLINGSHOTS, AND THROWING SPORTS PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2026)

STANDARD:

If offered, the camp operates safe, age-appropriate archery, slingshots and throwing sports programs.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Range Requirements.**

1. An archery range shall be designed and posted in accordance with Design Guideline 313. Ranges using compound bows must complete a risk assessment pursuant to Standards PD-111 and PD-112 to determine if such bows may be safely used.
2. A slingshot range shall be designed in general accordance with Design Guideline 313 or 314 adjusted to account for the maximum range of travel and other safety risks identified in a risk assessment completed per Standards PD-111 and PD-112 before starting the program.
3. A throwing sports range shall be designed in general accordance with Design Guideline 350 adjusted to account for the maximum range of travel and other safety risks identified in a risk assessment completed per Standards PD-111 and PD-112 before starting the program.
4. An atlatl range shall be designed and posted in accordance with Design Guideline 313. Ranges must complete a risk assessment pursuant to Standards PD-111 and PD 112 to determine if atlatl may be used safely.

B. **Standard Operating Procedures.** Each archery, slingshot, atlatl, and throwing sports range and program shall have appropriate standard operating procedures developed and implemented for the range and activities offered. The standard operating procedures shall address:

1. **Qualified supervision**, which must be present at all times the range is in operation and may vary depending upon the program activity. Qualified supervision must meet the requirements of Standard SQ-407. The minimum ages, instructor-to-participant ratio, and training of each instructor or assistant must be specified in the standard operating procedures. Proof of training must be maintained.
2. **Required program equipment**, which must identify properly sized equipment for use with participants and any age-appropriate restrictions identified by the camp or council pursuant to Standards PD-111 and PD-112. The standard operating procedures shall address required regular inspections, maintenance, and, if applicable, appropriate condemning criteria for when equipment shall be retired.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

3. **Equipment storage**, which shall address proper lock up and storage of equipment when not in use.
4. **Safety**, which shall address safety procedures, required safety equipment, and standard first aid for reasonably foreseeable issues. For archery ranges, properly sized equipment such as finger tabs or gloves and forearm guards must be used by everyone as specified in the approved standard operating procedures.
5. **Access to communication**, which shall address how first aid, emergency services, the range activities director or camp management shall be summoned when needed.
6. **Slingshots**. Slingshot programs will follow requirements indicated in the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*. Ammunition cannot include glass, steel, marbles, rocks, or any other hard objects that may ricochet (note: clay balls may be used). The standard operating procedures must specify the type of ammunition(s) that may be used.
7. **Compound bows and throwing sports**. If the archery program will use compound bows or throw objects other than knives or tomahawks that are allowed by the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*, the council shall conduct a risk assessment pursuant to Standards PD-111 and PD-112 to address potential risks to participants. Additional safety, instruction, program equipment maintenance items necessary to accommodate compound bows shall be added to the standard operating procedures. Compound bows shall only be used on ranges approved for their use. The standard operating procedures shall indicate which ranges on camp property (see NCAP Standard SA-001), if any, are approved for compound bows.
8. **Personal equipment**. The standard operating procedures must specify whether personal archery equipment is allowed and any limits on its use. If not specified, personal equipment is not allowed.

C. **Range Operation**. The following requirements shall be met when an archery, slingshot, or throwing sports range is in operation:

1. Qualified supervision shall be present. The instructor-to-participant ratio set forth in NCAP Standard SQ-407 and reflected in the range's standard operating procedure shall not be exceeded. Councils may implement more stringent limitations when needed for program safety or quality reasons.
2. Only programs approved for use on the range may be offered.
3. Properly sized equipment is issued and used by all participants.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

4. Proper safety protocols shall be followed and participants have appropriate safety gear as required by the standard operating procedures.
5. All equipment is in good repair.
6. First aid equipment, supplies, and access to communication are available as set forth in the standard operating procedures.
7. The standard operating procedures are available and followed. If the standard operating procedures are not available, the range must be shut down until located and implemented.

D. **Sporting Arrows Program**. In this program, participants shoot Flu Flu arrows at foam disks launched into the air or rolled along the ground by a disk launcher manufactured by LaPorte or Atlas, or equivalent. The following additional requirements apply to sporting arrows programs:

1. Age appropriate requirement. This program is authorized for Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturers.
2. Council risk review. Prior to offering the program, the council shall:
   a. Convene a task force to review local, state and federal guidelines, including age restrictions; licensing and/or certification requirements and courses; equipment and personal protective equipment standards; and any other practices or procedures recommended by the original equipment manufacturer or other governing body and shall also evaluate costs, risks to participants, impacts on other camp programs and the camp environment.
   b. Complete a risk and safety review as required by Standards PD-111 and PD-112 and adopt measures as may be needed to ensure the program conforms to the National Camp Standards and Scouting America's *Guide to Safe Scouting*.
   c. The task force shall draft standard operating procedures as required by Specific Requirement B, which must include Specific Requirements D.1 and D.3 through D.5.
   d. The task force report and safety and risk review must be reviewed and approved by the council's executive board or executive committee prior to initiating the program.
   e. If the council elects to proceed, the council shall submit notice of its initiation of the program annually in the Notice of Intent to Operate.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

3. **Ambient condition restrictions**. The program may not be offered if ambient wind speeds are greater than 30 mph. The program must be outfitted with a means of determining approximate wind speed.
4. **Equipment requirements**.
   a. Only LaPorte Bowtrap, Atlas Apollo, or equivalent foam disk throwers for projecting the disks, are authorized.
   b. Bows are limited to a maximum 26-pound pull.
5. In addition to the design requirements of Specific Requirement A.1, the Sporting Arrows course shall follow the Sporting Arrows Design Guide 316.

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 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.

REFERENCES:

- Design Guidelines are available at scouting.org/outdoor-programs/.
- Staffing requirements are set forth in Standard SQ-407.
- Additional information on administering the program is found in the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual* available at scouting.org/outdoor-programs/.

PS-214

RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: FIREARMS AND DEVICES PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2026)

STANDARD:

If offered, the camp operates safe, age-appropriate firearms and devices programs.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Range Requirements**. Firearms activities are confined to ranges designed and approved for that use. An approved range is:

1. A commercial range allowing use of the firearm type; or
2. A range at a camp property designed in accordance with guidelines at scouting.org/outdoor-programs and approved for use of that firearm type by the council operating the camp property (See SA-001).
3. For BB devices only, a range designed in accordance with guidelines at scouting.org/outdoor-programs and used as part of a council-operated program.
4. Specialty programs must meet range design requirements set forth in Specific Requirements H through K.

B. **Age-Appropriate Restrictions on Device and Firearm Use.** Use of devices and firearms by program participants is limited as follows:

1. Cub Scouts (Tiger through Arrow of Light programs) may only use BB devices in council-operated programs.
2. At long-term camp only, Cub Scouts (Webelos and Arrow of Light programs only) may use pellet rifles on a range meeting the requirements of Specific Requirement A.
3. Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturers may use BB devices, chalk ball devices, pellet rifles, Airsoft guns, .22-caliber rimfire bolt-action rifles, shotguns, muzzle-loading rifles and muzzle-loading shotguns on ranges meeting the requirements of Specific Requirement A. If magazines are used, range commands must include “magazines out after firing all your shots” to ensure the firing line is safe and all shots are fired. Except as expressly provided in these standards, tubular magazines for rifles are prohibited.
4. Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturers who are 14 years of age or older, or are 13 years of age and have completed the eighth grade, may participate in the NRA FIRST Steps Pistol Orientation. Except as expressly provided in these standards, no other pistol program is allowed. Program equipment is limited to pistols and revolvers as follows: .177 pellet pistol; .22 long rifle rimfire; .38 caliber special; or 9 mm only.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

C. **Firearm Equipment Requirements**. Safe, age-appropriate equipment is maintained in good repair and must meet the following requirements:

1. .22-caliber rimfire, bolt-action rifles must have a trigger pull in excess of 3 pounds.
2. Pellet rifles (CO_2, pump, break barrel, etc.) are limited to single-shot, designed for target shooting with a look comparable to approved .22 rifles, and have a velocity of 500 to 540 feet per second, with a minimum 2.5 pound trigger pull. Pellet rifle propellant is limited to CO_2 cylinders or air compressor/scuba tanks. If scuba tanks are used, each tank must be labeled appropriately, visually inspected annually, and hydrostatically tested every five years by a qualified technician. Refilling of scuba tanks used for range and target activities is conducted by qualified adults with appropriate controls. Scuba tanks used for range and target activities shall not be used for scuba purposes.
3. A shotgun is defined as a 20-, 16-, or 12-gauge pump action, break action or semiautomatic shotgun. Consult the *National Range and Target Activities Manual* for additional guidance. No other shotgun type may be used. Trigger pull must be 3.5 pounds or more.
4. A pistol or revolver is defined as .177 pellet pistol, .22-caliber long rifle rimfire pistol, .38-caliber special, or 9 mm pistol. Trigger pull must be 2.5 pounds or more for single action, 6.5 pounds or more for double action, and both for single action/double action pistols. Pistols/revolvers not meeting these standards are not allowed.
5. Any firearm for which trigger pull is specified shall be tested with an appropriate weight or scale at least once a week while in use. If any mechanism fails, the firearm is immediately removed from service until repaired and tested. Test documentation is maintained.
6. The use of personal firearms and personal ammunition is prohibited in all Scouting programs at a camp property (see Standard SA-001). Personal firearms and personal ammunition may be used at a commercial firearm range, subject to restrictions regarding caliber, gauge, and action as described in this standard or in the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*. Councils may adopt additional restrictions in their standard operating procedures.

D. **Standard Operating Procedures**. Each device or firearms range and program shall have appropriate standard operating procedures developed and implemented for the range and activities offered. The standard operating procedures shall comply with applicable law and address the following:

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

1. **Qualified supervision**, which must be present at all times the range is in operation and may vary depending upon the firearms used and program activity. Qualified supervision must meet the requirements of Standard SQ-407. The appropriate ratio of adult instructor to youth participants must be specified for each firearm and program type. The training required for each instructor or assistant (and their responsibilities) must be specified.
2. **Required program equipment**, which must identify properly sized equipment for use with participants. The standard operating procedures shall address required maintenance and, if applicable, appropriate condemning criteria for when equipment shall be retired.
3. **Equipment storage**, which shall address proper lock up and storage of equipment when not in use. Safe, separate and locked storage (can be in the same building) is provided for firearms, ammunition, and CO_2 cylinders and bulk tanks.
4. **Safety**, which shall address safety procedures, required safety equipment and standard first aid for reasonably foreseeable issues. Use of approved shooting glasses and ear protection is required for all participants and instructors. Ear protection is not required for BB devices and pellet rifles.
5. **Access to communication**, which shall address how first aid, emergency services, the range activities director or camp management shall be summoned when needed.
6. **Personal equipment at commercial ranges**. Councils may adopt additional restrictions on use of personal firearms or ammunition at commercial ranges when used to support a Scouting program.

E. **Range Operation**. The following requirements shall be met when a firearms range is in operation:

1. Qualified supervision shall be present. The number of active participants on the firing line shall not exceed the ratio set forth in Standard SQ-407 or the standard operating procedures, whichever is more restrictive.
2. Only firearms and programs approved for use on the range may be offered.
3. Properly sized equipment is issued and used by all participants.
4. Proper safety protocols shall be followed and participants have appropriate safety gear as required by the standard operating procedures.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

5. All equipment is in good repair. First aid equipment, supplies, and access to communication are available as set forth in the standard operating procedures.
6. The standard operating procedures are available and followed. If the standard operating procedures are not available, the range must be shut down until located and implemented.

F. **Council Risk Review for Specialty Program Adoption**. Prior to offering any of the programs in Specific Requirements G to J, the council shall:

1. Convene a task force to review local, state and federal guidelines, including age restrictions; licensing and/or certification requirements and courses; equipment and personal protective equipment standards; and any other practices or procedures recommended by the original equipment manufacturer or other governing body and shall also evaluate costs, risks to participants, impacts on other camp programs and the camp environment.
2. Complete a risk and safety review as required by Standards PD-111 and PD-112 and adopt measures as may be needed to ensure the program conforms to the National Camp Accreditation Program Standards and Scouting America's *Guide to Safe Scouting*.
3. The task force shall draft standard operating procedures as required by Specific Requirement D, which must include the requirements set forth in the standards.
4. The task force report and safety and risk review must be reviewed and approved by the council's executive board or executive committee prior to initiating the program.
5. The council shall submit notice of its initiation of the program annually in the Notice of Intent to Operate.
6. The specialty program may thereafter operate only in accordance with these standards and the approved standard operating procedures.

G. **Specialty Program: NRA FIRST Steps Pistol Orientation Program**. Instruction shall follow the NRA FIRST Steps Pistol Orientation Program. No sections shall be moved or changed. Program participation is limited as set forth in Specific Requirement B.4.

H. **Specialty Program: Cowboy Action Shooting Program**. Instruction shall follow the Cowboy Action Shooting Program section in the current edition Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*.

1. Before moving to the shooting positions, each participant shall participate in a cowboy action shooting safety briefing utilizing the outline and materials provided in the the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*.
2. The course of fire must be clearly explained during the safety briefing so that the participants understand what they are to do at each station and when and where they are to move. No variation from the course of fire is allowed. Different courses of fire consistent with the *National Range and Target Activities Manual* may be used at different sessions.
3. Each youth participant shall be assisted by an instructor at each shooting position.
4. For this specialty program only, .22-caliber handguns, bolt-action or lever action .22 rifles, and 12- or 20-gauge shotguns are authorized for this program. Tubular magazines may be used on lever action rifles but only the number of rounds for each participant may be loaded. Only council-approved firearms and ammunition shall be used.
5. In addition to Specific Requirement A, each cowboy action shooting range is designed in accordance with the Cowboy Action Shooting Program section in the *National Range and Target Activities Manual*.
6. The instructor responsible for each shooting position shall load the firearms prior to the participant arriving. Participants shall not load the firearms in this program.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

I. **Specialty Program: Chalk Ball Program**. Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturers may participate in the chalk ball program. Instruction shall follow the chalk ball program section in the current edition Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*.

1. Pointing any type of firearm or simulated firearm at any individual is prohibited. Participants shall shoot at targets that are neither living nor human representations.
2. Before moving to the shooting positions, each participant shall participate in a safety briefing using the outline in the chalk ball program section in the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*.
3. The trail and rules of the trail must be clearly explained during the safety briefing so that the participants understand what they are to do at each station and when and where they are to move. No variation from the trail and its defined shooting areas is allowed.
4. No variation in the trail and stations is authorized during any session. Different trails and stations consistent with the Chalk Ball Program section in the *National Range and Target Activities Manual* may be used at different sessions.
5. Range staff must accompany the participants along the trail and at each station. Range staff shall carry the markers in a box between shooting stations; they will also carry the markers between shooting positions.
6. Only paintball markers using chalk balls or paintballs are authorized for this program. The camp will need an adequate number of chalk ball containers (15 recommended) and targets (10 metal targets and six cowbell targets recommended). Only council-maintained equipment and chalk balls or paintballs shall be used.
7. The camp will need a supplier/vendor to refill 20-ounce CO_2 canisters. Alternatively, the camp will need an approved CO_2 cylinder (two 50-pound cylinders are recommended) and several 20-ounce CO_2 canisters (a minimum of eight is recommended). If the alternative is chosen, the camp must follow training and safety requirements outlined in its risk review (see Specific Requirement F).
8. The Laporte throwing system and Flashball® program, or any program shooting a flying target, are not authorized under this standard.
9. Each range is designed in accordance with Design Guideline 351.

RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: FIREARMS AND DEVICES PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2026)

INTERPRETATION:

A “commercial firearm range” is a supervised facility that offers a controlled environment for safe firearm practice. It will provide shooting lanes, targets, and may offer equipment rentals and training in safe firearm handling and marksmanship. Standard operating procedures are required for each firearm type used on-site. Scouting’s range and target activities must follow all of Scouting’s range and target activities policies or range standard operating procedures that are equivalently stringent, including no variation from Scouting’s limitations on firearms used. These ranges must be operated by a licensed business, a government entity or a nonprofit. Additionally, a commercial range should have its own liability insurance coverage.

BB devices, chalkball devices, and other equipment are further defined in the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*.

Paintballs are authorized as an alternative to chalk balls under Specific Requirement I.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of standard operating procedures available at program
- Observation of procedures in practice including:
  - Safety procedures and equipment in proper use
  - Equipment in good repair
  - Syllabus followed for any Specialty Program
- Review safety areas are properly marked and effective
- Review of proof of training of program supervisor, range supervisor, instructors and assistants, as needed
- Review of age, equipment

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: FIREARMS AND DEVICES PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2026)

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

REFERENCES:

Staffing standards are set forth in Standard SQ-407.

Design Guidelines are available at scouting.org/outdoor-programs/.

Sample Standard Operating Procedures and Specialty Program materials are available in the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*, available at: scouting.org/outdoor-programs/.

PS-215

TOT LOT PROGRAMS

(Revised January 1, 2020)

STANDARD:

If a tot lot is offered for children and dependents of camp staff (including volunteer staff) at no additional fee, then adult supervision and guidance are provided by two-deep leadership. Preschool-age children in the tot lot are covered by accident/sickness insurance. Tot lot participants do not participate in the program of the camp.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Tot lot supervision complies with Scouting's Barriers to Abuse, scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/#a for Adult Supervision.

B. Two registered adult leaders at least 21 years of age (plus female, if female youth).

C. The tot lot supervisor and the assistant tot lot supervisor are qualified to oversee dependent youth and have taken *Understanding and Preventing Youth-on-Youth Abuse Training for Camp Staff,* No. 430-149; and the staff training described in SQ-402 (General Camp Staff Training).

INTERPRETATION:

Councils should verify whether state day-care licensing requirements apply.

REFERENCES:

Understanding and Preventing Youth-on-Youth Abuse Training for Camp Staff, No. 430-149 is available online at scouting.org/NCAP

VERIFICATION:

- Review of staff ages, training, and certifications

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

PS-216

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

(Revised January 1, 2024)

STANDARD:

If a camp provides transportation service to its participants, it does so in a safe fashion, complying with applicable laws, Scouting America standards and policies.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

INTERPRETATION:

Councils that include transportation costs in their fees for camp programs (for example, to transport passengers to and from a camp or trek site) are subject to regulations for nonbusiness private motor carrier of passengers (PMCPs). The *Guide to Safe Scouting* provides additional information on PMCP limitations. If outside contractors are used, the council must also comply with Standard PD-109 Outside Providers of Program, Activities, and Services.

A person who operates a vehicle as part of a PMCP must have a commercial driver's license to drive a vehicle designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver; or that has a gross vehicular weight of more than 10,000 pounds.

All vehicle operators who are required to have a commercial driver's license are subject to drug and alcohol testing. There are no exceptions within the nonbusiness PMCP category, which includes Scouting volunteers. Local councils should establish guidelines for volunteer drivers based on the requirements of the state where they are located.

It is essential that drivers be thoroughly familiar with the bus or vehicle they will be driving, including knowing the location of emergency exits and fire extinguishers and how to operate them. To be prepared, a driver is expected to:

- Be able to handle and brake a fully loaded vehicle.
- Transport no more passengers than there are seating locations and working seat belts.
- Ensure that luggage and equipment are safely secured.
- Check that emergency exits are clear of people and things.
- Conduct a pre-trip inspection of critical systems (signals, fuels, tires, windshield wipers, horn, etc.).

Satisfactory driving record and appropriate insurance for each driver should be evaluated as part of the hiring process.

All drivers must comply with Scouting America Youth Protection policies and meet one of the following criteria: (1) be a registered camp staff member; (2) be an outside contractor meet equivalent requirements pursuant to Standard PD-109 Outside Providers of Program, Activities, and Services; or (3) be a

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

registered Scouting America adult volunteer leader. All other Youth Protection requirements apply. If a Scouting America unit is traveling as part of a camp program, it is highly recommended that at least one unit adult be present in each vehicle traveling with unit youth; if traveling as part of a non-unit-based program, at least one staff member assigned to the youth travel with the youth.

Standard PS-216 requirements do not apply to public common carriers—for example, trains, public buses, and commercial airlines—on regularly scheduled public routes. Youth Protection policies must be followed as applicable.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of contract (may be submitted with declaration)
- Documentation of current required general or commercial driver's licenses

PS-217

CAMP OUTPOST ACTIVITIES

(Effective January 1, 2020)

STANDARD:

If offered, outpost programs and activities are conducted in a fun and safe manner and in accordance with the specific requirements of this standard.

Applies to:

Camp properties

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Definition.** An outpost activity is any activity where a unit or group leaves the primary camp program area for an overnight experience. The outpost activity may last at most one night and any individual participant may not participate in more than three nights of outpost camping in any week.

B. **Requirements Applicable to All Outpost Programs.** The following requirements apply to all outpost programs, whether unit-based or group-based.

1. Outposts must comply with Scouting America National Camp Standards, Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities, and any additional requirements outlined in the council risk review pursuant to Standard PD-112. Minimum and maximum size for groups attending an outpost shall be established. If program beyond camping is offered, the camp must supply appropriate program equipment in good condition with appropriate instruction. *If an activity subject to the standards will be offered, staff meeting the requirements of the standards must be supplied either traveling with the unit/group or at the outpost location.*
2. The camp communicates about its outpost program in its camp materials.
3. An NCS-trained camp director, program director, trek leader, or an adventure program leader with relevant training and experience must review the route(s), outpost location, water, sanitation, and safety conditions of the outpost area prior to the start of the season and after any significant storm.
4. Outpost leaders, whether unit-based or group-based, must be advised of the proper route, location, applicable safety procedures, and how to summon aid from camp in an emergency.
5. The camp must log any units or groups going on an outpost program in and out of the camp and take reasonable steps to ensure that the requirements of the standards and Youth Protection Training are met before the unit or group departs for the outpost. If a unit or group

Applies to:

Camp properties

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

fails to log in, the camp must have procedures for locating the unit or group and retrieving it, with appropriate communication between camp leadership and staff engaged in the location and retrieval.

6. Medical requirements:
   a. If the outpost camp is within one hour's hiking time from the primary camp area, the outpost camp may rely upon the camp's medical personnel. At least two leaders in the outpost camp must have American Red Cross (ARC) Standard First Aid, Emergency Care and Safety Institute (ECSI) First Aid or equivalent, and ARC Adult CPR/AED training or equivalent.
   b. If the outpost camp is beyond one hour's hiking time from the primary camp, then at least one leader must have ARC, ECSI Wilderness First Aid or equivalent, in addition to one other leader with ARC, ECSI Standard First Aid or equivalent. Two leaders must have ARC Adult CPR/AED, ECSI Adult CPR/AED training or equivalent.
   c. All incidents occurring on an outpost activity must be logged in accordance with Standard HS-507.

C. **Requirements for Unit Outpost Camping.** Unit outpost camping is when a Scout unit (Scouts BSA troop, Venturing crew, or Sea Scout ship) leaves the primary camp for an outpost activity as defined above.

1. An outpost activity is subject to all *Guide to Safe Scouting* and Youth Protection Training guidelines as a regular troop, crew, or ship activity.
2. The camp may supply a staff member as a guide, but the unit leaders shall be principally responsible for unit health and safety and youth protection. A staff member serving as an outpost guide must be at least 16 years of age.

D. **Requirements for Group Outpost Camping.** Group outpost camping is when the camp assembles a group of participants from multiple units or individuals to participate in the outpost camp. A group outpost is led by camp staff and not by unit leaders.

1. The camp must supply leadership meeting Youth Protection Training guidelines and any additional guidelines in the camp's approved training plan.
2. The outpost activity is subject to all Scouting America National Camp Standards requirements and all Scouting America policies and procedures.

PS-217

CAMP OUTPOST ACTIVITIES

(Effective January 1, 2020)

INTERPRETATION:

A unit outpost occurs when a registered Scouting America troop, crew, or ship goes on an activity with its own leadership and members, plus any additional camp staff.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of camp literature to confirm that outpost activities are adequately described
- Review of log of units leaving/returning to camp to confirm that logging has occurred, and that numbers and leadership conform to standards requirement
- Discussion with camp leadership on program objectives

REFERENCES:

Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities—
filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-685.pdf

Applies to:

Camp properties

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

PS-218

TREK PROGRAMS

(Effective January 1, 2022)

STANDARD:

If offered, the camp administers and operates a trek program that is properly supervised and conducted in a safe manner. A "trek program" is any program where participants are separated from the primary camp area for two or more consecutive nights.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. All crews will have a minimum of six persons and a maximum of 12, or the number specified by the administering land management agency. Larger crew sizes are acceptable when the nature of the activity (e.g., crewing a ship) requires a larger crew.

B. All crews must meet Scouting's Barriers to Abuse. If the trek program relies on unit-coordinated leadership to fulfill these requirements leaders not registered with the unit may be included only with the consent of the chartered organization and local council(s). Youth from outside the unit may be included only with the consent of the chartered organization, local council(s) and the outside youth's parent or legal guardian. Council-coordinated "contingent" trek programs do not require these approvals.

C. At least one member of each crew, preferably two or more, must hold a current American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid certification, Emergency Care and Safety Institute (ECSI) Wilderness First Aid or equivalent, and current ARC or ECSI Adult and Child CPR/AED training or equivalent.

D. All participants and leaders are given a pre-trek skill test by the trek program staff to determine the crew's level of skill proficiency. If necessary, additional training is conducted by the staff before the crew departs on the trek.

E. A staff member shall conduct a shakedown for each crew and accompany the crew for at least 48 hours where the trek is not on council-owned property to ensure that the crew has the necessary expertise to successfully complete the experience. If not, the staff member shall accompany the crew for the duration.

INTERPRETATION:

A trek program can be based on a Scouting America property but shall not be conducted within the traditional framework of a Scouts BSA/Venturing summer camp. For programs based on an individual rather than a unit basis, the critical element is whether participants in the trek program are separated from the other participants for the relevant time period.

Applies to:

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

TREK PROGRAMS

PS-218

(Effective January 1, 2022)

Applies to:

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

A trek program may be conducted on or off council property and may be conducted on land and/or water. The staff must be trained in the outdoor specialties offered in the trek camp as specified in these standards. Crew numbers include accompanying staff. Minimum and maximum crew sizes should be established to maximize safety and minimize resource damage and to comply with applicable land manager requirements. Adventure programs that require a larger number (e.g., tall ship crews that may require more than 12) may apply for a variance from this standard.

VERIFICATION:

- Documentation of staff ratios and certifications
- Literature describing the skill test, shakedown, and other preparation
- Discussion with staff members

History: Formerly PT-301.

PS-219

TREK PROGRAMS: PRE-TREK

(Effective January 1, 2020)

STANDARD:

If a trek program is offered, a regular program of pre-trek conditioning and training is recommended in literature sent to participants and leaders, and participants receive appropriate training prior to departing on their trek or adventure.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. All campers and staff participate in a pre-trip orientation, conducted by a key member of the trek program staff that is knowledgeable about the program, that includes at least the following:

1. Safety regulations and emergency procedures for all activities the participants will experience
2. First-aid, health, sanitation, and backcountry hygiene practices
3. Environmental impact practices to be followed
4. Location and procedures for accessing medical and emergency assistance while on the trip
5. Local environmental safety precautions including terrain, weather, insects, poisonous plants, animals, etc., and how to respond to adverse situations
6. How to select a safe campsite that is protected from dead trees or limbs, wind, falling rock, excessive sun, etc.
7. Crews trained in procedures for securing food from animals

B. Training sessions for the development of outdoor skills, leadership, teaching, trek guiding, and other position-related skills are included in the written staff training plan and may require additional time.

C. Participants are instructed in the proper use, refueling, and packing of all chemical fuel devices and fuels, if used in the program. Youth participants may use chemical fuel devices when supervised by an adult knowledgeable in their use. Flames or chemical fuel devices are not permitted in or near tents. Empty cartridges are safely disposed of upon returning from the trek. Fuel is carried in designated fuel bottles. Fuel bottles are clearly distinguishable from water bottles so that both can be safely identified even in darkness.

Applies to:

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Applies to:

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

VERIFICATION:

- Review of literature for program (may be submitted with declaration)
- Director/staff description of procedures in practice
- Observation of equipment and procedures in practice

History: Formerly PT-302.

PS-220

TREK PROGRAMS: PLANNING

(Revised January 1, 2020)

STANDARD:

If a trek program is offered, trip planning and documentation of the plan is prepared and a copy retained at the camp headquarters.

Applies to:

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. The camp has a written plan to periodically review all trail camps and program areas, staffed or unstaffed, to ensure safety and appropriateness for the age and experience level of program participants. The camp maintains written documentation that the review was completed and any necessary changes or revisions to the program or its facilities made.

B. A staff member familiar with the trek program assists the crew leader and adult leader advising the crew leader in developing a trek plan showing each campsite, intended routes, and difficult portions. The itinerary is planned to match the experience to the crew's ability. One copy of the itinerary and a list of the names, addresses, and home phone numbers of all leaders and crew members must be kept on file at the base of operations. See the *Fieldbook,* No. 33104.

C. A master map is maintained at the base and/or the trek leader knows the locations of difficult portions of treks such as rapids, steep trails, cliffs, portages, windswept ridges, areas without water, etc. Crews that will participate in a trek are trained in the use of map and compass and/or global positioning system (GPS).

VERIFICATION:

- Director/staff description of procedures in practice
- Observation of map and procedures in practice

History: Formerly PT-303.

PS-221

TREK PROGRAMS: EQUIPMENT

(Effective January 1, 2020)

STANDARD:

If a trek program is offered, participants are provided with sufficient safe program equipment for use in the trek and are trained in its proper use.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Every crew carries a prescribed first-aid kit. The supplies and equipment included in this kit must be geared to the type of injury or illness most likely to occur in the area and include means for protection from contact with bloodborne pathogens. Crews shall document all first aid performed during the trek to be recorded in the First Aid Log, No. 33681, at the completion of the trek.

B. Crew equipment for a successful experience is provided by the camp. A list of personal equipment needed is provided in the leaders' guide.

C. Specialized equipment, such as rope, life jackets, carabiners, and figure eights, is acquired new and is carefully inspected for defects prior to and after each session of use. Defective and severely worn equipment is retired from service. Appropriate safety equipment, staff training, and supervision is provided for activities where risk should be managed, e.g., mountain biking, climbing/rappelling, and kayaking/whitewater canoeing. Equipment is maintained and replaced in accordance with applicable industry standards.

D. All staff and campers are properly equipped and trained in proper use of the specialized equipment that is used on the trek or program.

INTERPRETATION:

First-aid kit contents should be approved by the council's health supervisor.

VERIFICATION:

- Director/staff description of procedures in practice
- Observation of equipment and procedures in practice

History: Formerly PT-304.

Applies to:

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

PS-222

ADVENTURE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

(Effective January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

If offered, adventure programs or activities are exciting, dynamic, and appealing to today's youth; meet the needs of participating youth; are challenging; allow for personal reflection and growth; and are conducted in a safe manner and in accordance with the National Camp Standards and program- and activity-specific procedures.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Definitions.**

1. *Adventure program* is any program lasting two consecutive nights, or 48 hours or more, with the same or substantially the same group. An adventure program that meets the definition of a "trek program" must also meet the requirements of Standards PS-218 through PS-221.
2. *Adventure activity* is any activity lasting less than two consecutive nights or 48 hours. An adventure activity that meets the definition of an "outpost" (see Standard PS-217) must also meet the requirements of Standard PS-217.

B. Participant Eligibility. Participation in adventure programs must conform to the Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities or more stringent guidelines established by the council or camp.

C. Programs and Activities Covered. The following adventure programs and activities are covered by this standard:

1. BMX bike programs
2. Boardsailing or standup paddleboarding beyond introductory merit badge or Scouting America aquatics award training
3. Caving, except in a guided cave program open to the general public
4. Cross-country or downhill skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing
5. Mountain bike adventure programs where the trail is not smooth and participants are expected to jump obstacles, thread between obstacles with less than 18 inches of tread clearance or 36 inches of body clearance, or descend grades greater than 15 percent. A trail meeting IMBA's Black Diamond or Double Diamond rating is subject to this standard
6. Rock climbing, rappelling, or bouldering off of a Scouting America accredited *camp property*
7. Scuba or snorkeling in waters not on or adjacent to an accredited *camp property*, unless conducted in accordance with Standard PS-203

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

8. Snow and ice climbing
9. [Reserved]
10. Whitewater canoeing/kayaking/rafting
11. Any of the following activities when they also meet the definition of a "trek program":
    a. Backpacking or mountaineering
    b. Bicycling or mountain biking
    c. Canoeing or kayaking
    d. Sailing or motorboating, unless conducted in accordance with Standard PS-201
    e. Sledding or sledging
    f. Trail horse riding
12. Any activity, other than those described above, during which a participant will do any of the following:
    a. Travel through the air at heights greater than 4 feet above ground, other than in a COPE or climbing course, obstacle course, or tower or bridge built as part of a pioneering class or on a bridge or walkway open to the general public.
    b. Travel at speeds greater than 10 mph, other than in a licensed vehicle or in a boating, biking, or horse program addressed in these standards.
    c. Requires respiratory assistance or may be subject to significant impact damage to the body.
13. Any activity for which a national approval or variance is required pursuant to Standard PD-111 or where the risk is classified as ID, IIC, IID, IIIB, or IIIC using Scouting America Program Hazard Analysis before controls are implemented and remains higher than IVC, IVD, or IVE after controls are implemented.
14. Any activity which the council's enterprise risk management committee directs be classified as an adventure activity or which the National Council so provides in an Authorization to Operate.

D. Program Design Requirements.

1. The adventure program or activity includes action, adventure, challenge, a risk factor for excitement, and vigorous activity.

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

2. The program design shall set limits on the minimum and maximum number of participants. Unless otherwise specified by law, the minimum group size shall be four, unless Standard PS-218 (Trek Programs), HS-501 (Youth Protection) or HS-511 (Buddy System) requires six.
3. Participants in an adventure program have an opportunity to reflect on personal goals and to apply what they have learned as a result of their adventure experience.
4. Camps offering an adventure program or activity provide participants a risk advisory and an outline of physical and other preparations that should be completed prior to arrival so that they are prepared for the adventure experience.

E. **Program Safety Elements.** A camp offering an adventure program or adventure activity shall complete a program hazard analysis pursuant to Standard PD-111, including a variance if required, and obtain a specific risk clearance for the program or activity pursuant to Standard PD-112. Program safety elements must address:

1. Staff training
2. Program equipment
3. Staff and participant personal protective equipment
4. Other safety equipment
5. Required safety protocols

F. **Procedures and Training.** The camp will develop the appropriate level of training required based on the complexity of the task and minimum trainee qualifications contained in training requirements specified for the program or activity. Procedures must address the instruction in and use of personal protective equipment. Precautionary notations in manuals will be standardized. Safety critical tasks, duties, and activities related to the program or activity will require evaluation of staff proficiency, which shall be documented. The training guidelines shall clearly specify the training to be provided to program or activity staff and the training to be provided to participants, if any.

1. Any adventure program or activity involving COPE or climbing shall also comply with Standards PS-206, SQ-409 and FA-715 (if on a camp property) or PD-109 (if off a camp property) or obtain a variance.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

2. Any aquatics program (swimming, boating or similar) shall also comply with Standards PS-202 through PS-204 and Standard SQ-406 or obtain a variance.
3. All areas of the program are re-examined annually and compared with results of end-of-week surveys to validate program effectiveness.

INTERPRETATION:

Camps that were operating as a high-adventure or specialty-adventure camp prior to January 1, 2020, shall continue to meet the minimum program quality and design specifications that they were meeting before that date until they receive a new Authorization to Operate that addresses the former high-adventure or specialty-adventure programming, the camp receives an appropriate variance or waiver, or the program is discontinued.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of eligibility screening procedures
- Review of the Program Hazard Analysis conducted pursuant to Standard PD-111 and the council's approval pursuant to Standard PD-112. The council's approval must specifically identify the adventure program or activity.
- Review of the program to ensure that it is following the requirements set forth in the Program Hazard Analysis and the council's approval as it relates to procedures, program equipment, and safety equipment
- Discussion with staff concerning elements of risk, challenge, adventure, and personal reflection time

REFERENCE:

The staff must be trained in the outdoor specialties offered in the program as specified in Standard SQ-411.

PS-223

OTHER CAMP PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

(Effective January 1, 2026)

STANDARD:

If offered, other programs and activities not addressed in Standards PS-201 through PS-222 are conducted in a fun and safe manner, in accordance with the National Camp Standards, *Guide to Safe Scouting*, and Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities, and with any program- or activity-specific procedures specified by the council pursuant to Standards PD-111 and PD-112.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Program Guide or Syllabus.** Each activity shall be conducted in accordance with an approved Scouting America program guide or an approved council syllabus. The program guide or syllabus shall be available for review by the authorization team or the assessment team.

B. **Program Hazard Analysis**. Each activity shall be conducted in accordance with a program hazard analysis prepared in accordance with Standard PD-111 and reviewed and approved by the council pursuant to Standard PD-112.

INTERPRETATION:

Programs authorized under Standard PS-223 and addressed by current Scouting America merit badge pamphlets or an approved Scouting program guide may satisfy this requirement by a reference to the merit badge pamphlet or approved Scouting America program guide unless the council or camp has identified a unique issue requiring additional safety procedures. A list of Scouting America program guides satisfying this requirement is maintained on scouting.org/NCAP. If no approved Scouting America standard or program guide addresses the program or activity, then the council must develop an appropriate syllabus and hazard assessment pursuant to Standard PD-111 and Standard PD-112. The approved syllabus and risk management provisions from the risk review shall be followed. All activities must comply with law. See Standard AO-801.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

OTHER CAMP PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

PS-223

(Effective January 1, 2026)

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

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.

REFERENCES:

Guide to Safe Scouting—scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/

Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities—
filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-685.pdf

RP-251

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

(Revised January 1, 2018)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The conservation plan required under Standard FA-704 Conservation Plan includes a list of conservation projects that can be done by a den, patrol, pack, troop, or crew while in camp. The list is posted. Staff are available who can instruct in conservation practice and how the project advances the conservation goals for the camp.

INTERPRETATION:

The projects advance the goals of the conservation plan, are meaningful, and assist the units in understanding conservation as it relates to the camp.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of plan
- Discussion with staff

Applies to:

Camp properties

Long-term camp

RP-252

NATURE TRAIL OR EXHIBIT

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp provides a self-guided nature trail, which is clearly labeled, or nature exhibit, which is clearly labeled, introducing participants to local soils, plants, and animals.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of trail or museum and signage

Applies to:

Day camp

Long-term camp

RP-253

OUTDOOR ETHICS TRAINING

(Revised January 1, 2024)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

At least one staff member is trained as a Leave No Trace Level 1 or Level 2 Instructor. A Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor course, Leave No Trace Skills course, Leave No Trace Awareness course, Leave No Trace Basic course, or other outdoor ethics awareness workshop is offered to leaders and campers.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of certificate (may be included in the Declaration of Readiness)
- Review of schedule and discussion with staff

Applies to:

Long-term camp

RP-254

AQUATICS SUPERVISION COURSES

(Revised January 1, 2020)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

Scouting America Aquatics Supervision—Swimming and Water Rescue and Scouting America Aquatics Supervision—Paddle Craft Safety training courses are offered to adult leaders and those meeting minimum age requirements where camps have aquatics facilities to provide these programs. The camp is not required to offer these programs if the council offers them at alternative times and locations throughout the year. The Swimming and Water Rescue pocket card, No. 34471, and the Paddle Craft Safety pocket card, No. 34472, are issued to those completing the program requirements. See Aquatics Supervision, No. 34346.

VERIFICATION:

- Discussion with staff at camp offering course or review of council calendar showing course offering dates

Applies to:

Long-term camp

RP-255

ENHANCED HORSEMANSHIP PROGRAM

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp meets the requirements of the Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA).

VERIFICATION:

- Review of approval letter from CHA (binding if present) (may be included in declaration)
- If no CHA approval or disapproval letter, review of CHA standards (provided by camp) and camp practices

Applies to:

Long-term camp

RP-256

THE CHECK PROGRAM

(Revised January 1, 2022)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The CHECK (Clothing, Helmet and Harness, Environment, Connection and Knots) checklist program is utilized.

INTERPRETATION:

CHECK materials are available from Scouting America National Supply as follows:

- COPE/climbing safety CHECK poster, No. 616833
- COPE/climbing safety CHECK hangtag, No. 616832

VERIFICATION:

- CHECK procedures are used in program operations
- The CHECK logo is displayed at the COPE and/or climbing area

Applies to:

Camp properties

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Trek Programs (formerly standards PT-301 through PT-304) have been revised and moved to PS-218 through PS-221. The 300 series is reserved for future use.

STAFF QUALIFICATION AND TRAINING (SQ) STANDARDS

Staff quality is one of the leading indicators of quality programming and an exceptional camp. The staff qualification and training (SQ) standards establish the minimum requirements for operating a Scouting America-accredited camp.

In addition to the minimum standards set forth in this part, councils are strongly encouraged to develop staff qualification and training requirements that apply specifically to the programs and facilities that they offer. These requirements should be addressed in the Application for Authorization. Critical requirements for the safety and the quality of the programs may be included in the authorization.

All applicable standards must be met for accreditation.

SQ-401

CAMP STAFF QUALIFICATION: GENERAL

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

All camp staff are appropriately registered as members of Scouting America. All other camp personnel who are not registered members of Scouting America meet equivalent criteria pursuant to Standard PD-109. All camp staff meet required age restrictions.

Applies to:

Day camp

Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Additional registration requirements for long-term camp staff and long-term camp personnel:

1. Long-term camp staff 17 years of age and younger during their time at camp must register using the registration category “Council Camp Staff Youth” if at a local council camp or “National Camp Staff Youth” if at a national high adventure base.
2. Long-term camp staff 18 years of age and older at any time during their time at camp must register using the registration category “Council Camp Staff Adult” if at a local council camp or “National Camp Staff” if at a national high adventure base.
3. The registration requirements in Specific Requirement A.1 and A.2 apply even if the person is already registered in another capacity. Individuals who turn 18 years of age during the camp season must provide both applications and may continue to serve after their 18th birthday in accordance with current youth protection standards while their application is processed and background check conducted.
4. Contractor personnel at a long-term camp must either be registered in accordance with Specific Requirements A.1 or A.2 or meet equivalent criteria under Standard PD-109.

B. Minimum age requirements:

1. Long-term camp staff and camp personnel must be 15 years of age or older at the start of camp except as provided herein. Lifeguards for swimming activities other than in swimming pools must be 16 years of age. Trek and adventure program and activity employees must be 16 years of age or older.
2. Long-term camp staff counselors-in-training (CITs) and day camp staff must be 14 years of age or older.

C. Compliance with labor laws:

1. Camp staff and camp personnel 14 or 15 years of age cannot perform hazardous duty, such as working on or operating a motor vehicle and maintenance or operation of power-driven equipment.

Applies to:

Day camp

Long-term camp

Camp staff and camp personnel must also comply with the SAFE Project Tool Use guidance.

2. Camp staff and camp personnel 14 or 15 years of age may not work more than 8 hours in any day; work more than 40 hours in any week; or work before 7 am at any time or after 7 pm except from June 1 through Labor Day when the evening hour is extended to 9 pm.
3. All camps must assure compliance with both federal and state labor laws. State labor laws vary and may require a seasonal camp staff application, a letter of agreement along with a written position description and access to a camp staff manual prior to starting work and may differ from Specific Requirements 1 and 2 above. Some states require work permits.

D. International camp staff:

1. International camp staff must be 18 years of age or older, have been approved by the Scouting America International Department, and may not hold any camp staff position for which National Camping School training is mandatory.
2. International youth/visitors may not serve on camp staff.
3. The local council is responsible for adhering to all U.S. State Department requirements.

E. Miscellaneous requirements:

1. The complete, approved uniform is worn by camp staff during formal ceremonies such as campfires, evening meals, retreats, etc., as determined by the council. A staff shirt with uniform shorts/pants may be approved informal staff attire.
2. The camp has a staff organization chart and a policy specifying minimum staff requirements.
3. The camp has an open door policy that encourages staff to raise any youth protection, safety, health, or standards compliance concerns with their supervisor or the camp director or, if the camp director is the source of concern, the Scout executive or designated council executive board member. This policy is communicated to the staff during training

INTERPRETATION:

Camp staff and personnel must be registered each year using Council Camp Staff Youth, Council Camp Staff Adult, National Camp Staff, or National Camp Staff Youth as appropriate. For purposes of the National Camp Standards:

CAMP STAFF QUALIFICATION: GENERAL

(Revised January 1, 2025)

Applies to:

Day camp

Long-term camp

- *Camp staff* includes all personnel, paid or volunteer, working under the direction of the council or camp management, who work at a camp or interact with camp participants unless they work for a contractor. Camp staff includes employees, CITs, and continuing volunteers (e.g., camp commissioners, and volunteers asked by the camp management to assist program on an ongoing basis).
- *Camp personnel* includes all personnel, employed by contractors working at the camp. Examples might include kitchen, commissary or warehouse staff working for a food service contractor or staff working for a qualified scuba contractor.
- Camp staff and camp personnel do not include (1) third parties who come on-site to offer a program to camp participants, are accompanied by camp staff while present, and do not remain on-site overnight; (2) parents and volunteers in day camps who assist in program while day camp staff are present and provide supervision; and (3) parents and volunteers in day camp who assist by walking youth between program areas supervised by day camp staff, so long as there are at least two adults and at least one adult is a registered volunteer in Scouting America.
- Day camp den chiefs may be under the age of 14 only if they are serving as a den chief for the same Cub Scout den they serve in the local pack.
- Scouts BSA members under the age of 14 may volunteer to help at day camp if under the direct supervision of a parent, guardian, or troop leader. However, they are not considered staff members.
- The camp staff manual should include such items as the staff organization chart, position descriptions, purpose and philosophy of camp, policies and regulations, unacceptable behavior, dress code, and other stipulations of the council.
- Formal and informal staff uniform requirements are consistent for all staff in camp, depending on duties. Theme-based costumes are an acceptable substitute for themed-camp programs. Consistent with the methods of Scouting, the official Scouting America uniform is used where appropriate as determined by the council.
- The staff organization chart should clearly define the chain of command. The camp has a policy specifying which key staff members cannot be out of camp at the same time. The camp has a policy specifying the minimum number of staff members who must be present in camp at all times.
- Camp staff who turn 18 years of age at a camp must follow Scouting America youth protection policy applicable to this change in status.

CAMP STAFF QUALIFICATION: GENERAL

(Revised January 1, 2025)

SQ-401

Applies to:

Day camp

Long-term camp

VERIFICATION:

- Sample staff application and letter of agreement. Copies of position descriptions and camp staff manual (may be submitted with declaration).
- Camp staff organization chart indicating chain of command. Policy regarding key staff in camp requirements and minimum number of staff required in camp at all times (may be submitted with declaration).
- Observation—uniform, staff manual, signed agreements at long-term and day camps as required.

REFERENCES:

- The U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division issues "Child Labor Provisions for Nonagricultural Occupations under the Fair Labor Standards Act," which provides general guidance on child labor issues at the federal level. Find it here: dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/legacy/files/childlabor101.pdf/. Consult your state labor department for state laws.
- Scouting America's Youth Protection policies addressing change in status during an event appear at scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/
- The SAFE Project Tool Use guidelines are available at scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/toc/. The specific guidance is found in the Appendix at the bottom of the page.
- Information on the process for hiring International Camp Staff members is found at filestore.scouting.org/filestore/se-packet/2024-03-25/2024-International-Camp-Staff-Program-Info-Sheet.pdf
- An example of Scouting America's open door policy is found in the Camp Staff Employee Handbook Template, section 9 and is available to Scout executives.

SQ-402

CAMP STAFF TRAINING: GENERAL

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

Camp staff and camp personnel have received training commensurate with their responsibilities in accordance with a written training plan approved by the appropriate council committees.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Training plan for long-term camps and day camps.** The camp has a written training plan approved by the appropriate council committee(s) that sets forth the training requirements and general syllabus for each staff position or group of positions. The training plan must address all training required by the National Camp Standards and whether the training is provided at camp or elsewhere and, if elsewhere, how training will be verified.

B. **Training requirements for all camps.** The training plan for all camps must include the following elements:

1. *Youth Protection Training.* All camp staff must complete current Youth Protection training before or at camp and submit proof of training. This training must be renewed every two years.
2. *Understanding and Preventing Peer on Peer Abuse.* All camp staff must complete this training, and copies of each staff member's Understanding and Preventing Peer on Peer Abuse online training certificates are retained by the camp. This training must be renewed annually.
3. *Staff first-aid training***.** At least 50 percent of staff must be currently certified in American Red Cross Adult CPR/AED, Emergency Care and Safety Institute (ECSI) Adult First Aid, CPR/AED or approved equivalent. The total ratio of trained staff (or volunteers) to campers must not be less than 1:25.
4. *Hazardous Weather Training***.** All staff must complete Hazardous Weather Training. Proof of training is required for staff completing the course in advance. This training must be renewed every two years.

Applies to:

Day camp

Long-term camp

Applies to:

Day camp

Long-term camp

5. *Workplace Harassment Prevention for Employees:*
   a. For long-term camp—*All* staff and personnel must have completed current Workplace Harassment Prevention for Employees online training, which includes reading and agreeing to the Scouter Code of Conduct. Copies of each staff member's Workplace Harassment Prevention for Employees online training certificates are retained on-site and at the council office. This training must be taken annually.
   b. For day camps—Only paid staff and personnel must have completed current Workplace Harassment Prevention for Employees online training, which includes reading and agreeing to the Scouter Code of Conduct. Copies of each staff member's Workplace Harassment Prevention for Employees online training certificates are retained on-site and at the council office. This training must be taken annually.

C. **Additional training requirements for day camps.** The training plan provides, and the camp director, program director, and area leads receive, a minimum of four hours training for a single-day session or a minimum of eight hours of training (for all day camps of greater duration) prior to the start of the camp's program. Other staff receive appropriate training as set forth in the training plan approved by the appropriate council committee.

For day camps, the training plan shall include the agendas in the *Day Camp Administration Guide* and/or the *Cub Scout Day Camp Staff Training Guide.*

D. **Additional training requirements for long-term camps.** For long-term camps, the training plan provides and the staff receives a minimum of 28 hours of staff training. This training must be over and above any physical setup of camp, e.g., tents for campsites, cleaning of buildings, etc. Training sessions for the development of outdoor skills, leadership, teaching, and other position-related skills are included in the written staff training plan.

1. The training is supervised by key personnel trained at a National Camping School.
2. A minimum of 10 more hours of staff training is required for each additional type of long-term camp. A written outline that is program-specific (Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, or Venturing) is used and training is conducted by key camp personnel and/or council personnel.

E. **Training for multiple camps sharing staff and facilities.** If the same staff that was used for one type of camp is used for another type of camp, staff must be briefed as to the methods and practices of the other type of camp and, if a different program group (e.g., Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, or Venturers), differences between the methods used for the different program groups, including gender- and age-related issues.

F. **No limitation.** The specification of minimum training hours in this standard does not relieve the council and camp from fully complying with training and testing specified elsewhere in these standards. Such training and testing may occur during pre-week, prior to camp, or as part of a year-round council program.

INTERPRETATION:

For purposes of Specific Requirement B.3, staff required to have CPR and first-aid training excludes volunteers, CITs, den chiefs, and similar individuals. In cases of doubt, the council should request clarification of training requirements in its Application for Authorization.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of training received through interviews and questions of staff
- Review of completed training rosters and certificates

REFERENCES:

- Understanding and Preventing Peer on Peer Abuse training is available beginning January 1, 2025, on My.Scouting.org.
- Hazardous Weather Training is available at my.scouting: Login. Select Menu in upper left. Select “My Training.” Select “Training Center” on top bar. Select “Expanded Learning” on bottom (arrow at right). Select “Program Safety” in list (arrow at right). Select “Hazardous Weather Training.”
- Workplace Harassment Prevention for Employees is available at skillsoftcompliance.com/academy/default.aspx?orgid=551502
- The Cub Scout Day Camp Staff Training Guide is available at scouting.org/outdoor-programs/camping/cub-day-camp/
- An example of Scouting America’s open door policy is found in the Camp Staff Employee Handbook Template, section 9 and is available to Scout executives.

Applies to:

Day camp

Long-term camp

SQ-403

CAMP MANAGEMENT

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

Camp managers meet current Scouting America qualification criteria.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Camp director.** Long-term camps and day camps must have a camp director, base director, or reservation director (in multiple camp facilities) meeting the following requirements:

1. Is at least 21 years of age.
2. Training:
   a. For long-term camps, possesses a valid certificate of training from the Resident Camp Director or Long-Term Camp Director section of National Camping School.
   b. For day camps, possesses a valid certificate of training from the Day Camp Administration section of National Camping School.
3. Camp directors have no other camp duties.
   a. At a long-term camp, the camp/reservation director lives on-site.
   b. At day camp, the camp director does not need to live on-site unless youth staff remain on-site overnight.

B. **Long-term camps and day camps** must have a program director for the camp, base or reservation (in multiple camp facilities) meeting the following requirements:

1. Is at least 21 years of age.
2. Training:
   a. For long-term camps, possesses a valid certificate of training from the Resident Camp Program Director or Long-Term Camp Program Director of National Camping School.
   b. For day camps, possesses a valid certificate of training from the Day Camp Administration section of National Camping School.
3. In a long-term camp, the program director has no other camp duties and lives on-site. Day camp program directors do not need to live on-site unless youth staff remain on-site overnight.
4. Long-term camps that only offer trek programs do not require a program director and may use an individual as both program director/trek director if appropriately certified.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

C. The **professional staff advisor** for volunteer Cub Scout day camps:

1. Is at least 21 years of age.
2. Possesses a valid certificate of training from the Day Camp Administration, Resident Camp Director, or Resident Camp Program Director section of National Camping School.

D. **Short-term camp administrator.** Short-term camps must have a short-term camp administrator meeting the following requirements:

1. Is at least 21 years of age.
2. Possesses a valid certificate of training from the Resident Camp Director, Long-Term Camp Director, or Short-Term Camp Administration sections of National Camping School.
3. The short-term camp administrator must be present at a short-term camp during setup and opening but does not need to live on-site. The short-term camp administrator must complete the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration before the start of short-term camp program activities and before departing from the camp.

INTERPRETATION:

Under SQ-403, all long-term and day camps are required to have an on-site camp director and program director, except long-term camps offering a trek program as described below. In reservation settings where multiple camps are present at the same camp property, the overall reservation may share a camp director (or a program director), but each camp must have its own program director (or camp director).

The director of a subcamp in a multiple-camp facility possesses a valid certificate of training from one of the following National Camping School sections: Resident Camp Director, Long-Term Camp Director, Resident Camp Program Director, or Long-Term Camp Program Director.

CAMP MANAGEMENT

(Revised January 1, 2025)

Camps offering only treks require a camp director and an individual who possesses a valid certificate of training from the Trek Leader section of National Camping School. These may be the same individual. Trek camps based at a long-term camp may share a camp director with the long-term camp but then must have a separate trek director, who may be the same person as the program director if that person is appropriately qualified.

VERIFICATION:

- Documentation of age
- Evidence of current National Camping School training

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

SQ-404

CAMP RANGER

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

If the camp employs a full-time, year-round resident ranger or property superintendent, this person meets the age and training requirements set forth in the Specific Requirements.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Age.** The lead on-site property superintendent or ranger is at least 21 years of age. Assistants at the same site are at least 18 years of age.

B. **Training.** Each superintendent, ranger or assistant has completed the following training:

1. Proof of successful completion of Camp Ranger Basic from Scouting U or, if hired prior to January 1, 2018, a certificate of completion from the Ranger section of National Camping School;
2. Evidence of 12 learning hours of continuing education in prior year;
3. Current American Red Cross Standard First Aid, Emergency Care and Safety Institute First Aid, or equivalent;
4. Current American Red Cross CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers (or equivalent);
5. Current Hazardous Weather training.

INTERPRETATION:

Camp Ranger Basic training from Scouting U must be obtained within 12 months of date of employment. All rangers must complete 12 “learning hours” of continuing education annually. Continuing education obtained in the current year applies to the following year. For example, hours earned in 2021 apply to 2022. Continuing education hours are not required the first 12 months of a ranger’s employment but must be started during the ranger’s first 12 months.

American Red Cross Standard First Aid or equivalent, CPR/AED or equivalent, and Hazardous Weather training must be obtained within six months.

This standard applies to any employee assigned a ranger’s responsibilities on a year-round basis, regardless of title, including assistants. Seasonal employees are not considered camp rangers for purposes of this standard.

CAMP RANGER

SQ-404

(Effective January 1, 2025)

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

VERIFICATION:

- Documentation of age
- Evidence of required certifications (if no certification, inquire as to date of hire)
- Evidence of continuing education hours obtained in the prior year, starting with the ranger's second year of employment.

SQ-405

CAMP HEALTH OFFICER

(Revised January 1, 2026)

STANDARD:

Medical care is under the direction of the council health supervisor, who is a currently licensed physician practicing medicine in the jurisdiction in which the camp is located. The camp health officer is at least 18 years of age, lives on-site, is on property and on call at all times, and holds qualifications appropriate for the nature of the camp and its proximity to emergency medical care.

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 or equivalents are required. CPR/AED must address both adult and child/pediatric subjects.

B. When access to EMS is greater than 10 minutes, the camp health officer must be one of the following:

   a. Licensed physician

   b. Licensed nurse practitioner

   c. Nurse (RN, LPN, or LVN). Nurse's aides, Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), and assistants do not qualify.

   d. Licensed physician assistants

   e. Paramedic

   f. Emergency medical technician (basic, intermediate, or paramedic)

   g. Emergency medical responder, i.e., current state license from the state in which the camp is located or current Nationally Certified First Responder listed on the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (nremt.org).

C. When access to emergency medical services (EMS) is greater than 60 minutes, the camp health officer must additionally have a current certification in American Red Cross Wilderness and Remote First Aid, Emergency Care and Safety Institute Wilderness First Aid, or equivalent.

D. The camp health officer has completed the Camp Health Officer's Training Course.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

CAMP HEALTH OFFICER

SQ-405

(Revised January 1, 2026)

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

INTERPRETATION:

EMS service includes both Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) services.

An emergency medical responder is an individual who either has a current license as an emergency medical responder from the jurisdiction in which the camp is located or is currently a Nationally Certified First Responder listed on the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (nremt.org).

For day camps and short-term camps, the requirement that the camp health officer "lives on-site, is on property and on call at all times" is met if the camp health officer is on property and on call at all times that any staff or participants are present on property.

When the camp health officer is unavailable, another adult at least 18 years of age with a current and appropriate level of first-aid training (see standard above) is available, or emergency coverage is available within 10 minutes, as provided in the standard.

For camps that do not have a base camp but operate solely in a trek environment, the camp health officer does not need to live on-site but must be on call at all times. The on-trek medical support is provided by trek staff and participant training as provided in standards PS-218.B and SQ-410.D. Reasonable provision should be made for trek staff to contact the camp health officer in case of need.

VERIFICATION:

1. Documentation of age
2. Camp health officer and backup, if any, qualifications
3. Statement from EMS provider 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:

The Camp Health Officer's Training Course is located at scouting.org/health-and-safety/training-2/ and scroll down to long-term or short-term/day camp training.

SQ-406

AQUATICS STAFF

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

The aquatics program is properly staffed and supervised by qualified individuals.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

Camp properties are only subject to Specific Requirement F and only if they have a pool.

A. **Program supervision.**

1. The aquatics director is 21 years of age or older.
2. The aquatics director holds either (a) or (b) and meets any additional requirements under (c):
   a. A current certificate of training as a BSA Aquatics Instructor from a National Camping School; OR
   b. If an individual trained as a BSA Aquatics Instructor is not available, the camp may apply for and be issued a waiver that would allow a person 21 years of age or older, currently trained by the American Red Cross as a Lifeguard Instructor, in Lifeguard Management, and as a Water Safety Instructor (all three required) and CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer or Health Care Worker to fill the position for one season. The waiver will require the individual to review the Swimming and Water Rescue and Paddle Craft Safety PowerPoint presentations at scouting.org/outdoor-programs under the Aquatics tab and to review the relevant sections of Aquatics Supervision, No. 34346; AND
   c State or local regulation may require previous lifeguard experience and should be reviewed to ensure compliance.
3. The aquatics director is currently certified as a BSA Lifeguard, American Red Cross Lifeguard, or equivalent training recognized by state legislation or regulation (a “valid lifeguard certification”) and is currently trained in American Red Cross First Aid and CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer or Health Care Worker, or equivalents.
4. For long-term camps, the aquatics director holds no other staff position and lives on-site if youth participants or staff remain on the premises overnight.
5. If a scuba activity is the only aquatics activity at the camp, then the requirements of Standard PS-203 must be met in lieu of Standard SQ-406, Specific Requirements A through C. Specific Requirements D through F continue to apply.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

B. **Aquatic Area Supervision.** Each aquatics area shall be supervised by a person, 18 years of age or older, who holds the following training and credentials when the aquatics director is not physically present at the area:

1. A valid lifeguard certification
2. Current certification in CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer or Health Care Worker and American Red Cross First Aid (or equivalents)
3. For a swimming area, current certification in Safe Swim Defense and either a current BSA Aquatics Instructor card from National Camping School or American Red Cross Lifeguard Management training
4. For a boating area, current certification in Safety Afloat and at least one of the following:
   a. a current BSA Aquatics Instructor card from National Camping School,
   b. current Scouting America Paddle Craft Safety training, or
   c. an instructor rating from the American Canoe Association or other national boating organization appropriate for the activity.
5. For adventure or trek activities other than scuba, comply with Standard SQ-411 for activities that occur on trek and off camp property or Specific Requirement D for swimming activities at a non-Scouting America owned or operated swimming facility
6. For scuba activities, comply with Standard PS-203 in lieu of Standard SQ-406, Specific Requirement B.

C. **Aquatics area staff. At all camps:** the following requirements apply to aquatics area staff:

1. All aquatics lifeguarding staff are tested for competency by the aquatics director before assuming lifeguarding or instructional duties. The aquatics director shall keep written documentation of staff and the areas and activities for which they are qualified. Staff in training may not work unsupervised until approved in written documentation by the aquatics director. The required skill competencies for lifeguarding include:
   a. All lifeguards can reach the bottom at the deepest part of the swimming area.
   b. All lifeguards can reach the furthest extent of their assigned zones within 20 seconds.
   c. All lifeguards can currently perform water rescue skills (possession of a lifeguard training certificate is not enough; each aquatics director must check that they can still perform to standards).

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

d. All lifeguards can currently perform basic life support and first-aid skills (possession of a card is not enough; each aquatics director must check that they can still perform to standards).

e. All lifeguards must be trained to execute written emergency action plans specific to local camp swimming areas and activities.

f. All lifeguards respond to bloodborne pathogen incidents according to the OSHA-mandated exposure control plan.

2. At least 50 percent of the aquatics staff members, excluding CITs, hold a valid lifeguard certification and current American Red Cross CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer or Health Care Worker, or equivalent, and American Red Cross First Aid, or equivalent.

3. In accordance with Department of Labor regulations, 15-year-old paid staff members with valid lifeguard certifications may work as lifeguards only for swimming activities in a swimming pool. Lifeguards for swimming activities not at a swimming pool must be at least 16 years of age and have a valid lifeguard certification appropriate for the venue.

D. **Outside providers.** If a camp conducts a swimming program at a non-Scouting America– owned or –operated swimming facility, supervision must be provided by facility employees whose training is regulated by state authorities, in lieu of the supervision required as above. This specific requirement applies to established pools, water parks, or lake front swimming areas with lifeguards provided by the venue. In this case, the requirements of the Safe Swim Defense must be implemented in accordance with Standard PS-201 Aquatics: General. If lifeguards are not provided, then the requirements of this Standard must be met.

E. **Personal watercraft (PWC) program.** If a PWC program is offered at a camp, staff must successfully complete the prescribed state safe boating training program and any additional requirements prescribed by the National Council, Outdoor Programs, in the program approval.

F. **Pool operator.** When required by applicable law or regulation, a camp property with a pool shall have a licensed pool operator, who shall be responsible for pool operation and maintenance as established by law. The aquatics staff shall comply with directions from the licensed pool operator within the scope of the license.

INTERPRETATION:

Cub Scouting aquatics activities must fully comply with the requirements of Standards PS-201 and SQ-406.

AQUATICS STAFF

(Revised January 1, 2025)

SQ-406

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

"Valid lifeguard certification" means current certification as a BSA Lifeguard, American Red Cross Lifeguard, or equivalent training recognized by state legislation or regulation.

American Red Cross Basic Life Support (BLS) and American Red Cross CPR/AED class are equivalent. Similarly, BLS for Healthcare Providers and CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer or Health Care Worker are equivalent. Cards with either name remain valid until expiration. Equivalents for BLS and BLS for Healthcare Providers include any training recognized in SQ-405 for the camp health officer or equivalent courses approved for lifeguards by state legislation or regulation.

Specific Requirement B provides the minimum supervision requirements for separated aquatics areas when the aquatics director is not physically present in the area, such as when monitoring a different aquatics program area or moving between areas. Separated areas are those divided by sufficient distance or barriers such that the aquatics director in one area is unable to directly monitor activities or supervise emergency action plans in the other areas. Specific Requirement B does NOT supersede the requirements of Specific Requirement A. A qualified aquatics director is always required onsite whenever any aquatics program(s) are underway. For example, a camp without a swimming program that conducts a single boating activity may not use the qualifications stated in Specific Requirement B to avoid meeting Specific Requirement A.

VERIFICATION:

- Relevant certificates on file (may be submitted with declaration)
- Documentation of ages
- Observation of aquatics program implementation
- If PWC program offered, review of National Council approval for additional training requirements and staff assurance that requirements are met

REFERENCES:

- The current list of equivalent training for American Red Cross First Aid and American Red Cross CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer may be found at:

  scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/CPR-for-BSA-Lifeguard-Equivalent-Options-02132024.pdf

SQ-407

RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES PROGRAM STAFF

(Revised January 1, 2026)

STANDARD:

If offered, the range and target activities program and each range is adequately staffed by qualified persons.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Program supervision**. The range and target activities program is supervised by a range activities director, at least 21 years of age, who holds a valid certificate of training from the Range and Target Activities Section of National Camping School (NCS), except as noted below.

1. The range activities director must hold current USA Level 1 Archery and National Rifle Association (NRA) instructor credentials in each firearm discipline (rifle [also includes BBs and pellets], shotgun, muzzleloading, and pistol) offered at the camp.
2. For long-term camps, the range activities director must be present in camp when any firearms range is in use.
3. An NCS-trained range activities director is not required if the camp only offers archery and throwing sports under Standard PS-213 and only offers a BB device, chalk ball, or Airsoft program and no other firearms activities under Standard PS-214.
4. If an NCS-trained range activities director is not available but required, the camp may be granted a waiver-by-rule so that the range and target activities program may be operated for one season by a currently certified military, law enforcement, 4-H, or NRA (ML4) instructor. Evidence of certification shall include a military range control card, law enforcement instructor credentials from the NRA or state certifying entity, 4-H instructor credentials and/or NRA instructor credentials. NRA coach credentials do not qualify. All credentials must be current; if no expiration date is stated, the credential must have been issued within 5 years before the end of the camping season at which the individual would serve.

B. **Range supervision**. At all times a range and target activities range at a camp is in operation, one or more qualified persons shall be present at the range who meet the requirements of the Range Supervision Chart applicable to the devices, firearms, archery or throwing sport equipment being used. The range supervisor is responsible for safety and adherence to all applicable standards, policies and procedures. All required certifications must be current from the certifying agency.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES PROGRAM STAFF

(Revised January 1, 2026)

SQ-407

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Range Supervision Chart

SQ	Camp and Range Type	Range Supervision Required	Alternate Supervision Option (requires waiver)
1.	**Any camp^** Archery range	Scouting America archery rangemaster* or USA Archery Level 1 instructor, 18 or more years old	None
2.	**Any camp^** Sporting Arrows Range	USA Archery level 1 instructor, 18 or more years old, and review Sporting Arrows section of *National Range and Target Activities Manual*	None
3.	**Any camp^** Throwing sports range (except slingshot)	Individual, 18 or more years old, meeting training requirements in camp's approved standard operating procedures	As provided in approved standard operating procedures and 18 or more years old
4.	**Any camp^** Slingshot range	Scouting America BB rangemaster* or NCS range activities director or NRA rifle instructor or ML4** instructor** All 18 or more years old	None
5.	**Any camp^** BB range	Scouting America BB rangemaster* or NCS range activities director or NRA rifle instructor or ML4** instructor** all 18 or more years old	None
6.	**Any camp^** Pellet rifle range *Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, Venturers any camp; Webelos and Arrow of Light long-term camp only*	NCS range activities director or NRA rifle instructor; All 21 or more years old	ML4** instructor in the discipline offered **AND** NRA range safety officer or equivalent RSO from ML4** all 21 or more years old
7.	**Long-term camp;** Rifle, shotgun or muzzleloading range	NCS range activities director with current NRA instructor credential for firearms at range OR NRA instructor with current credentials for the firearms at range; All 21 or more years old	ML4** instructor in the discipline offered **AND** NRA range safety officer or equivalent RSO from ML4** all 21 or more years old
8.	**Day camp or Short-term camp**; Any firearms range except BB/pellet	NCS range activities director with current NRA instructor credentials for firearms at range OR Both NRA instructor with current credentials for firearms at range AND NRA range safety officer; all 21 or more years old	ML4** instructor for firearms at range **AND** NRA range safety officer or equivalent range safety officer from ML4** all 21 or more years old
9.	**Any camp^** Pistol range *Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, Venturers only*	Both NCS range activities director with current NRA pistol instructor credential AND NRA range safety officer; all 21 or more years old	NRA pistol instructor AND NRA range safety officer all 21 or more years old
10.	**Day camp or Short-term camp** Cowboy action range	Each station must have NRA instructor credentials for the firearm (separate certifications required for each firearm) AND NRA RSO; all 21 or more years old	None
11.	**Long-term camp** Cowboy action range	Each station must have NRA instructor credentials for the firearm (separate certifications required for each firearm); all 21 or more years old	None
12.	**Any camp** Chalk Ball range *Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, Venturers only*	NRA range safety officer 18 or more years old	None
13.	**Any camp** Atlatl range *Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, Venturers only*	Instructor over the age of 18 and trained by NCS range activities director	None

^ Camp as defined in NCAP Standard SA-001.

*** Archery or BB Rangemaster is trained by a National Camping School range activities director or National Rifle Association rifle instructor (BB guns only). This individual is in charge of the firing line at any time it is in operation.**

**** ML4 – Rifle instructor from military, law enforcement, 4-H in the discipline offered. These individuals also must review Cub Scout section of the *National Range and Activities Manual* and be familiar with Cub Scout range and target activities if program is offered to Cub Scouts.**

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

C. **Range Instructor/Participant Ratios and Instructor Training Requirements**. Except as provided in Specific Requirements D through G, the following instructor:maximum number of participant ratios shall be met:

1. **Archery ranges**: 1 instructor to 8 participants except sporting arrows ranges, where the ratio is 1 instructor to 3 participants. Archery staff must be trained by a range supervisor or firing line supervisor who is a USA Archery Level 1 or higher instructor, who must issue a training course pocket certificate. The certificate must be renewed every two years. The range supervisor and staff supervising the firing line must be 18 years of age, but other staff assisting with the program may be younger.
2. **Slingshot ranges**: 1 instructor to 4 participants for Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturers; 1 instructor to 1 participant for Cub Scouts. Instructors and assistant/volunteers must be the age required by and trained in accordance with the approved standard operating procedures.
3. **Throwing sports ranges** (other than slingshot): 1 instructor to 4 participants unless otherwise provided in camp's approved standard operating procedures, which may be more restrictive. Instructors and assistants/volunteers must be the age required and trained in accordance with the approved standard operating procedures.
4. **Rifle, pellet rifle, and BB ranges**: 1 instructor to 8 participants. For each additional 8 participants or fraction thereof, the minimum requirement is an 18 or more year old instructor trained by the range activities director in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures using, at a minimum, the NRA FIRST Steps three-hour training (for rifle and pellet guns) or the BB rangemaster training for BB devices in the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*, as applicable.
5. **Muzzleloading rifle**: 1 instructor to 8 participants for instruction. 1 instructor to 1 participant when loading and firing.
6. **Shotgun or muzzleloading shotgun range**: 1 instructor to 6 participants for instruction. 1 instructor to 1 participant when loading and firing. Each instructor must hold current NRA instructor credential.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

7. **Atlatl ranges**: 1 instructor to 4 participants unless otherwise provided in camp's approved standard operating procedures, which may be more restrictive. Instructors and assistants/volunteers must be the age required and trained.
8. **Range supervisor as an instructor**. At long-term camps only, the range supervisor under Specific Requirement B may be counted as one of the instructors for purposes of the instructor-to-participant ratio. At day camps, short-term camps, and long-term camps, alternative supervision (SQ-407 A.4) where two individuals are specified as the required range supervision, one of the supervisors must serve as range safety officer and may not serve as one of the instructors.

D. **NRA FIRST Steps Pistol Orientation Program.** The range supervision shall be a current NRA RSO or NRA Chief RSO, who may supervise up to six instructor:participant pairs. The instructor:participant ratio shall be one instructor to one participant ratio with each instructor being a current NRA Pistol Instructor (not Assistant or Apprentice). The individual serving as RSO may not serve as an instructor.

E. **Cowboy Action Shooting Program.**

1. Each shooting position will have a qualified NRA-certified pistol, rifle, or shotgun instructor, depending on the firearm at the shooting position. Note: An NCS range activities director may also serve as instructor if they are certified in the firearm used at the shooting position.
2. The instructor-to-participant ratio when on the range working with firearms in this program is one instructor to every one participant, regardless of the firearm (1:1 instructor-to-participant ratio).
3. The range supervisor must hold a current NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO) certification.

F. **Chalk Ball Program.**

1. The chalk ball trail/course shall be under the supervision of an NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO).
2. The instructor-to-participant ratio when on the range working with chalk ball is one instructor to every one participant (1:1 instructor-to-participant ratio).

RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES PROGRAM STAFF

(Revised January 1, 2026)

INTERPRETATION:

An NCS-trained range activities director includes an NCS-trained shooting sports director until the expiration of their NCS certification.

The ***program supervisor*** is the individual responsible for supervising the camp's range and target activities program. The program supervisor must be an NCS range activities director for a long-term camp, day camp, or short-term camp that offers a firearms program other than BBs. For a long-term camp only, the range activities director must be at the camp at any time any of the firearms programs (other than BB) is operating. For day camps and short-term camps, the range activities director does not need to be at camp as long as the director has reviewed and approved the program and staffing. An NCS trained range activities director is NOT required for those camps that only offer archery, throwing sports, BB gun, chalk ball, or Airsoft programs.

In addition, the range activities director shall have current NRA, USAA or Scouting America certifications as an instructor for each range which they may personally supervise (archery, throwing sports, rifle, including pellet and BB guns; muzzle loading; shotgun; and/or pistol). An NCS range and activities director may also serve as a range supervisor if they are physically present on the range and have a current instructor card for the bows, throwing implements or firearms being used.

The ***range supervisor*** is the individual or individuals responsible for supervising a specific range. A range supervisor must be a current instructor in the bows, throwing implements or firearms used at the range. A range supervisor must be present at all times the range is in operation. The program supervisor may serve as a range supervisor if they are physically present on the range and have a current instructor card for the bows, throwing implements or firearms being used on the range.

"Approved standard operating procedures" are standard operating procedures developed in accordance with Standards PS-213 and PS-214 and approved pursuant to council procedures. At slingshot and throwing sports ranges, Scouting volunteers or parents may serve as additional instructors if instructed and qualified under the approved standard operating procedures.

Shooting at camp properties other than as part of a camp (camp as defined by Standard SA-001) subject to this Standard must meet the requirements of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*. The *Guide to Safe Scouting* requires different supervision outside of the supervised camp environment.

An NRA RSO or NRA coach certification is not considered an "instructor" qualifying certification because the training differs from that of an NRA instructor.

Applies to:

- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES PROGRAM STAFF

(Revised January 1, 2026)

SQ-407

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

VERIFICATION:

- Documentation of age
- Relevant NRA, US Archery, Scouting America certificates on file (may be submitted with declaration). Note that Scouting America, NRA, and US Archery certificates have different validity periods. All certifications must be checked for currency. An NCS range activities director certification requires at least one currently effective NRA instructor certification to be valid.
- Observation of program implementation

REFERENCES:

Additional recommendations for operating the range and target activities program at a camp are found in the Scouting America *Range and Target Activities Manual* available at: scouting.org/outdoor-programs/.

RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

SQ-409

COPE AND/OR CLIMBING STAFF

(Revised January 1, 2022)

STANDARD:

All COPE and/or climbing programs must be supervised and staffed by qualified persons.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. A qualified person is designated by the council to manage the operations of COPE and/or climbing programs, set local policies, provide for maintenance and inspection of facilities, provide program hazard analysis for new activities, approve equipment used, and design training and assessment of program staff.

B. A camp offering a COPE or climbing program shall have a written staff training and assessment plan, approved by a qualified person, which includes: competencies identified in the approved COPE and/or climbing training syllabi, staff competencies identified in the current ACCT operations standards; and specific knowledge and skills required for local COPE and/or climbing program operations. In addition, the COPE or climbing program shall be supervised in accordance with either (1) or (2) below:

1. The program is supervised by an NCS-trained COPE or climbing director, as appropriate.
2. The program is supervised by a Level II COPE or climbing instructor, as appropriate. Level II COPE or Climbing instructors can only be certified through the following process. Councils (or council collaborations) electing to provide local training programs for Level II instructors shall meet the following requirements:
   a. The Level II instructor training program is conducted by a National Camping School currently certified COPE and Climbing Program Trainer.
   b. The training program must be evaluated and approved by a training program evaluator approved by the National COPE & Climbing Subcommittee chair.
      i. The council Level II training program shall be reviewed and approved before valid training certifications can be issued.
      ii. Documentation needed during the training program evaluation process must include the following.
         1. A current National Camping School Director COPE or Climbing certification.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

2. A document approving the COPE & Climbing Program Trainer(s) to train for the council or council collaboration signed by the Scout executive for that council or all Scout executives of a council collaboration.
3. Training syllabus, materials and equipment and gear list.
4. Assessment instruments for participant testing and/or evaluation.
5. Level I and Level II Instructor re-evaluation criteria.
6. Operational documentation of all facilities included in the Council or collaboration as specified in Standard PS-206, Specific to Requirement C.

iii. Program re-evaluation shall occur at least every five years or sooner should the National COPE & Climbing Subcommittee deem necessary. When conditions warrant re-evaluation may occur because:

1. Abnormal or unusual incidents in COPE and/or climbing programs as identified by the local council, Service Territory or National Council.
2. Council or collaboration appoints a new COPE & Climbing Program Trainer or the membership of the collaboration changes or the facilities covered by the program change.
3. The National COPE & Climbing Subcommittee chair or their designee or the national NCAP committee calls for a re-evaluation.

c. Report all Level II Instructor training rosters to the national COPE & Climbing Sub Committee Chair and the Service Territory COPE and Climbing advisor.

C. All COPE and climbing staff must have appropriate qualifications and training as shown in the following table. Documentation of training for all council COPE and climbing program staff is available when in operation. Level I and Level II instructors may operate programs only as authorized by their local council or multicouncil collaboration.

SQ-409

COPE AND/OR CLIMBING STAFF

(Revised January 1, 2022)

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

COPE and Climbing Program Staff Member Qualifications and Training

No.	Staff Member	Prerequisite	Primary Training	Re-evaluation	Min. Age
1	COPE instructor in training	None	COPE and climbing foundation Level I + COPE Level I instructor training	Yearly	16
2	COPE Level I instructor	None	COPE and climbing foundation Level I + COPE Level I instructor training	Yearly	18
3	COPE Level II instructor	COPE Level I instructor	COPE and climbing foundation Level II + COPE Level II instructor training	3 years	21
4	COPE director	Familiarity with local council course	NCS COPE director training	5 years	21
5	Low COPE Level I instructor	None	COPE and climbing foundation Level I + low COPE Level I instructor training	Yearly	18
6	Low COPE Level II instructor	Low COPE Level I instructor	COPE and climbing foundation Level II + low COPE Level II instructor training	3 years	21
7	Low COPE director	Familiarity with local council course	NCS low COPE director training	5 years	21
8	Climbing instructor in training	None	COPE and climbing foundation Level I + climbing Level I instructor training	Yearly	16
9	Climbing Level I instructor	None	COPE and climbing foundation Level I + climbing Level I instructor training	Yearly	18
10	Climbing Level II instructor	Climbing Level I instructor	COPE and climbing foundation Level II + climbing Level II instructor training	3 years	21
11	Climbing director	Familiarity with local council course	NCS climbing director training	5 years	21
12	Artificial climbing structure Level I instructor	None	COPE and climbing foundation Level I training	1 year	18
13	Artificial climbing structure Level II instructor	Artificial climbing structure Level I instructor	COPE and climbing foundation Level II training	3 years	21
14	Portable challenge structure facilitator	None	COPE and climbing foundation Level II training + manufacturer authorized training	Yearly	21
15	Bouldering facilitator	None	Bouldering facilitator training	Yearly	16
16	COPE and Climbing Program Manager/ Trainer	NCS COPE or Climbing Director only	NCS COPE and Climbing Program Trainer Course	5 years	21

COPE AND/OR CLIMBING STAFF

SQ-409

(Revised January 1, 2022)

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

COPE and Climbing Program Staff Member Qualifications and Training					
No.	Staff Member	Prerequisite	Primary Training	Re-evaluation	Min. Age
17	COPE and climbing peer reviewer	National appointment	NCS Program Manager or Program Trainer Training	5 years	21

D. All COPE and climbing programs are operated according to the guidelines contained in the following table. All staff members may be considered as part of the staff to maintain the required ratio of staff to participants; however, instructors in training must be directly supervised by a Level I or Level II instructor or a director. **A Level II instructor or director directly supervises the program and must be present at the program site except for bouldering or portable challenge structure sites. The second staff member shall be a minimum of a Level I instructor.**

COPE and Climbing Program Staffing and Participant Requirements					
No.	Program	Minimum Program Supervision Requirements	Qualified Staff	Min. Staff	Ratio
1	Low COPE	Low COPE Level II instructor or COPE Level II instructor or COPE director or low COPE director	Low COPE Level I instructor, low COPE Level II instructor, COPE director, low COPE director, COPE IIT	2	12:1
2	High COPE	COPE Level II instructor or COPE director	COPE Level I instructor, COPE Level II instructor, COPE director, COPE IIT	2	6:1
3	Artificial vertical climbing structure	COPE Level II instructor or COPE director or climbing Level II instructor or climbing director or artificial vertical climbing structure instructor	Level II instructor, artificial vertical climbing structure instructor, COPE Level I instructor, COPE Level II instructor, COPE director, COPE IIT, climbing Level I instructor, climbing Level II instructor, climbing director, climbing IIT	2	6:1
4	Natural rock climbing	Level II instructor or climbing director	Climbing Level I instructor, climbing Level II instructor, climbing director, climbing IIT	2	6:1
5	Bouldering	Bouldering facilitator or COPE Level I instructor or climbing Level I instructor	COPE Level I instructor, COPE Level II instructor, COPE director, COPE IIT, climbing Level I instructor, climbing Level II instructor, climbing director, climbing IIT	1	Determined by council policy

COPE AND/OR CLIMBING STAFF

(Revised January 1, 2022)

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

COPE and Climbing Program Staffing and Participant Requirements					
No.	**Program**	**Minimum Program Supervision Requirements**	**Qualified Staff**	**Min. Staff**	**Ratio**
6	Portable challenge structure	Portable challenge structure facilitator	Portable challenge structure facilitator, COPE Level I instructor, COPE Level II instructor, COPE director, COPE IIT, climbing Level I instructor, climbing Level II instructor, climbing director, climbing IIT	2	As recommended by manufacturer, but not to exceed 6:1

INTERPRETATION:

The term “qualified person” is defined in the Association for Challenge Course Technology standards as: “An individual who, by possession of a recognized degree, certificate or professional standing; or who, by possession of extensive knowledge, training and/or experience in the subject field; has successfully demonstrated ability in design, analysis, evaluation, installation, inspection, specification or training in the subject work, project or product, to the extent established by this Standard.”

For example, item A in this standard requires that a “qualified person” is designated by the council to manage the operations of COPE and/or climbing programs, set local policies, provide for maintenance and inspection of facilities, provide program hazard analysis for new activities, approve equipment used, and manage training and assessment of program staff. A person having these responsibilities must have extensive knowledge, training and/or experience in program operations, policy making, inspection and maintenance of facilities and equipment, program hazard analysis, and staff training for COPE and climbing programs. *The minimum level of training set by this standard is NCS director for either COPE or climbing. Relevant documentation of these qualifications shall be available to the assessment team.*

Item B in this standard requires that a “qualified person” approve the staff training and assessment plan. A person having this responsibility must have extensive knowledge, training and/or experience in program operations and staff training for COPE and climbing programs. *The minimum level of training set by this standard is NCS director for either COPE or climbing. This may be the same person referenced in item A, or may be another qualified person designed by the council.*

Peer review evaluators are; assigned by, and forward reports to, the national COPE and Climbing subcommittee chair or their appointee.

COPE AND/OR CLIMBING STAFF

(Revised January 1, 2022)

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Artificial climbing structure: Tower, wall or other structure where the participant's feet can exceed 6 feet above ground surface.

Program site: For the purposes of this standard, program site is defined by the general location of COPE and/or climbing activities, which may be separated by a reasonable distance but still able to be supervised by a single director or Level II instructor.

Re-evaluation criteria for Level I and Level II instructors must be included in the evaluation process. Methods may include:

- Formal re-evaluation when using assessment instruments
- Monitored performance while delivering the program
- Documented retraining
- Retaking of the original training

VERIFICATION:

- Evaluation of program documents (may be submitted with declaration of readiness):
  - —A: Staff training and assessment plan
  - —B: Training records for ALL COPE and climbing program staff members
    - Qualified person who oversees COPE and climbing program
    - COPE and climbing program trainer (for local Level II training)
    - Directors
    - Level II instructors
    - Level I instructors
  - —C: Documentation of staffing ratios

SQ-410

TREK LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVITY STAFF

(Revised January 1, 2024)

STANDARD:

All trek program leaders and staff must have appropriate age, experience, and training to safely operate a quality trek program.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. The trek director of a trek program must be at least 21 years of age and hold a current certificate of training from the Trek Leader section of National Camping School. If another member of the staff holds a current certificate of training from the Trek Leader section of National Camping School, then the trek director may hold a current certificate of training from the Resident Camp Director section or Resident Camp Program Director section of National Camping School and have prior trek leadership training or experience.

B. At least one staff member is a Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor (weeklong course) or Level 1 Instructor (two-day course) and conducts training for all trek staff members with program responsibilities (support and administrative staff are exempt).

C. Trek staff must be at least 18 years old and successfully complete training specific to the trek program operation.

D. The trek staff member accompanying crews must hold a current American Red Cross Wilderness and Remote First Aid with CPR/AED certification, Emergency Care and Safety Institute (ECSI) Wilderness First Aid, or equivalents. Training is provided in reasonably foreseeable first-aid scenarios and use of supplied first-aid kits.

E. Staff members leading trek or high-adventure programs have evidence of training in their area of responsibility consistent with Standard SQ-411. Activities offered during a trek must comply with the National Camp Standards, including relevant staff qualification.

F. Provision must be made for the NCAP Assessment team to observe this program during the assessment.

INTERPRETATION:

The Application for Authorization of a trek program must set forth the required ages, certification requirements, and training for the trek director and for all trek staff. If the trek will include an adventure or activity, the additional requirements of the staff qualification and training standard, SQ-411 Adventure Staff, must also be met.

Applies to:

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

TREK LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVITY STAFF

SQ-410

(Revised January 1, 2024)

Applies to:

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

VERIFICATION:

- Documentation of age
- Review of training/certifications held by staff leading programs and activities
- Variance or authorization approval for training
- Relevant certificates on file (may be submitted with declaration)
- Observation of program implementation during visitation

SQ-411

ADVENTURE PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY STAFF

(Revised January 1, 2024)

STANDARD:

All adventure program and activity leaders and staff shall have appropriate age, experience, and training to safely operate a quality program.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Adventure Programs Leadership.** The staff member responsible for day-to-day operation of an adventure program must be at least 21 years of age and hold a current certificate of training from the National Camping School or equivalent training approved in this standard, a variance, or an Authorization to Operate.

1. A swimming-based aquatics adventure program leader must meet Standard SQ-406, Specific Requirement A and have specific training provided in the adventure.
2. A boating-based aquatics adventure program leader must meet Standard SQ-406, Specific Requirement A and:
   a. If canoeing, appropriate training from the American Canoe Association, or equivalent
   b. If whitewater canoeing, kayaking, or rafting, appropriate training for the class of water and type of craft from the American Canoe Association or American Whitewater or completion of state or other agency licensing requirements for professional whitewater guides
   c. If large boat, training satisfying the requirements of Standard PS-202.
3. A COPE or climbing-based adventure program or activity must meet the staffing requirements of Standard SQ-409. If Standard SQ-409 is not appropriate, a variance must be sought.
4. A mountaineering-based adventure activity leader must have trek leader training if only backpacking is involved. If off-trail mountaineering is included, the adventure activity leader must have Philmont Ranger Training or Alpine Guide course from the American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA), or equivalent.
5. A winter-based adventure activity leader must have Okpik or Kanik training or Alpine Guide course from the American Mountain Guides Association, or equivalent.
6. An ice-climbing activity program leader on an artificial ice structure must have specific ice-climbing training, experience and/or certification that could include AMGA, NOLS, EMS or similar. An ice-climbing activity program leader on natural ice must have specific ice-climbing training from AMGA or an national equivalency determination pursuant to Standard SA-005.

Applies to:

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Applies to:

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

7. A camp or council proposing an activity not clearly addressed above must apply for a variance for approval of its staff training plan.
8. Provision must be made for the NCAP Assessment Team to observe this activity.

B. **Adventure Activities Leadership**

1. Staff members supervising an adventure activity must be 18 years of age or older and have evidence of training in their area of responsibility consistent with that approved in this standard, a variance, or the Authorization to Operate.
2. Staff members supervising a swimming or boating adventure activity must meet the requirements of Standard SQ-406, Specific Requirement A or be under the supervision of a person meeting those requirements and meet the requirements of Standard SQ-406, Specific Requirement B.
3. Staff members supervising a COPE or Climbing adventure activity must meet the requirements of Standard SQ-409.

C. **Staff Members Accompanying a Crew.** Staff on an adventure program or activity must be trained by and under the supervision of a program leader meeting the requirements of Specific Requirement A and, if a trek program, a trek leader meeting the requirements of Standard SQ-410, or must meet those requirements themselves.

1. Staff members accompanying a crew on an aquatics-based adventure must also be trained in Safe Swim Defense and Swimming and Water Rescue, Safety Afloat and Paddlecraft Safety, or all of the above as appropriate.
2. Staff members accompanying a crew on a COPE or climbing-based adventure must meet Standard SQ-409.
3. A camp or council proposing an activity not clearly addressed above or seeking to vary from the training specific above must apply for a variance for approval of its staff training plan.

D. **Other Adventure Program and Activity Staff.** Staff members assisting in an adventure program or activity must have evidence of training in their area of responsibility consistent with that approved in this standard, a variance, or the Authorization to Operate.

SQ-411

ADVENTURE PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY STAFF

(Effective January 1, 2024)

INTERPRETATION:

"Adventure program" and an "adventure activity" are defined in Standard PS-222.

An adventure activity that meets the definition of a trek program must also meet Standard SQ-410. An adventure program or activity including a COPE and/or climbing course must also meet the requirements for COPE and/or climbing courses in Standards PS-206 and SQ-409.

Some activities employ life safety provisions similar to COPE or climbing (e.g., caving, canyoneering, ice climbing, via ferratas, spar pole climbing, etc.), and may involve the use of equipment and/or techniques that are not covered in typical Scouting America instructor training. Staff members should consult with experts familiar with and trained in the use of this equipment and these techniques prior to implementing the program. Specific training and assessment for instructors operating these programs must be documented prior to operating these programs.

VERIFICATION:

- Documentation of age
- Review of the training plan required in Standard PS-222, Specific Requirement F and verification that adventure program/activity leadership and staff has completed the required training by review of certificates and training logs or other documents.
- Variance and/or authorization approval for adventure training
- Relevant certificates on file (may be submitted with declaration)
- Observation of program implementation during visitation

REFERENCES:

- AMGA is the American Mountain Guides Association
- EMS is Eastern Mountain Sports
- NOLS is the National Outdoor Leadership School

Applies to:

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

SQ-412

OTHER PROGRAM STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

All camp activity leadership staff is qualified by age and training or acceptable experience to safely lead a quality program. Supporting staff meets age and training requirements as necessary.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. In a Scouts BSA, Venturing, or Sea Scout long-term camp, at least one adult camp commissioner is on staff. These individuals may be assigned other duties. Camp commissioners shall meet one of the following criteria:
   1. Be 18 years of age or older and have a valid certificate of training from the Resident Camp Director or Resident Camp Program Director sections of National Camping School; or
   2. Be 21 years of age or older and have six months' service as an active and trained commissioner in Scouting America. They also have the Council Commissioner's approval in writing and have been trained by the Camp Director with NCS training program found at scouting.org/NCAP

B. In a Scouts BSA, Venturing, or Sea Scout day camp or long-term camp, if an ecology program is offered, the ecology/conservation director is 18 years of age or older with a valid certificate of training from the Ecology/Conservation section of National Camping School or has equivalent training in conducting an outdoor education program and has an equivalency determination or a waiver from the National NCAP Committee.

C. In a Scouts BSA, Venturing, or Sea Scout day camp or long-term camp, if an outdoor skills program is offered, the outdoor skills director is at least 18 years of age and holds a valid certificate of training from the Outdoor Skills section of National Camping School or has equivalent skills and an equivalency determination or a waiver from the National NCAP Committee.

D. In a Scouts BSA, Venturing, or Sea Scout day camp or long-term camp, if a first-year camper program is offered, the first-year camper director is at least 18 years of age and holds a valid certificate of training from the Outdoor Skills section of the National Camping School or has equivalent skills as determined by the council.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

E. If a full-time or part-time chaplaincy service is provided, the chaplain is recognized as a qualified clergyman, seminarian, or layman by his or her own religious body and is 21 years of age or older. Alternatively, an individual who is at least 21 years of age, possesses mature judgment, and is approved by the Scout executive may fulfill this role, with responsibilities not to include “specific ordained responsibilities” or tasks such as sacraments.

F. If a horse or stock program is conducted at camp,

   1. The horse or stock program director is to be at least 21 years of age, with documented experience and/or training for at least two years or more in the safe conduct of appropriate riding activities. The horse or stock program director must be qualified to provide leadership to the program staff and supervision in the proper care, handling, feeding, and grooming of horses and other stock.
   2. Horse and stock activity instructors, trail guides, and wranglers are at least 18 years old and are qualified by experience and training to safely conduct the horse or stock program.
   3. Assistant wranglers are at least 16 years of age, are qualified by experience and examination, and work at all times under the supervision of instructors or trail guides, who are wranglers who are 18 years of age or older.

G. If an ATV program is offered,

   1. Two staff members must participate in ATV activities. At least one must be 21 years of age or older; the other must be 16 years of age or older.
   2. The 21-year-old or older ATV staff member must hold a valid current ATV Safety Institute’s instructor certification. All other ATV staff must have been trained by an ATV Safety Institute certified instructor.
   3. All ATV staff must be familiar with applicable outdoor ethics principles and conservation limits on ATV activities.

H. Food service supervisor. If a camp offers food or commissary service, the supervisor(s) of such service shall meet all applicable state or local age, training and certification programs. If no such programs exist, the supervisor of such service shall have a current ServSafe Manager training certificate.

I. Equivalency determinations. If a council wishes to qualify other training or experience as equivalent to National Camping School, it must submit a waiver/equivalency application to NCAP@scouting.org and receive a written waiver or equivalency determination.

OTHER PROGRAM STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

(Revised January 1, 2025)

J. Councils will establish safety and quality criteria for other activity leaders in the Application for Authorization. These criteria, once approved in the authorization, become part of this standard.

INTERPRETATION:

- Ecology/conservation director—College students or teachers trained in such fields as forestry, soil and water conservation, fish and wildlife, earth science, ecology, environmental specialties, etc., are considered to have equivalent training. Students who have completed their sophomore year in college with a major in one of the above fields and have worked actively for one or more summers in a nature center or conservation-oriented staff position in a summer camp may be considered to have equivalent training.
- Outdoor skills—"Equivalent life skills" may include but are not limited to Scouting experience as a Scouts BSA or outdoor Venturing crew leader **and** having earned and taught merit badges offered in outdoor skills area **or** having earned the National Medal for Outdoor Adventure **or** the Venturing Ranger Award **or** similar life experience; **or** completion of college courses in outdoor skills topics. Mere completion of the outdoor skills merit badges is not sufficient by itself.
- For horse and stock programs, "experience and training" includes care, feeding, grooming, and packing of horses, ponies, mules, burros, and other domesticated ungulates (llamas and other farm animals).
- First-year camper director—Camps offering a first-year camper program must have a director with the appropriate NCS certification or equivalent skills. Equivalent skills means prior camp staff experience and prior multi-year experience as a new Scout assistant Scoutmaster or troop guide (for Scouts BSA) or den leader or den chief (for Cub Scouts) or relevant experience as a Venturing or Sea Scouting advisor or unit officer.

VERIFICATION:

- Documentation of age
- Relevant certificates on file (may be submitted with declaration)
- Authorization for approved alternatives
- Interviews with camp director and staff leadership
- Observation of program implementation during assessment

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

RP-451

RESERVATION, CAMP, OR BASE DIRECTOR EXPERIENCE

(Revised January 1, 2013)

STANDARD:

The camp, base, or reservation director is at least 25 years of age and has at least two seasons of prior Scout camp administrative or supervisory experience.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of age and experience (may be submitted with declaration)

Applies to:

Long-term camp

RP-452

PERMANENT RANGER EXPERIENCE

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The ranger is at least 25 years of age with prior maintenance or camp staff experience.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of age and experience (may be submitted with declaration)

Applies to:

Camp properties

RP-453

CAMP HEALTH OFFICER EXPERIENCE

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp health officer is at least 25 years of age or is 21 years of age with prior camp medical staff experience.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of age and experience (may be submitted with declaration)

Applies to:

Day camp

Long-term camp

RP-454

BUSINESS MANAGER

(Revised January 1, 2020)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp has a business manager with a job description, experience, and qualifications approved by the relevant council committee.

INTERPRETATION:

Multiple camps that share a common reservation may share a common business manager and satisfy the conditions of this recommended practice. It is recommended that this individual be 21 years of age or older, attend the Resident Camp Director section of National Camping School (NCS), and hold a valid certification from NCS.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of council-approved job description and verification that business manager meets requirements

Applies to:

Day camp

Long-term camp

RP-455

CHAPLAINCY

(Revised January 1, 2022)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

A full- or part-time chaplaincy service is provided by a person who is recognized as a qualified clergyman or seminarian by his or her own religious body and who is 21 years of age or older. Chaplains have prior camp chaplain experience and have met with the camp director and completed the chaplain orientation found at scouting.org/NCAP

VERIFICATION:

- Demonstration of qualification or explication of prior camp chaplain experience

Applies to:

Long-term camp

RP-456

RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES STAFFING

(Revised January 1, 2021)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The council follows the guidelines for additional camp range and target activities positions and qualifications as outlined in the Scouting America *Range and Target Activities Manual*, No. 430-938. For example, additional instructors have NRA Instructor or Assistant Instructor credentials for the discipline they are instructing or providing range supervision. An Assistant Instructor may assist a certified NRA Instructor, but may not supervise the range by themselves.

The camp also qualifies for this recommended practice if each range safety officer (RSO) has completed NRA RSO training.

The camp also qualifies for this recommended practice if each range is staffed with an NRA Instructor other than the Range and Target Activities director.

VERIFICATION:

- Range safety officer and NRA Instructor training by verification of current NRA certifications (may be submitted with declaration)
- Other by discussion with camp director and/or Range and Target Activities director

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

RP-457

CAMP STAFF AGE

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp staff should consist of at least 50 percent individuals 18 years of age or older (excluding food service, CITs, and den chiefs).

VERIFICATION:

- Review of ages (may be submitted with declaration)

Applies to:

Day camp

Long-term camp

RP-458

CAMP LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

(Revised January 1, 2019)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

At least 50 percent of individuals holding camp leadership positions (director or supervisory position) have (a) three or more years of experience on camp staff or (b) a college degree in recreation management or a related field.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of staff tenure and academic degrees (may be submitted with declaration)

Applies to:

Day camp

Long-term camp

RP-459

COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING PROGRAM

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

A written counselor-in-training (CIT) program under the direction of an adult staff member includes a variety of supervised experiences. A CIT serving in a program position or as a den chief must be at least 14 years of age. CITs do not replace staff members; they are there to experience program areas to determine where they might serve in the future.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of written CIT program (may be submitted with declaration)
- Discussion with camp director

Applies to:

Day camp

Long-term camp

RP-460

TREK STAFF OUTDOOR ETHICS TRAINING

(Revised January 1, 2024)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

Staff accompanying a trekking crew hold Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor certificate of training.

INTERPRETATION:

This recommended practice applies to trek programs.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of certificates (may be supplied with declaration)

Applies to:

Long-term camp

RP-461

CUB SCOUT LONG-TERM CAMP COMMISSIONER

(Revised January 1, 2022)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

In Cub Scout long-term camp, at least one adult camp commissioner is on staff. The individual serving as commissioner must:

A. Be 18 years of age or older and have a valid certificate of training from the Resident Camp Director or Resident Camp Program Director sections of National Camping School; or

B. Be 21 years of age or older and have six months' service as an active and trained commissioner in Scouting America. They also have the Council Commissioner's approval in writing and have been trained by the Camp Director with NCS training program found at scouting.org/NCAP.

These individuals may be assigned other duties.

INTERPRETATION:

Equivalent skills include experience as a unit, district, or council commissioner. See Standard SQ-412 for additional discussion of qualifying individuals.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of age and experience

Applies to:

Cub Scout long-term camp

RP-462

NATIONAL CAMPING SCHOOL CERTIFIED STAFF

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp has at least two National Camping School-certified individuals beyond the camp director, program director, aquatics director, and range activities director.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of National Camping School certifications (may be submitted with declaration)

Applies to:

Day camp

Long-term camp

RP-463

COPE/CLIMBING PROGRAM SUPPORT

(Revised January 1, 2020)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The council operates a COPE and/or climbing committee that is led by a trained COPE and Climbing Program Trainer.

VERIFICATION:

- Current National Camping School certification for COPE and Climbing Program Trainer.
- Review roster of the committee members and/or minutes of meetings.

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Long-term camp

HEALTH AND SAFETY (HS) STANDARDS

Parents expect the highest standards of safety at a Scouting America-accredited camp. The health and safety (HS) standards ensure that these expectations are met. The first standard, Youth Protection, applies to all camp properties and camps. The majority of the health and safety standards apply to all camp properties and camps.

All applicable standards must be met for accreditation.

HS-501

YOUTH PROTECTION

(Revised January 1, 2020)

STANDARD:

Each camp will ensure that it meets the Youth Protection policies set forth in the current edition of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* online and applicable state regulations.

INTERPRETATION:

Youth Protection policies will be interpreted according to current guidance on the Scouting America Youth Protection website at scouting.org/training/youth-protection/.

Camp staff must complete basic Youth Protection training for registration in addition to specific camp staff training contemplated in SQ-402.

VERIFICATION:

- A current copy of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* must be accessible when needed.
- Review of certificate(s) and/or training roster(s)
- Review of facilities usage for compliance with guidelines
- Discussion with camp director

REFERENCES:

Additional Youth Protection training for camp directors and program directors is specified in Standard SQ-403. Additional training for rangers is specified in Standard SQ-404.

Scouting America's Youth Protection website and guidance on state child abuse reporting statutes is available at scouting.org/training/youth-protection/

The *Guide to Safe Scouting* is available at scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

HS-502

UNIT LEADERSHIP

(Revised January 1, 2023)

STANDARD:

Each camp will ensure that units participating in its program have adequate adult supervision.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. A unit leader has no other duties that would detract from responsibilities as the unit leader.

B. **Minimum leadership requirements.**

1. The minimum leadership requirements for any Cub Scout unit attending long-term camp is a ratio of two adults to a maximum of eight youth and one additional adult for each four additional youth (or part thereof).
2. The minimum leadership requirement for other unit-based camps and programs is two leaders with each unit as provided in Scouting America's Youth Protection Policies, including having one registered female adult, age 21 or older, in every unit serving female youth. If a unit cannot meet these standards, then the camp may arrange leadership.

C. A camp that is not organized to provide service to Scouting America units, but rather to serve individuals, must provide for adequate adult supervision given the age of the youth and planned activities. Supervision can be provided by a combination of staff and volunteers so long as the National Camp Standards and Scouting America's Youth Protection Policies are met.

INTERPRETATION:

In cases of doubt, councils and camps are urged to seek a variance or letter of interpretation from the National Council confirming the appropriateness of proposed adult supervision arrangements for non-traditional camps.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation
- Discussion with camp director, staff members, and others

REFERENCES:

- Scouting America's Youth Protection Policies are available at: scouting.org/training/youth-protection/

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

HS-503

MEDICAL INFORMATION

(Revised January 1, 2026)

STANDARD:

The camp requires the current Scouting America medical forms for all staff and participants and has parent/guardian authorizations for emergency treatment for all minors.

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 member must present to the camp health officer or designee an up-to-date Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record form signed by a licensed medical professional. Parts A, B, and C are required for camps of greater than 72 hours (and are recommended for all camps regardless of length).
   2. Day Camps: Upon arrival, or earlier as allowed by camp policy, each camper, adult leader, and staff member must present to the camp health officer or designee an up-to-date Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record. Parts A and B are required only for day camps that are under 72 hours in length.
   3. Health forms and permission forms must be on file in a secure location accessible to appropriate staff members while the camper, adult leader, or staff member is in attendance.

B. **Short-term camps**.
   1. Upon arrival, each leader of a unit must have for each camper and adult leader an up-to-date Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record form. Staff members, adult volunteers, and youth not attending with a unit must present to the camp health officer or designee an up-to-date Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record form. Parts A and B are required for short-term camps.
   2. Health forms and permission forms must be kept in a secure location accessible to the unit leader and camp staff while the camper or adult leader is in attendance. For those not attending with a unit, health forms and permission forms must be on file in a secure location accessible to appropriate staff members while the camper, staff member or volunteer is in attendance.

C. Campers' medical forms must be available to adults authorized to provide camp health care and to adults accompanying minors off-site where emergency health care may be needed.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

D. Health information is shared only on a need-to-know basis.

E. National training courses, as defined in the Interpretation to Standard SA-001, require the Annual Health and Medical Record Parts indicated in the course syllabus.

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 for a participant are based on the duration of the camp session and not the duration of the entire camping season. So, if the camp session the participant is attending is 72 hours or longer, Parts A,B and C are required. If the camp is 72 hours or less, Parts A and B are required. AHMR requirements for camp staff are based upon the duration of the entire camping season. Councils and camps may require Parts A, B, and C as a matter of local policy.

Part C of the Annual Health and Medical Record is to be completed and signed by a certified and licensed health care provider, which is a physician (MD or DO), nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, or as stated on the current Annual Health and Medical Record, No. 680-001. If only Parts A and B are required, then the signature of a certified and licensed health care provider is *not* required.

The camp has a written policy that addresses the health form requirements for parents and visitors who will spend less than 72 hours at the camp and not participate in activities with a risk element.

The camp has written policy setting forth how staff and participant privacy interests in their medical information will be protected.

HS-503

MEDICAL INFORMATION

(Effective January 1, 2026)

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of the file of medical forms and spot-check of completeness, without excessive intrusion into the privacy of an individual
- Discussion with the camp director or a member of the camp medical staff regarding the procedures for maintaining confidentiality of the records balanced by accessibility on a need-to-know basis

REFERENCES:

The Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record, No. 680-001 available at scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/

Current list of approved electronic health information system providers posted on scouting.org/ncap site under Additional Resources

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

HS-504

MEDICAL SCREENING AND FOLLOW-UP

(Revised January 1, 2021)

STANDARD:

As part of the check-in process at long-term camps and day camps, each participant is given an individual medical screening by a qualified adult. As part of the check-in process for short-term camps, the unit leader informs the camp health officer or designee of campers with limitations, special needs or life-threatening circumstances. Staff or those attending without a unit are referred to the camp health officer or designee for screening. Reasonable steps are taken to maintain privacy.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. For long-term camps, the medical screening process complies with the guidance in *Camp Health Officer Training,* No. 19-141.

B. At the time of the screening, arrangements are made for the secure storage and dispensing of any medications.

C. The camp director, appropriate staff members, and unit leaders are informed of campers with limitations, special needs, or life-threatening conditions.

D. All circumstances affecting participation in camp activities or requiring ongoing medication or other follow-through are immediately documented and presented to the health officer, who then informs other staff members or unit leaders on a need-to-know basis.

INTERPRETATION:

"Qualified adult" is defined as a physician, health officer, or other adult approved and trained by the camp physician or health officer.

The screening process is an appropriate time for camp medical staff to consult with unit adults on the proper storage and distribution of medications for which the unit adults will be responsible.

For day camps and standalone COPE and climbing courses that do not operate as part of a camp, a current (within 12 months) Annual Health and Medical Record (Parts A and B) for each camper, leader, and staff member is on file in camp during the camping period and the camp has a procedure for reviewing them to ensure the camp meets Specific Requirements B through D.

VERIFICATION:

- Written medical screening protocol, including the categories of designees who will conduct the screening and how they will be prepared (may be submitted with declaration)
- Medical staff description of procedures in practice
- Observation of procedures in practice (including proper storage of medications)

HS-505

MEDICAL CARE POLICIES (COUNCIL AND CAMP)

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

Clearly written council/camp medical care policies and procedures shall be available, shared for all council camps and reviewed annually by the council's health supervisor in conjunction with the enterprise risk management committee.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. The council's health supervisor is a licensed physician practicing medicine in the applicable states.

B. Written policies for medical care services provided at each camp or class of camps include:

1. EMS contact information
2. Qualifications and location of camp medical staff
3. Written instructions from the council's health supervisor as to authority, limits, and responsibility of medical care staff
4. Leadership and expectations of nonmedical camp staff (adult and youth) to provide medical care
5. Equipment needed for camp medical service
6. Camper health screening, medication management, sanitation, and health log expectations and procedures

C. The camp has clear written authorization and procedures including operation, scope, procedures, expectations, and management of medical care. These are reviewed annually by the council's health supervisor. These include review of medical log books from previous years.

D. The council health supervisor clearly defines the roles of the camp health officers and staff based upon the qualifications and experience of the individuals in those positions.

INTERPRETATION:

The enterprise risk management committee includes the former health and safety and risk management committees nationally and would include their local equivalents. "Applicable states" means each state in which the council operates a camp. It may be necessary to have multiple health supervisors if no single individual is licensed in all applicable states.

For short-term camps, the council may adopt a generic set of policies/procedures applicable to such camps. For example, a council or camp property may have a camporee protocol that applies to all camporees that is reviewed and approved in writing by its health supervisor.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Council health care policies should address whether the camp will stock or administer, as appropriate, preventative drugs and devices such as Narcan®, epinephrine pens, Albuterol or bronchodilators as necessary and appropriate for the camp community. Policies should also address appropriate staffing and sensitivity to the needs of the more diverse populations in camp that may need medical care or intervention.

Council health care policy may need to address restrictions on staff or participant activities in case of wildfire smoke exposure.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of the council's written instructions and standard orders and council health supervisor's written approval
- Careful observation of compliance with the council health supervisor's instructions

HS-506

ON-SITE TREATMENT PROCEDURES

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

Medical care staff is continuously on call to meet routine medical needs and special medical needs in accordance with written council health care procedures and to maintain health and medication logs. Health care policies for medical care services must be approved annually by the council's health supervisor in conjunction with the enterprise risk management committee.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

Specific written policies required by this standard include:

A. Camp health operations—To include scope of care; procedures for the health lodge/first-aid station; operating practices (hours of service, emergency care, standard orders, if any); and provision of first-aid kits, AEDs, and other medical equipment.

B. Camp treatment procedures (standing orders)—Should delineate what is treated at camp and how; when EMS should be used; and procedures for any emergency medications and equipment that may be used by qualified staff (epinephrine, albuterol, nitroglycerine, AED, oxygen).

C. EMS services—Procedures for calling, contact information, and providing orientation to the EMS services providing service to the camp.

D. Authority, limits, required experience and training, medical control, and responsibilities for the camp health officer.

E. Leadership and expectation of nonmedical camp staff to provide medical care—especially first aid and understanding when an injury should be referred to a higher level of care.

F. Equipment and supplies needed for camp, including procedures for verifying expiration dates and discarding expired medication and a formulary of medications maintained for use at camp; should also include maintenance and storage of AEDs.

G. Health screening for participants and staff.

H. Medication management—Administration, storage, security (see Standard HS-508 Medication Control and Recordkeeping for specifics).

I. Sanitation of health facilities with procedures for dealing with contaminated waste and sharps.

J. Medical recordkeeping and maintenance (see Standard HS-507 Medical Recordkeeping and Reporting).

K. Selection and maintenance of camp first-aid kits.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

ON-SITE TREATMENT PROCEDURES

HS-506

(Revised January 1, 2025)

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

INTERPRETATION:

Council health supervisor is defined in Standard HS-505. Camp property/program treatment procedures (also known as “standing orders”) are written and reviewed by the council’s health supervisor for minor illness and injury that may routinely occur in camp. Clearly written directions should clarify what is normally expected and what situations require that EMS be contacted.

The appropriate council committee is the enterprise risk management committee, health and safety committee, and/or risk management committee, as appropriate.

Treatment procedures may be tailored to proven experiences and credentials of camp property/program adult (age 18 or older) caregivers.

“Continuously on call” means qualified staff are present on the property and can reach the health care facility promptly anytime campers/staff are on the property/program.

Procedures should address support for menstrual needs, including staffing, when referral to outside providers may be necessary, and menstrual products to be maintained either at the health lodge or elsewhere with sensitivity to young Scouts experiencing menstruation for the first time or irregularly and the need for various types and sizes of products.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of written treatment procedures
- Observation of compliance with procedures

HS-507

MEDICAL RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING

(Revised January 1, 2024)

STANDARD:

All health-related interactions and incidents are promptly and appropriately recorded and reported.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Daily records of all first-aid and medical treatments (written in ink) are kept in the First Aid Log books, maintained separately for campers and for staff members.

   1. Except as provided below, the Scouting America First Aid Log, No. 33681, must be used for recording all first-aid and medical treatments as well as administration of all medications.

      a. Day camps and short-term camps may use the First Aid Log for Council/District Activity or Event, No. 680-127WB, in lieu of the First Aid Log, No. 33681.

      b. Trek crews shall keep daily documentation of all first aid performed during the trek, which shall be recorded in the program's official First Aid Log at the completion of the trek.

   2. The camp health officer shall review the First Aid Log with the camp director during each camp session, not less often than once a week, to determine trends to be analyzed and any corrective actions to be taken. The camp director shall sign or initial the book during each review to indicate that the records have been reviewed.

B. All injuries, illnesses, and incidents requiring the intervention of a medical provider beyond basic Scout-rendered first aid are reported promptly following Scouting America guidelines. The camp health officer or their designee shall follow the procedures outlined in the First Aid Log to report incidents involving the intervention of a medical provider beyond camp resources. The camp director shall be immediately informed, and reports shall be filed in accordance with MyBSA/Resources/Incident reporting system.

C. Fatalities or other catastrophic incidents, including multiple serious injuries or illnesses, are immediately reported using Scouting America's Incident/Near Miss Reporting protocol. Nonfatalities or catastrophic events that require more than Scout-rendered first aid are reported within the following week.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

D. In the event of a fatality or catastrophic injury or illness, the camp director is in charge, and the camp health officer supports the camp director in following Scouting America procedures and any applicable state or federal regulations.

E. At the close of camp, all First Aid Logs and incident reports are made available to the enterprise risk management committee for review and are stored in a secure site, to be retained for 18 years or longer as required by applicable law.

INTERPRETATION:

Medical logs must be in a bound book with prenumbered pages. Separate books for staff and for campers shall include both medical treatment and medications administered. Electronic systems may be approved by application for variance. At a camp that does not operate for a full week, the camp health officer and camp director must meet at the end of each camp session to conduct the review required in Specific Requirement A.2.

VERIFICATION:

- Medical staff description of procedures in practice
- Observation of procedures in practice (where applicable)
- Observation of the medical log(s) and spot-check of completeness, without excessive intrusion into the privacy of an individual.

REFERENCES:

Scouting America's Incident/Near Miss Reporting protocol is available at scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/

HS-508

MEDICATION CONTROL AND RECORDKEEPING

(Revised January 1, 2020)

STANDARD:

The camp has policies and procedures to ensure the proper storage, administration, dispensing, and disposal of medications.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. The camp requires that all prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications be stored under lock (including those requiring refrigeration), except when in the controlled presence of health care staff or other adult leader responsible for administration and/or dispensing medications.

   1. An exception may be made for a limited amount of medication to be carried by a camper, leader, parent, or staff member for life-threatening conditions, including epinephrine injector, heart medication, and inhalers, or for a limited amount of medication approved for use in a first-aid kit.
   2. Reasonable exceptions to this general policy may be made in writing by the council health supervisor for particular camps and situations, consistent with state law.

B. Medications must be

   1. Kept in their original containers; or
   2. Labeled and maintained in a fashion approved by the council health supervisor.

C. Medications must be administered and/or dispensed as follows:

   1. For prescription medications, in accordance with the prescribing health care provider's directions or a parent/guardian's signed summary thereof.
   2. For OTC medications, in accordance with the original label, except as otherwise provided by the council's health supervisor, or a prescribing health care provider's directions, or a parent/guardian's signed summary thereof.
   3. Camp-supplied medications must be administered and/or dispensed in accordance with preapproved medical procedures approved by the council's health supervisor.

D. All administration or dispensing of medication must be recorded in accordance with the council's written policies approved by the council health supervisor.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

E. All camp-owned medications are periodically assessed and properly disposed of upon their expiration date in accordance with procedures approved by the council's health supervisor.

INTERPRETATION:

Council health supervisor is defined in standard HS-505. An "adult leader responsible for administering and recording disbursement" includes both camp staff and unit adults who have been instructed by camp medical staff concerning any medicines they may administer.

Council treatment procedures defining what medications may and may not be administered/dispensed by camp health officers and other adults must be readily available. Medications not appropriate for administration/dispensing by those other than the camp health officer or qualified physician must be identified, controlled, and unavailable to unqualified individuals.

Council written medical care procedures/policies must be posted as to what medical care staff (or other approved adult leaders) may administer or dispense without a physician's call.

Unit leaders, trek leaders, or other adult leaders may distribute medications while on property/program if the council has written medical procedures that approve distribution and all other mandated controls are in place (secured, recorded, etc.). A limited amount of medicine for life-threatening conditions (as noted on medical form by a physician) may be carried by a camper/staff for immediate care (nitroglycerin, inhalers, epinephrine injectors, etc.). Any use of these medicines or devices must be reported to camp medical care staff.

Unlabeled or expired medications must be properly destroyed.

The council must have written policies that address how administration or dispensing of medications by its medical staff and by participants will be recorded. These procedures must be approved by the council health supervisor and communicated to the participants, if applicable.

Expired drugs should not be disposed of in the sanitary sewer without express approval of the sanitary sewer authority.

VERIFICATION:

- Council's written policies/procedures for medication control, recording, administration, and dispensing (may be submitted with declaration)
- Evidence of medication logs and locked containers for clearly marked prescription and OTC medications
- Discussion with medical staff members as to how procedures are followed

HS-509

MEDICAL CARE AREA

(Revised January 1, 2020)

STANDARD:

The camp shall provide a clearly marked health care area that is appropriately equipped and includes:

A. For long-term camps, an automated external defibrillator (AED)

B. For long-term camps and day camps, lockable medical storage system (dry and cold)

C. Available toilets, washing water, and drinking water

D. Space for medical treatment

E. Protection from outside elements

INTERPRETATION:

A. "Clearly marked" means that the camp has adequate signs and building/station signage that point to where medical care is located. The facility itself should be clearly marked.

B. The council should have a health policy that addresses where AEDs should be located and which camp staff should be trained in their use to maximize the likelihood of successful application. AEDs are required for long-term camps and recommended for all other camps.

C. Trek programs must meet this requirement at their base of operations only.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of medical care area
- Discussion with medical staff members

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

HS-510

FIRST-AID KITS

(Revised January 1, 2021)

STANDARD:

The camp supplies adequate first-aid kits or ensures that they are available.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. *Day camps, long-term camps, and COPE/climbing programs.* The camp supplies first-aid kits to all on-site program areas more than 100 yards from the medical care area. All first-aid kits provided by the camp have adequate supplies and equipment. All camp first-aid kits are kept in easily identifiable, accessible containers and locations.

B. *Trek programs.* The camp supplies first-aid kits or requires them to be provided for all off-site travel or treks. Every crew or other traveling group carries a prescribed first-aid kit. All first-aid kits provided by the camp have adequate supplies and equipment.

C. *Camp properties.* Each camp property with a full-time superintendent or ranger provides a first-aid kit at a fixed location made known to participants. Visitors to a camp without a ranger or superintendent are advised of the need to provide their own first-aid kit.

INTERPRETATION:

Supplies and equipment included in council-supplied first-aid kits should be reviewed and approved by the council's health supervisor in consultation with the enterprise risk management committee. Checking of first-aid kits should be supervised by the camp health officer.

The supplies and equipment included in the first-aid kit must be inventoried and checked/restocked periodically. "Use by" dates should be checked. All first-aid kits must include means for protection from contact with bloodborne pathogens.

It is recommended that first-aid kits in camp program areas, vehicles, etc., be marked with a large red cross or otherwise marked for easy identification.

For off-site programs, the supplies in the first-aid kit should be geared to the type of injury or illness most likely to occur in the program, as documented in the risk assessment performed as part of Standard AO-805 Emergency Procedures.

VERIFICATION:

- Director/staff description of procedures in practice
- Observation of procedures in practice

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Long-term camp

HS-511

BUDDY SYSTEM

(Revised January 1, 2021)

STANDARD:

All programs stress the use of the buddy system, whereby campers engage in activities with at least one other person so that they can monitor and help each other. Using a formalized buddy system is mandated in certain adventurous or potentially dangerous activities.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

Aquatics, backpacking, and off-camp activities require use of the buddy system in accordance with procedural guidelines for each type of program. For swimming and boating, the buddy system must be used in accordance with the Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat buddy requirements. Activity afloat requires not only that each individual have a buddy but also that every craft should have a “buddy boat” when on the water.

The safety rule of four requires that no fewer than four individuals (always with a minimum of two adults) stay together on any backcountry expedition. The rule of four is used for Scout trek-type travel by vehicle, watercraft, bicycle, animal, or on foot.

INTERPRETATION:

Camp programs should include reminders to campers that the buddy system is an important safety requirement. Cub Scouts should be given orientation in how the buddy system works. Elements of the buddy system specific to particular programs should be reviewed with participants of adventurous or potentially dangerous activities.

This standard should be applied in a common-sense fashion. There may be some in-camp situations in which a buddy is not needed.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of procedures in practice

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

RP-551

MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SOCIAL HEALTH (MESH) SUPPORT

(Effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

Council MESH Implementation Plan. **The council has developed a MESH implementation plan including the following elements:**

- **Determination of whether the council health supervisor is willing/capable of addressing camp mental health preparation and, if not, identification of a council health supervisor designee to assist in development of the council camp MESH policies and plans.**
- **Identification of professional MESH resources available within the council service areas, services they provide, and how they can be accessed.**
- **Council needs assessment, which shall review camps, camp populations, camp activities, and locations and determines, with guidance from the council health supervisor/designee, needs and services to meet those needs.**
- **A training plan for camp leadership that addresses:**
- **Likely mental health needs of camp population.**
- **Awareness/recognition of symptoms of frequently occurring mental health problems likely to occur in the council's camps.**
- **Assessment of available resources.**
- **Appropriate de-escalation techniques.**

  Guidance on when and where to get additional help/resources and whom to notify
- **Implementation of camp MESH Implementation Plan.**
- **Incident reporting.**

Camp MESH Implementation Plan. **Each long-term camp and multi-day day camp has a MESH implementation plan including the following elements reviewed and approved by the council health supervisor/designee:**

- **Training for camp leadership in recognizing and initial support for MESH incidents and awareness training for additional staff, with training on in-staff referral and escalation.**
- **Identification of a qualified mental health professional or network on call to assist camp leadership in responding to MESH incidents.**
- **A MESH response guide, including policies or guidance on handling of expected incidents and when escalation to outside resources or transfer out of camp environment is appropriate. Policies and guidance should also address proper communication**

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

with council leadership, family, and outside agencies in a way that both protects and respects the individuals with the MESH incident.

- **Identification and training of MESH incident response team.**
- **Parent information for inclusion in parent/leader guide, including notes such as camp is not the time to change up medication and risks of omitting information from AHMR.**

MESH Response Guide for Short-Term Camps. **The council has a short-term camp MESH response guide for short term activities that addresses elements of Specific Requirement B appropriate for the general short term camp experience reviewed and approved by the council health supervisor/designee. For short term camps that in the judgment of the council health supervisor/designee have unusual risks, a MESH implementation plan specific to the camp is developed.**

Annual Review. **Each year, the council in conjunction with its council health supervisor/designee, reviews MESH incidents at its camps and makes appropriate adjustments to the council and camp MESH implementation plans, training plans and response guides.**

INTERPRETATION:

The council health supervisor/designee used in this standard is either the council health supervisor, if capable and willing, or that individual's designee to act on their behalf on mental health issues.

The Recommended Practice will remain in place for the indefinite future and be updated as Scouting learns more. The prior goal of adopting a standard is deferred until Scouting has a stronger evidence base on what measures are effective.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of mental health network resources and discussion with camp leadership regarding engagement of these approved individuals.
- Review of written treatment procedures that includes mental health care needs.

RP-551

MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SOCIAL HEALTH (MESH) SUPPORT

(Effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026)

REFERENCE:

Scouting America's Safe Scouting Committee has developed a resource to assist councils and camps in developing a MESH plan that provides general direction and helpful questions as well as lists of resources. It may be found at:

filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/680-064(23)-MESH-Planning-Template.pdf

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

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SOCIAL HEALTH (MESH) SUPPORT

(Effective January 1, 2027)

RP-551

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

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.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. **Council MESH plan elements.**

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.
2. The plan identifies professional MESH resources available to the council, the services that they provide, and how they can be accessed.
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.
4. A written plan for camp leadership that is consistent with Scouting America's MESH Planning Template for Councils, and includes the following elements:
   a. Likely mental health needs of the camp population (participants, staff, leaders and visitors);
   b. Awareness/recognition of symptoms of frequently occurring mental health problems likely to occur in the council's camps;
   c. An assessment of resources available to camp leadership;
   d. Appropriate de-escalation techniques;
   e. Guidance on when and where to get additional help/resources and whom to contact for such help;
   f. Direction on how to implement the camp MESH plan; and
   g. Incident reporting, including to Scouting America, the council and any reporting required to an authority having jurisdiction.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

B. **Long-term Camp MESH plan.** 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:

1. Training for camp staff in recognizing and responding to MESH incidents;
2. Identification of a qualified mental health professional or network on call to assist camp leadership in responding to MESH incidents;
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
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.

C. **Short-term camp MESH plan.** 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.

D. **Communication to camp leadership.** 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.

E. **Annual review.** 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.

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
- 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 (MESH Camp Staff Training Slides)

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

RP-552

SAFETY MOMENT

(Effective January 1, 2024)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp includes a safety moment as part of its daily program to help foster safety awareness and a culture of safety.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of camp program and safety moments used.

REFERENCES:

Example safety moments may be found at the Scouting America national health and safety website: scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

COMMISSARY AND FOOD SERVICE (FS) STANDARDS

Food service is an important function in all Scouting America activities. The planning, preparation, storage, and disposal of food items are critical to the health of individuals participating in Scouting America activities.

The commissary and food service standards apply to all Scouting America activities where food is prepared either in a common kitchen, patrol or unit site, or for a trek.

All applicable standards must be met for accreditation.

FS-601

MENU PLANNING

(Revised January 1, 2022)

STANDARD:

A camp that provides food to staff or participants has a food plan that provides for safe and nutritious food.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Menus. All camps providing food shall develop menus where:
   1. Calories are suitable for the age groups and activity level.
   2. Types of food selected can be safely kept during transportation, storage, and preparation given the location and type of camp or program activity.
   3. Foods selected will appeal to the majority of the participants.
   4. At long-term camps and multiday day camps, the menus are checked for suitability by a dietitian.

B. Reasonable provision is made to ensure food is available to meet special dietary needs (such as allergies or diabetic requirements), or, if the camp is unable to meet these needs, the need for the participant to bring such food is clearly communicated to the participants in published materials in advance.

C. Reasonable efforts are made to reduce excess sugar and fat, provide whole grains and adequate fiber when appropriate, and provide fruit or vegetables at least twice a day.

INTERPRETATION:

A “dietitian” is a licensed dietitian, an individual with college-level training in diet and/or nutrition, or an individual with five or more years of experience in food planning for institutional or camp settings with continuing education in nutrition.

The dietitian should either approve the menus offered or approve guidelines to be followed by the food service staff. The menu approval or guidelines for food service staff must be in writing.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of menus if camp offers food
- At long-term camps and multiday day camps, review of dietitian credentials and approval of menus
- If camp offers food service, interview with the on-site head of food service to assess understanding of the menus and dietitian guidelines, if applicable, and how they are followed.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

FS-602

FOOD SERVICE

(Revised January 1, 2021)

STANDARD:

If the camp operates a kitchen, dining hall, commissary or a trading post where it prepares and serves food, the camp meets all applicable federal, state and local food storage, handling, preparation, service and facility standards and must have any required licenses. All food service areas are kept clean and sanitary to avoid contamination of food, beverage, utensils or servingware. Proper arrangements are made for disposal of garbage and maintaining garbage receptacles in a clean condition.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. All equipment, utensils, and surfaces used in the preparation and serving of food are clean and sanitary. Dining hall tables, benches, and serving facilities are clean and in good repair. The dining hall has good ventilation and adequate room to walk freely between tables.
B. Smoking is not allowed in the dining hall nor is it permitted in the kitchen. A smoking zone away from any food preparation, serving, dining, and camping areas may be designated if local ordinances permit.
C. For patrol/unit cooking, the same standards are applied to the preparation of the food prior to its delivery to the unit and instructions for any further preparation are provided upon delivery.
D. Cub Scouts are fed in a dining hall, though special program features may include an occasional cookout or bag lunch.

INTERPRETATION:

Standard AO-801 requires compliance with all applicable laws. Standard FS-602 emphasizes the critical importance of maintaining code compliant food service facilities and keeping them clean and sanitary. If the camp has no applicable local health department exercising jurisdiction over food service operations, for 2021 and 2022 it may comply with the 2020 standards and must apply for a variance from the National NCAP Committee to establish appropriate procedures to ensure food safety and health. Such a camp must keep a copy of the 2020 Standards for reference by the camp assessment team. If a camp has a local authority exercising jurisdiction, but cannot obtain proof of approval, the camp may arrange with a certified individual meeting local standards or a ServSafe Manager to review its operations and provide written approval of the camp's operations as complying with local code (and ServSafe guidelines, if a ServSafe Manager is used).

VERIFICATION:

- Review of current local approval of food service operations. If no current local approval is possible, review of appropriate locally-certified or ServSafe Manager approval completed shortly prior to or within first week of camp.
- Review of cleanliness and sanitary appearance of facilities.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

FS-603

CAMPS/PROGRAMS WITHOUT DINING HALLS

(Revised January 1, 2023)

STANDARD:

A camp that does not serve food in a dining hall shall provide sufficient guidance to participants on food storage, preparation and garbage disposal provisions so that participants are adequately prepared.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Food preparation, if any, prior to distribution to participants meets the requirements of Standards FS-601 and FS-602, as applicable.

B. Guidelines for safe food preparation, storage, and disposal are provided in the camp literature to the participants in advance of arrival.

C. The camp makes adequate provision for collection of unavoidable food preparation waste at reasonable frequencies and locations, and this information is communicated to participants in advance.

D. For trek programs and outpost camps:

1. The camp provides guidance on proper food preparation, storage and disposal as part of the trek or outpost instruction or during initial meal preparation on the trek or outpost.
2. The camp makes adequate provision, either at the trek location or by portable methods, for food storage that will maintain food reasonably safe from animal or vermin intrusion.
3. The camp makes adequate provision for collection of unavoidable food preparation waste at reasonable frequencies and locations on the trek or outpost, and this information is communicated to trek participants in advance.

INTERPRETATION:

This standard is met if the camp provides sufficient guidelines in its written program materials provided to participants on how food must be transported, stored, prepared, and disposed of to maintain hygiene and health. For trek programs, staff must accompany the program participants on their initial trek meals to ensure proper understanding and ability to properly transport, store, prepare, and dispose of food wastes.

If a camp provides food to participants for their own preparation, the camp remains subject to the duty to comply with Standard FS-601 for the food it is providing relative to the program, e.g., the duty is greater if the camp provides all of the food and lesser if it provides only a small part such as an ice cream social. A camp providing food for preparation by participants remains subject to FS-602 for food handling until it provides the food to participants with appropriate instructions.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

CAMPS/PROGRAMS WITHOUT DINING HALLS

(Effective January 1, 2023)

FS-603

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

VERIFICATION:

- Review of literature to ensure required information provided.
- Visual review of camp garbage collection procedures and handling.
- Review of trek crew equipment provision for food and garbage handling.
- Review of trek staff training crew members, when possible.

FACILITIES (FA) STANDARDS

The facilities standards set forth the minimum requirements expected of a Scouting America-accredited facility. They apply to all Scouting America camp properties and all camps as specified in the specific standard.

Facilities standards may be assessed at the initial camp assessment visit during the year and carried over for subsequent programs.

All applicable standards must be met for accreditation.

FA-701

CAMP FACILITY EVALUATION AND POSTCAMP/PRECAMP INSPECTION

(Revised January 1, 2014)

STANDARD:

The council conducts a postcamp/precamp review.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. The council assembles a postcamp/precamp review team. The team visits the camp to:

1. Assess the readiness to open for the next season and develop a work list that needs to be completed to open.
2. Assess ongoing maintenance and establish a list of maintenance projects for the short and long term.
3. Assess the health and safety of the facility and plan needed corrections.
4. Assess the quality of the facility using the Scouting America Camp Facility Evaluation tool, if needed.

B. Based upon this evaluation, a schedule is established to ensure that short-term corrective actions necessary for safe camp operation are addressed promptly. Additionally, at least at the beginning and end of each authorization period, the team assigns a grade to each facility and the overall camp using the Camp Facility Evaluation Tool. This scoring system is used by the council to develop both short-term corrective actions and long-term development plans for the camp property. The budget is reviewed for adequacy and recommendations prepared for action by the appropriate council committees.

INTERPRETATION:

The postcamp/precamp inspection process should be completed before the Declaration of Readiness. For camp properties that serve solely as year-round camps, the review may be scheduled at the convenience of the council, so long as it is conducted annually. The inspection of a COPE/climbing course may be combined with the COPE/climbing course inspection required in Standard FA-715, Specific Requirements B through E, as appropriate.

VERIFICATION:

- Council documentation of the process in the Declaration of Readiness.
- For short-term camps, the NCAP Site Appraisal Form is signed by the Scout executive or their designee.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

FA-702

DRINKING WATER

(Revised January 1, 2013)

STANDARD:

Adequate access to safe drinking water is provided to all participants.

INTERPRETATION:

Drinking water is from an approved public water system source or is tested regularly during the season for bacteriological quality, and meets governmental health standards. In the absence of an applicable health code, piped or provided water supplies are tested at least once a year at the start of camp.

Except for primitive backcountry camps used during treks or for outpost camping, drinking water is provided at appropriate locations via sanitary fountains or portable water coolers. Personal (individual use only) water bottles or disposable cups (no shared cups) may be used.

For trek camps and outpost camps, suitable locations and practices for obtaining safe drinking water must be provided to participants, including training on how to obtain and treat the water. All untreated sources of water must be disinfected with an approved water filter, appropriate chemical treatment with adequate contact time, or approved equivalent. Crews are instructed to ensure that everyone consumes adequate liquid and to carry enough water disinfectant and containers to maintain proper hydration based upon available water sources.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of certificate and records where needed
- For all camps except trek programs, spot-checking of water availability
- For trek programs, staff member explanation of participant training on water treatment

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

FA-703

FIRE DETECTION AND PROTECTION

(Revised January 1, 2020)

STANDARD:

Adequate provision is made for fire detection and protection.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

All *camps* and *camp properties* must comply with specific requirement A. Camp properties must also comply with specific requirements B through F.

A. *Campwide.* A camp fire protection plan is in effect that addresses campsite, building, and area fires. Camp staff training includes specific instructions related to the staff's roles during a fire emergency. Campers and leaders are oriented in the fireguard plan, and a campwide drill is held within 24 hours of arrival in camp at long-term camps. Central firefighting equipment is neatly placed and is in good condition, ready for immediate use if included in the fire plan. Examples of such equipment include hoses, back pumps, rakes, shovels, and mattocks.

B. *Buildings.*

1. Fire extinguishers of an approved size and type commensurate with the hazard are required. Extinguishers should be mounted near a doorway or adjacent to specific hazards and at approximately shoulder level. Current inspection tags will be evident on each extinguisher, and inspection will be performed by a professional trained in their maintenance in accordance with the requirements of local codes. Refer to the current edition of NFPA 10 and OSHA 1910.157 for required placement, type, and size of extinguishers.
2. All doors on buildings comply with local codes. Generally, code requires doors in buildings that serve 50 people or more to open in the direction of escape travel.
3. Operating smoke detection is required in every enclosed permanent structure where people work, gather, or sleep. The quantity and location of detectors shall be in accordance with recognized national and local codes (NFPA, local fire codes, etc.).
4. Carbon monoxide detection is required in every enclosed permanent structure where people sleep and there is a device fueled by an energy source that produces carbon monoxide. The quantity and location of detectors shall be in accordance with recognized national and local codes.

C. *Kitchens.* Kitchens will have approved fire extinguishers commensurate with the hazard. If a fire-suppression system is used for cooking hood(s), these systems along with extinguishers will have current inspection tags evident, and inspection will be performed by a professional trained in their maintenance in accordance with the requirements of local codes.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

D. *Tents.*

1. All camp-provided tentage used in the camp meets or exceeds fire-retardant specifications by the manufacturer (CPAI-84).
2. At long-term camps, “No Flames in Tents” is marked on, or adjacent to, each camp-provided tent. Where unit- or personally-supplied tents are used, the campsite displays a prominent “No Flames in Tents” sign.

E. *Bulk flammable storage.* Bulk containers of flammable liquids are properly located, vented, secured, and connected in accordance with the supplier’s recommendation and local codes. Fuel pumps are locked; all flammable fuels are safely stored in approved containers that are locked or located in a controlled locker area or facility. Fire extinguishers will be provided in accordance with Section B.1 above.

F. *Signage.* “Danger—No Smoking” signs are posted at fuel storage locations where required by code or established by council policy.

INTERPRETATION:

The primary requirement is that the camp conduct a risk assessment for fire and carbon monoxide risks and develop an appropriate fireguard plan. The camp fire protection plan should be coordinated with the emergency plans addressed in Standard AO-805 Emergency Procedures. Where smoke detection is a problem due to hot work such as welding, local codes may provide for alternatives such as heat detection.

Backpacking-type fuel bottles and consumer-use propane and LPG cylinders up to 30 pounds used for grills and lanterns are not considered to be bulk containers for purposes of this standard.

VERIFICATION:

- Visual inspection and check of inspection tags and signs

FA-704

CONSERVATION PLAN

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

There is an approved and current conservation plan for the camp property. The plan addresses the protection and stewardship of biological, ecological, and cultural resources of the camp property.

INTERPRETATION:

The conservation plan should be approved by the appropriate council officer or committee. A conservation plan is current if it has been reviewed by the appropriate council officer or committee within the past five years and it is not obsolete (e.g., most actions referenced occur in the past) or fails to address an obvious issue (e.g., fire that burned significant portion of camp more than six months before).

Refer to the *Council Conservation Committee Guidebook,* No. 430-022, available online.

VERIFICATION:

- Documentation of the plan and appropriate approvals
- Observation of the plan in action

REFERENCES:

The *Council Conservation Committee Guidebook,* No. 430-022, is available at scouting.org/outdoor-programs/conservation-and-environment/conservation-resources/

Applies to:

Camp properties

Long-term camp

FA-705

UTILITY EMERGENCY SHUTOFF

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

Current drawings are available on-site showing all electric, gas, water, and sewer systems and lines, with locations of shutoff switches or valves to interrupt service should the need arise. Key staff have access to and know how to operate the shutoffs.

INTERPRETATION:

Simple drawings indicate locations of shutoffs for safe shutdown of utilities. Drawings must be accessible to key staff. Locations of shutoffs are labeled on simple drawings, and instructions are provided for safe shutdown. A hard copy of these documents is accessible to key staff. Photos of each shutoff may be included in the hard copy documents.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of the drawings and instructions
- Discussion of the plan with key staff

Applies to:

Camp properties

Long-term camp

FA-706

STATIONARY FUEL-FIRED AND ELECTROMECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

(Revised January 1, 2013)

STANDARD:

All stationary fuel-fired or electromechanical equipment is maintained in good condition and is properly secured.

Applies to:

Camp properties

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

For all stationary fuel-fired and electromechanical equipment:

A. Each appliance is maintained in good repair and in safe operating condition.

B. Either the manufacturer's recommendations for maintenance or an approved maintenance plan is followed. Records documenting maintenance are available.

C. All boilers, pressure tanks, and on-demand and standard water heaters are equipped with operating pressure relief valves that discharge within 6 inches of the appliance base or as provided by code. Exhaust gases are vented to the outside of the building, and the vent pipes are maintained to avoid leaks. Each piece of this equipment is inspected by a qualified person during the current year before camp opens. A tag noting the date of inspection is affixed to the appliance.

D. All mechanical equipment guards are in place. Electrical equipment should use ground fault protection.

E. All hazardous areas due to the presence of stationary fuel-fired or electromechanical equipment are properly secured from access by campers and visitors.

INTERPRETATION:

Stationary equipment is defined as equipment that is permanently mounted or affixed. Fuel-fired equipment is typically boilers and water heaters but may also include fixed generators and similar equipment. Electrical boxes are included. Hand tools are not included.

VERIFICATION:

- Visual observation and review of records

FA-707

TOILETS AND LATRINES

(Revised January 1, 2024)

STANDARD:

Toilets and latrines are clean, well-ventilated, in good repair with adequate insect and pest control, and located throughout camp and/or in each campsite. Procedures for separate use of restroom facilities by males and females and by youth and adults are in effect.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. For long-term camps, at least one seat is required for every 15 campers. Hand-washing or sanitation facilities are provided near each facility.

B. For day camps and short-term camps, at least one seat is required for every 30 campers. Hand-washing or sanitation facilities are provided near each facility.

C. Trek programs must meet the long-term standard in a base camp. In the field, toilets and latrines must meet the standard if provided.

D. The camp or camp property shall have procedures in place, including periodic checks, to ensure that safety, sanitation, and privacy of participants is maintained.

INTERPRETATION:

Multiple toilets in a single location do not require redundant hand-washing or sanitation facilities.

All procedures must comply with Youth Protection policies. The procedures should specify periodic checks to ensure safety and sanitary conditions are maintained and privacy is not compromised. Daily checks during high-use/high-exposure periods may be needed with less frequency required during off-season periods. It is recommended that staff performing the checks be rotated during camp to maintain a high standard. It is preferred to have separate facilities for staff and campers.

COPE/climbing courses should ensure some toilet facilities are available if located on a camp property.

Short-term camps held on a camp property may supplement the fixed toilets and latrines with portable toilets to achieve the required ratio without requiring the camp property to increase the number of fixed toilets or latrines, if consistent with applicable law.

VERIFICATION:

- Visual inspection
- Discussion of check procedures

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

FA-708

SHOWERS

(Revised January 1, 2024)

STANDARD:

All campers, leaders, and staff members have access to clean shower facilities and comfortably warm showers on a regular basis throughout the session. The facilities are checked to verify their safe and sanitary condition and privacy on a periodic basis. At least one operable showerhead is provided for each 20 participants (including staff). Procedures for separate use of shower facilities by males and females and by youth and adults are in effect.

INTERPRETATION:

All procedures must comply with Youth Protection policies. The procedures should specify periodic checks to ensure safety and sanitary conditions are maintained and privacy is not compromised. Daily checks during high-use/high-exposure periods may be needed with less frequency required during off-season periods. It is recommended that staff performing the checks be rotated during camp to maintain a high standard. It is preferred to have separate facilities for staff and campers.

Trek programs must have sufficient showers to meet staff and camper needs in the base camp(s).

VERIFICATION:

- Visual observation
- Discussion of check procedures

Applies to:

Long-term camp

FA-709

REFRIGERATION UNIT MAINTENANCE AND TEMPERATURE CONTROL

(Revised January 1, 2023)

STANDARD:

All camp refrigeration units are clean, sanitary, and able to achieve required temperatures.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. A temperature of not more than 40 degrees F or 4 degrees C must be maintained for refrigerators. A temperature of not more than 0 degrees F or -18 degrees C must be maintained for freezers.

B. When a refrigeration unit is in use, a temperature log is completed daily at each refrigerator and freezer. These logs must be verified and signed each day by the relevant area director.

C. A nonmercuric thermometer is used in each refrigeration unit.

D. Walk-in refrigerators and/or freezers have an opening device on both sides of the door and are self-closing.

INTERPRETATION:

This standard does not cover kitchen and dining hall refrigeration equipment or trading post perishable food refrigeration equipment, which are covered by Standards FS-601 through FS-603. This standard covers health lodge medication refrigeration equipment and other refrigeration that is used for program purposes or community refrigerators made available to participants. This standard does not cover vending machines (unless containing perishable items), personal ice machines, or refrigeration appliances unless also used for food service or program purposes by camp participants. Original equipment supplied thermometers are acceptable if they are nonmercuric, accurate, and visible, and can meet the range requirements in Specific Requirement A.

VERIFICATION:

- Visual inspection of the refrigeration units, thermometers, and charts
- Discussion with staff on procedures followed

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

FA-710

GARBAGE AND SEWAGE REMOVAL

(Revised January 1, 2021)

STANDARD:

Disposal of garbage, refuse, and sewage meets the demand of the maximum number of campers in attendance. Garbage storage facilities are clean, and pest control is adequate.

INTERPRETATION:

It is anticipated that raw garbage should be removed from the individual campsites daily in day camp, short-term camps, and long-term camps. Camps offering outpost or trek programs should provide guidance on garbage handling and provide reasonable options for garbage handling, consistent with the nature of the program.

The use of commercial portable toilet facilities for disposal of human waste and toilet paper, if used and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's directions and local code, is acceptable.

VERIFICATION:

- Visual inspection of garbage-handling practices
- Review of sewage-handling practices

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

FA-711

MOTOR VEHICLES

(Revised January 1, 2024)

STANDARD:

All vehicles used in camp are kept in safe mechanical order and operated in a safe and legal manner. Vehicles are maintained to state inspection standards, if applicable, whether licensed or not. Policies are in place to address motor vehicle use and parking, including personal vehicles.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. A first-aid kit and fire extinguisher are carried in all camp service motor vehicles (UTV/golf cart/LTV, etc.). Operators and passengers must use safety belts and rollover protective structures, if provided by the original manufacturer, following the manufacturer's guidelines.

B. Vehicles owned by staff members, leaders, and visitors are parked in designated camp parking areas.

C. The council has established a vehicle access, parking, and use policy that provides guidelines for when and where vehicles may be used, handling of keys, and safety requirements for vehicle use.

D. Training for golf carts or LTVs must follow the specific manufacturer's training requirements and include operating limitations. Training must be documented and maintained on file.

E. Training for UTVs must follow specific manufacturers' training requirements and include blended or hands-on certification of all operators via rohva.org. Online training only is not adequate; drivers must also complete the hands-on Basic Driver Course component certified by the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association.

F. UTVs and golf carts may be used by maintenance personnel or to transport disabled or other individuals on camp property when the operator is 18 years of age or older and is trained in the safe operation of the vehicle according to the council usage policy and sections C, D, and E above.

G. ATVs may be used by maintenance personnel or other staff on camp property when the operator is 18 years of age or older and has completed an All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute (ASI) safety training program in its entirety. No deviation is permitted from the course outline in the safe operation of the vehicle. Proper personal protection equipment is used at all times during ATV operation by staff. No passengers are allowed.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

H. ATVs may only be used for program if the camp is part of the official Scouting America ATV program.

I. Passengers may not be carried in the beds of trucks or in UTVs or trailers.

J. Hayrides may be provided following the guidelines in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

K. Fifteen-passenger vans, regardless of ownership, may be used for camp purposes only if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The van is of 2005 or later model year manufacture, as indicated in the owner's manual.
2. The van is equipped with Electronic Stability Control.
3. The van is equipped with seat belts for the driver and each passenger.

INTERPRETATION:

"Motor vehicles" include:

- Trucks and automobiles
- All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) (not including ATV program vehicles subject to Standard PS-205 All-Terrain Vehicle Programs)
- Utility terrain vehicles (UTVs)
- Recreational off-highway vehicles (ROHVs)
- Golf carts or LTVs
- Farm equipment

The following interpretive rules are used in applying this standard:

- A vehicle classified by the manufacturer as an ATV, ROHV or UTV is classified as that type of vehicle under the standards regardless of changes made to the vehicle.
- An ROHV that is not classified as either an ATV or a UTV shall be treated as a UTV. NCAP will accept ATV training for an as-delivered single person ROHV as equivalent to UTV training.
- A vehicle which is not an ATV, ROHV, UTV or farm equipment may be classified as an LTV if all of the following conditions are met: (1) its maximum speed as delivered from the manufacturer is under 20 mph; and (2) it was not equipped with a rollbar as delivered.
- Farm equipment includes tractors, harvesters and similar specialty equipment. It does not include trucks, ATVs, ROHVs, UTVs or LTVs even if used incidentally in farm operations.

MOTOR VEHICLES

(Revised January 1, 2024)

Personal vehicles used for camp purposes are to be considered "council-operated vehicles" for purposes of this standard. All vehicles used in camp for camp purposes (e.g., including personal vehicles used for camp purposes) must meet this standard and council and *Guide to Safe Scouting* guidelines. Designated parking areas must be utilized.

Unlicensed vehicles are to be maintained to applicable state standards.

VERIFICATION:

- Visual observation
- Verification of training records if UTVs or golf carts/LTVs are used
- Verification of council UTV/golf cart usage policy
- Discussion of motor vehicle use with key staff
- Inspection and documentation of vehicle maintenance
- Verification of All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute training for ATV usage
- Visual observation of appropriate use of personal protection equipment

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

FA-712

TREE REMOVAL AND CHAIN SAW OPERATION

(Revised January 1, 2020)

STANDARD:

Trees must be felled and chain saws used in a safe manner.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Persons felling trees more than 6 inches in diameter by any means must be approved by the council designee. All tree cutting must be properly supervised, and a spotter must be present.

B. Any person who operates a chain saw must be approved by the council designee.

C. Chain saw operators must be at least 21 years old and meet one of the following requirements:

1. Be a professional forester with current credentials and liability insurance.
2. Be a certified arborist with credentials.
3. Have written documentation of training in chain saw techniques from one of the following: (a) a state or federally recognized chain saw training course approved by the council; or (b) the Scouting America Chain Saw Basic Training course, No. 430-136.

D. Individuals using chain saws are equipped with the following safety gear:

1. An appropriate first-aid kit is within easy access
2. High-top boots, preferably leather
3. Long pants
4. Leather work gloves (or equivalent)
5. Eye protection—ANSI-compliant safety glasses, goggles, or face shield
6. Hearing protection
7. Hard hat
8. Chain saw chaps

INTERPRETATION:

Camps that fell trees off camp property must comply with the requirements of the land owner or land manager and this standard. A state or federally approved chain saw course is, for example, training offered to U.S. Forest Service or state forestry personnel or volunteers in chain saw use. Effective September 1, 2021, chain saw training is good for five years. Those completing the course prior to September 1, 2021, will be considered trained until September 1, 2026.

VERIFICATION:

- Discussion with camp staff

REFERENCES:

- The Scouting America Chain Saw Basic Training course is available on the Outdoor Programs website at scouting.org/outdoor-programs/.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

FA-713

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

All hazardous materials are used under prescribed methods and are handled and stored under correct methods. Staff handling hazardous materials should be made aware of the risks and how to access and interpret the label or SDS.

INTERPRETATION:

Hazardous materials are any products that are either a physical hazard (such as corrosive or flammable) or a health hazard (toxic). Such products include those regulated as pesticides as well as items such as paints, acids or cleaning solvents. Hazardous materials do not include consumer products (other than pesticides) brought on-site by staff or campers for personal use only and used in a consumer fashion.

When pesticides such as insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, disinfectants and water treatment chemicals (such as chlorine) are used, they must be approved for those uses by the US EPA. Use instructions on the product labeling must be strictly followed.

All containers of hazardous materials must be properly labeled. Labels must not be removed or defaced. If hazardous materials are transferred to another container, the new container must be marked appropriately unless it will be used only by the person filling the container during a single work event and will then be returned to the primary container or discarded.

Current Safety Data Sheets (SDS) must be readily accessible to staff in their primary work area, including in trek situations. Handling and storage instructions on the labels and SDSs of all hazardous materials must be carefully followed. Disposal of hazardous materials or their containers is done according to label instructions or in accordance with applicable regulations. The camp complies with all of OSHA's Hazard Communication Standards.

SDS sheets for chemicals no longer in use must be kept for 30 years after last use unless the camp keeps another record documenting employee exposure. Current and no longer in use SDS sheets should be kept separately to minimize burden and confusion. Electronic records are acceptable so long as they are readily accessible to staff and backups are available in the event of power or system outage.

It is recommended that at the close of each camp season the camp review all hazardous materials on the property and dispose of those which are expired, unusable, or unsuitable for the camp environment.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

FA-713

(Revised January 1, 2025)

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of on-site materials and SDS sheets
- Observation of hazardous material use and storage areas and whether SDS are available within reasonable proximity
- Cross-reference of observed chemicals with SDS sheets and check a sample of SDS sheets to ensure they are current (within last three years)
- Discussion of when the camp last reviewed chemicals in storage and retired expired, unusable or unsuitable items

REFERENCE:

- Requirements for hazardous communication are found at 29 CFR Section 1910.1200

FA-714

SHELTER IN INCLEMENT WEATHER

(Revised January 1, 2013)

STANDARD:

The camp provides adequate shelter and has a plan for continuing program in inclement weather; activities are adjusted as needed.

VERIFICATION:

- Visual observation and discussion with camp staff

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

FA-715

COPE AND CLIMBING FACILITIES

(Revised January 1, 2024)

STANDARD:

All COPE and climbing facilities are properly installed and inspected in compliance with the policies of Scouting America; Association for Challenge Course Technology Standards; and other governing jurisdiction regulations.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Program sites on Scouting America property are located where access is controlled or monitored and warning signs are posted.

B. The COPE course, climbing area (natural and/or constructed), bouldering walls, and portable climbing structures are properly inspected annually by members of the council.

C. All COPE course and artificial climbing structures shall receive a professional inspection pursuant to ANSI/ACCT Standard 03-2019, Chapter 1, Sections B.1.2 and B.2 annually.

1. This inspection shall be documented by a written report.
2. The council shall prepare a written response to the inspection report within 60 days setting forth a schedule to correct any deficiencies.
3. A council or camp may not operate a COPE or climbing course element after a professional inspection finding of an imminent life safety deficiency until the deficiency is corrected and the correction is approved by a qualified person.

D. Portable challenge structures (e.g., portable climbing walls, portable challenge courses) shall be set up, operated, maintained, inspected, and recertified according to manufacturer's recommendations.

1. All custom fabricated portable challenge structures shall receive an acceptance inspection pursuant to ANSI/ACCT Standard 03-2019, Chapter 1, Section B.1.1 and B.2 prior to use.
2 All custom fabricated portable challenge structures shall also comply with Specific Requirement C.

E. Climbing bolts and hangers installed on Scouting America property must have written council approval and have been properly installed and inspected twice annually by a qualified person and be specifically designed for climbing purposes. Pitons are never used in Scouting America climbing.

F. All newly constructed COPE and climbing facilities must have an initial acceptance inspection pursuant to ANSI/ACCT Standard 03-2019, Chapter 1, Section B.1.1 and B.2 prior to use. Scouting America requires an independent qualified person conduct this inspection.

COPE AND CLIMBING FACILITIES

FA-715

(Revised January 1, 2024)

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

INTERPRETATION:

A COPE/climbing course or portable challenge structure should receive at least the following inspections annually under NCAP: a precamp/postcamp inspection by the council; an annual professional inspection under the ANSI/ACCT Standard 03-2019, and an annual NCAP inspection (this will occur at least twice if the program is located at a long-term camp—once by the council and once by the zone). Some states may regulate zip lines or other COPE course elements as amusement rides, which may also require an inspection. Councils are responsible for ensuring compliance with all state and local laws.

The purpose of the precamp/postcamp inspection is for the council to assess what needs to be done to prepare the course for the next season. This fulfills requirements under Standard FA-701. It could also fulfill Specific Requirement B.

The purpose of the professional inspection is to ensure that the COPE/climbing course or custom-fabricated portable challenge structure physically meets life safety requirements under ANSI/ACCT Standard 03-2019. The inspector must prepare a written report confirming that the inspection conforms to Standard 03-2019, that the inspector is a qualified person, and setting forth any deficiencies and recommendations. The council has 60 days to prepare a written response setting forth the proposed corrective action (or disputing the finding) and a schedule by which it will be implemented. Corrective action must be verified by a qualified person or a competent person acting for a qualified person. This may occur during the inspection.

The purpose of the NCAP assessment is primarily to view the course in action to assess whether the staffing and program requirements of Standard PS-206 and SQ-409 are met and are primarily addressed in that standard. However, the NCAP assessment must also confirm that the professional inspection has occurred, that the council has responded, and that the review of the paperwork shows that the course is being maintained as necessary to protect life safety. If, based upon the written report and response, the NCAP assessment team has concerns that life safety may not be protected (for example, the report identifies a life safety issue that the response does not address at all), it should immediately contact the National NCAP staff advisor and identify those concerns in its report.

Independent qualified inspector means an inspector without a financial interest in the initial construction of the COPE or climbing course. After the initial inspection, any qualified inspector may conduct subsequent inspections.

Properly installed: Installed by a qualified person according to manufacturer's recommendations for the specified application/situation.

Properly inspected: Checked against a written standard or checklist developed by a qualified person and documented in writing.

COPE AND CLIMBING FACILITIES

(Revised January 1, 2024)

Professional inspection: Defined by the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) standards as: "An inspection carried out by a qualified person or competent person under the supervision of a qualified person to assess the condition of the course and identify whether there are any areas failing to meet standard or likely to fail to meet standard in the near term." In this case, the qualified person directing the activities of the inspection must have extensive knowledge, training, and/or experience in maintenance and inspection of COPE and climbing facilities and equipment.

Qualified person: Defined in the Association for Challenge Course Technology standards as: "An individual who, by possession of a recognized degree, certificate or professional standing; or who, by possession of extensive knowledge, training and/or experience in the subject field; has successfully demonstrated ability in design, analysis, evaluation, installation, inspection, specification or training in the subject work, project or product, to the extent established by this Standard." Possession of a National Camping School certificate, standing alone, does not make a person a "qualified person" under the ANSI/ACCT standard for purposes of assessing course facilities and life safety.

For example, in item B, a person who develops the written maintenance checklist must have extensive knowledge, training, and/or experience in maintenance and inspection of COPE and climbing facilities and equipment.

Another example is item E, which specifies that climbing bolts must be installed and inspected by a "qualified person." In this case, the person who installs or inspects climbing bolts must have training and experience installing and inspecting climbing bolts.

VERIFICATION:

- During an NCAP assessment of a COPE/climbing course, the assessment team shall verify that the ANSI/ACCT inspection has occurred within the past year (within 12 months) by reviewing the professional inspection report and the council's response. If the report is not available, or does not state that it was conducted in accordance with ANSI/ACCT Standard 03-2019, or does not state that the inspector is a qualified person, or the council's response appears inadequate to address a health or safety concern, then the assessment team should notify NCAP@scouting.org.
- Physical inspection of elements and structures meeting the description of a COPE/climbing course

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

- Evaluation of program documents (may be submitted with declaration):
  - Inspection documents
    - Council self-inspection checklist and reports
    - Documentation of corrective actions
  - Inspection documents
    - Qualified inspector report for constructed facilities
    - Documentation of corrective actions
    - Access to a current edition of ACCT standards through a verified ACCT member
  - Manufacturer's documentation for portable climbing walls
  - Bolt and hanger installation and inspection records

REFERENCES:

The Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) standards are available to members online. The council must have a printed or digital copy available or at least one ACCT member to access the on-line standards.

Discounted membership rates may be available. Contact NCAP@scouting.org for guidance on obtaining the discounted rate.

A list of professional ACCT vendors is found at acctinfo.org

FA-716

ATV COURSE AND FACILITY STANDARDS

(Effective January 1, 2020)

STANDARD:

If offered, an ATV course is designed and maintained to provide safe, efficient operation of an ATV safety training program.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. On-camp property courses must be addressed by and follow the camp's conservation plan to minimize impacts on the environment.

B. Off-camp property courses must have approval in writing from the land owner or land manager.

C. Minimum course size is 150 feet by 200 feet. The course must also provide for covered, secured storage for the ATVs.

D. The course must provide for a vehicle wash area and appropriate handling and disposal of wash waters.

E. The course should conform to design standards of the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Coalition.

INTERPRETATION:

ATV courses are not available to Cub Scouts and must meet age-appropriate guidelines. Councils operating pursuant to a National Council approval using No. 430-044 may continue to operate their existing approved program.

VERIFICATION:

- Review the conservation land provision and any land owner approvals.
- Ensure course looks maintained in accordance with plan provisions.

REFERENCES:

Program standards are set forth in Standard PS-205. Staffing standards are set forth in Standard SQ-412, Specific Requirement H.

The following reference from the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council provides design guidance for ATV trails: *Great Trails: Providing Quality OHV Trails and Experiences* by Dick Duford. NOHVCC, 2015.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

FA-717

SLEEPING/CHANGING QUARTERS

(Effective January 1, 2024, except as specified)

STANDARD:

If a camp offers sleeping accommodations or changing areas, the accommodations are clean, safe, and provide reasonable privacy for changing.

Applies to:

Camp properties

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Bunk beds.** Effective January 1, 2025, if a camp or camp property offers bunk beds, the beds must meet the following requirements:

1. For purposes of this standard, a “bunk bed” is any bed that has the bottom of its mattress foundation more than 30 inches above the floor. The mattress foundation is the base or support upon which a mattress is placed (or would be placed if used without a mattress).
2. Unless fixed against a wall on one side, bunk beds must have at least two upper bunk guardrails, with at least one rail on each side. Bunk beds affixed to a wall must have a guardrail on the side not adjacent to the wall. Lower bunks with mattress foundations 30 inches or less from the floor do not require guardrails. Guardrails must extend at least five inches above the mattress top. The guardrails must be either permanently fastened or else require movement in two or more different directions, one after another, to release.
3. The guard rail on one side need not be continuous but may have an opening for a ladder or access to the top bunk. This opening shall comply with federal or state law or, if none apply, shall be no greater than 15 inches.
4. The guardrails and bunk bed structure shall not create any entrapment hazard where a youth or adult arm, hand, leg, head or neck could be trapped. The bed shall be free of sharp edges or corners. All bunk bed components must be structurally sound.

B. **Changing areas.** Effective January 1, 2024, the camp or camp property has procedures that specify periodic checks to ensure privacy in changing areas is not compromised. Daily checks during high use/high exposure periods may be needed with less frequency required during off-season periods. It is recommended that staff performing the checks be rotated during camp to maintain a high standard. A changing area for purposes of this standard includes shower facilities, aquatics areas, locker rooms and similar areas where participants change clothes but does not include lodging or tents assigned to a person or group for the duration of their stay.

SLEEPING/CHANGING QUARTERS

FA-717

(Effective January 1, 2024, except as specified)

Applies to:

Camp properties

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

VERIFICATION:

- Discussion with ranger or staff about procedures to check beds and changing areas
- Visual review of a reasonable sample of beds

REFERENCES:

- Bed guard-rail and structural openings must be less than 3.5 inches or greater than 9 inches to minimize the risk of entrapment. Find details on testing for entrapment at 16 Code of Federal Regulations parts 1213.4 and 1513.4 at ecfr.gov/current/title-16/chapter-II/subchapter-B/part-1213/section-1213.4 and ecfr.gov/current/title-16/chapter-II/subchapter-C/part-1513/section-1513.4
- Scouting America Safety Moment, Bunk Beds: scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/bunk-beds/

RP-751

CAMPSITE FIRE SAFETY

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

Each campsite has a current Unit Fireguard Chart, No. 33691, completed and on display in its campsite.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of completed Unit Fireguard Chart

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Long-term camp

RP-752

INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp has prepared a plan assessing the risk of invasive species (e.g., emerald ash borer, "rock snot," thistle, etc.) movement into its resource area and has developed appropriate mitigation measures to prevent such movement.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of plan and review of practices in effect

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Long-term camp

RP-753

COPE FACILITY INSPECTION

(Effective January 1, 2017)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp uses the Scouting America recommended documents "Request for Proposal for Scouting America Challenge Course Inspections" and "Suggested Agreement with Independent Contractors and Consultants" to secure professional inspection services by qualified professional inspectors who are certified and/or accredited by a national accrediting organization.

VERIFICATION:

- The camp produces the appropriate request and suggested agreement form.

REFERENCES:

These documents are located at scouting.org/outdoor-programs in the COPE and Climbing section.

Applies to:

Camp properties

Long-term camp

RP-754

FACILITY AND MAINTENANCE PLAN SOFTWARE

(Effective January 1, 2020)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The council utilizes a computer maintenance management system (CMMS) for managing maintenance and assets. Fiix is the official CMMS partner of Scouting America.

VERIFICATION:

- The camp can provide verification of the program's usage to the assessment team.

REFERENCE:

For more information, refer to the Scouting America National Outdoor Program and Properties Team website at scouting.org/outdoor-programs/properties/

Applies to:

Camp properties

ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT (AO) STANDARDS

The administration and operational management (AO) standards set forth the minimum administrative and operational practices expected of a Scouting America-accredited camp. In general, each standard applies to all camp properties and camps.

All applicable standards must be met for accreditation.

AO-801

PERMITS AND COMPLIANCE

(Revised January 1, 2013)

STANDARD:

The council has all necessary federal, state, and local permits, certificates, licenses, and agreements to lawfully operate a camp property, camp, or COPE/climbing course at this location during this time period and has completed a review of legal requirements for operation within the past three years.

INTERPRETATION:

Scouting America camps comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Compliance with this standard requires two steps. First, the council must complete a comprehensive review of legal requirements governing the operation of its camp properties and camps within the past three years. Typically, this review should occur as part of the initial application and at the midpoint of the authorization period.

The review should include licensing requirements for youth camps, health and safety regulations, child labor laws, planning and zoning requirements, environmental regulations, and business licensing requirements. The review should be completed by council legal counsel or similarly qualified professionals.

Second, the council must obtain and maintain all required permits, certificates, licenses, or other approvals required by applicable laws and regulations identified in the legal review. All permits, certificates, licenses, and authorizations should be available for review at the council office and at the site of the camp if in a fixed location.

VERIFICATION:

- List of required permits and approvals (with authorization)
- Visual observation of paper or electronic copies of each current permit, certificate, license, or other approval noted in the written authorization that includes, rules and regulations, insurance needs, etc.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

AO-802

AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE

(Revised January 1, 2026)

STANDARD:

Each camp property and camp shall comply with the current Authorization to Operate and meet notification and declaration requirements as defined in the specific requirements. A council chartered by the National Council is granted authorization to issue an NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration for day camps and short-term camps in accordance with these standards as long as they adhere to the National Camp Accreditation Program standards and any other provisions required by the council's authorization to operate.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Authorization to Operate. Each camp property or camp must comply with the following:

1. A *camp property* shall have a current Authorization to Operate issued by the National Council and shall comply with the applicable terms, conditions, and commitments of that Authorization to Operate.
2. A *long-term camp* shall have a current Authorization to Operate issued by the National Council and shall comply with the applicable terms, conditions, and commitments of the Authorization to Operate for both the camp and camp property.
3. *A day camp or short-term camp* shall have a current NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration and a NCAP Site Appraisal Form for the camp and location issued by the council in accordance with Standard AO-802, unless forbidden by its Authorization to Operate. An NCAP Site Appraisal form is required only if the day camp or short-term camp occurs on a non-NCAP accredited camp property.

B. Corrective action plan or plan of improvement. Each camp or camp property shall have completed, or be in compliance with, any corrective action plan or plan of improvement issued for the camp or camp property.

C. Publication of accreditation status. Each council, camp property, and long-term camp has published its accreditation status in its leaders' guide, website, and registration materials.

D. Notification. Each council has filed the required Notice of Intent to Operate for camp properties and long-term camps with the National Council, Outdoor Programs.

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

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 for long-term camps which take place at other times of the year.
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:

The National Council will issue an Authorization to Operate to each council. The Authorization to Operate will identify those camp properties and long-term camps that the council may operate using the trademarks and trade dress of Scouting America.

Unless otherwise stated in the Authorization to Operate issued to a council, the council may issue a NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration form that authorizes the operation of a day camp or short-term camp. The process for issuing the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration form shall follow the procedures and meet the conditions of these standards.

An Authorization to Operate is current if it has not expired or been terminated. If the Authorization to Operate has expired, but the council in a timely manner applied for a renewal, the existing Authorization to Operate remains in effect until such time as the National Council issues or denies the renewal authorization to operate. A day camp or short-term camp has a current Authorization to Operate if both the council's Authorization to Operate and the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration form are current.

A corrective action plan and plan of improvement are defined in Standard SA-004.

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.

AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE

(Revised January 1, 2026)

VERIFICATION:

- For long-term camps, review a copy of the council Authorization to Operate identifying the camp property and long-term camp, and ensure the camp and camp property are complying with any applicable terms, conditions, or commitments.
- For day camps or short-term camps, review a copy of the council Authorization to Operate to ensure that it does not forbid the council to operate such camps. Review the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration forms. Ensure that the camp (and camp property, if located on one) are complying with any applicable terms, conditions, or commitments of the Authorization to Operate or NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration form.
- For camp properties, review a copy of the council Authorization to Operate identifying the camp property, and ensure the camp property is complying with any applicable terms, conditions, or commitments.
- All returning staff in the same position will have NCS certifications available and that 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.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

AO-803

INSURANCE

(Revised January 1, 2026)

STANDARD:

The camp has insurance meeting Scouting America or governing jurisdiction minimum requirements, whichever is more stringent.

INTERPRETATION:

Relevant insurance typically includes:

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

Additional insurance may be required for trek or high-adventure programs. Examples of additional insurance councils may wish to consider include 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.

VERIFICATION:

- A list of required insurance policies and their amounts, and certification from council that it has copies of insurance policies or certificates of insurance

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

AO-804

CAMPER SECURITY

(Revised January 1, 2013)

STANDARD:

The camp uses adequate written security procedures to ensure camper security from reasonably foreseeable risks.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. *All camps* and *camp properties* shall have written procedures that address:

1. Steps to be taken in the event of a possible intruder; unauthorized person seeking release of a minor; or other circumstance as identified by the camp.
2. Training for staff (and other participants when appropriate) on the procedures for items required by this standard.

B. *Long-term camps* and *day camps* shall have written procedures that include:

1. Verification of campers attending at check-in time.
2. Release of campers who are minors to a parent or guardian or to a person other than the legal parent or guardian.
3. Annual review of security concerns regarding the site.
4. Methods for discouraging and/or distinguishing possible unauthorized persons.

C. *Short-term camps* have written procedures that include:

1. Verification of campers attending at check-in time by their unit leader or camp staff, if not a unit-based camp.
2. Release of campers who are minors to a parent or guardian or to a person other than the legal parent or guardian.

D. Methods for discouraging and/or distinguishing possible unauthorized persons

E. Steps to be taken in the event of a possible intruder; unauthorized person seeking release of a minor; or other circumstance as identified by the camp

F. Training for staff (and other participants when appropriate) on the procedures for items noted above

INTERPRETATION:

Families sending their children to Scouting America camps expect that Scouting America will exercise due care for the security of their children.

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

CAMPER SECURITY

AO-804

(Effective January 1, 2020)

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

VERIFICATION:

- Written procedures
- Director/staff description of procedures in practice
- Observation of procedures in practice

AO-805

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

The camp has completed an assessment of risks to its participants and staff and uses written emergency procedures that address them.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **General.** The camp has conducted an assessment and established procedures for the following:

1. Lost or missing persons
2. Extreme weather conditions, including appropriate shelter
3. Fire (both structure and wildfire)
4. Communicable diseases and infection outbreaks
5. Hazardous materials exposure
6. Dangerous encounters with wildlife
7. Intrusions (including active shooters)
8. Natural and manmade hazards at the camp and program/ camp sites
9. Equipment that, due to the use and risks presented, is limited to authorized personnel using specified safety procedures, as identified in a written risk assessment
10. If the camp is not held at a camp property, the camp must have the contact information of the individual(s) who can immediately shut off utilities
11. Additional items noted in the written risk assessments conducted pursuant to Standards PD-111 and PD-112

B. **Swimming pool and aquatic emergencies.** If aquatics features are present, as applicable the camp has conducted an assessment and established procedures for the following:

1. Types of emergencies (drowning, spinal injury, fecal release, chemical exposure, bloodborne pathogen exposure, inclement weather, etc.)
2. Communication among victims, responders, emergency services, and bystanders
3. Identification of each anticipated responder
4. Outline of tasks for each responder
5. Required equipment for each task
6. Emergency closure requirements (out-of-range chemicals, fecal incidents, equipment failure, etc.)

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

C. **Vehicular emergencies.** The camp has conducted an assessment and established procedures for ATV, biking, boating, PWC, and camp or camper vehicle accidents on or off camp property while on camp business.

INTERPRETATION:

The written assessment should address the activities that the camp will offer and the risks to participants and staff from those activities **and** related environmental and other factors. Where the written assessment identifies a reasonable risk, the council will determine steps to reduce the risk to acceptable levels. These steps should be identified in writing and reduced to policies or procedures. The written assessment should identify which plans require communication to staff, participants, and/or visitors and how such communication will occur.

Plans should be easily accessible in the camp and council.

All incidents, accidents, and injuries that occur should be documented and a written action plan developed with the steps to be taken to reduce the potential for recurrence.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for hazardous materials present in a program area should be consulted in preparing emergency response plans for that area.

Information on emergency procedures is provided to units upon registration or with signup materials. An appropriate emergency drill is held within 24 hours of each group's arrival at long-term camp or multiday day camp.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of written agreements (may be submitted with declaration)
- Director/staff description of procedures in practice
- Observation of procedures in practice
- Incident and near-miss action plan (See also reporting requirements in AO-808.)

REFERENCES:

Scouting America's lightning risk reduction policy is available at scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss03/

Camps are encouraged to contact local law enforcement to assist in development of an active shooter policy.

AO-806

CAMP BUDGETING, ANALYSIS, AND FINANCIAL CONTROLS

(Revised January 1, 2013)

STANDARD:

The council annually prepares a year-round camp budget and conducts an annual camp analysis based on year-round data on all camp operations and properties.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. Budget and financial data are entered in accordance with Scouting America accounting directives.

B. Financial controls are approved by the council executive board or appropriate committee and shared with key staff.

C. Inventory and commissary food controls are in place approved by an appropriate council committee.

INTERPRETATION:

Statistical data gathered and analyzed should include both year-round and program-specific information on:

- Camp capacity, attendance, and occupancy rates
- Revenue and expense detail, including program costs, maintenance, depreciation, and profit/loss
- Impact of camp operations on council finances
- Review of leader evaluations

Each camp or group of camps should have its own written budget, with information on expected revenue and expenses related to each aspect of the program. To the extent possible, all camp expenses should be placed in financial class code 21.

The camp director should determine key staff members who will help to administer the budget and identify the processes for sharing ongoing budget information and controls.

Trading post operations should be addressed by the financial and inventory controls.

Commissary, kitchen, and dining hall food supplies and use should be controlled and inventories maintained.

VERIFICATION:

- The council's camp analysis and budget process is verified during the application and authorization process.
- The camp's implementation of financial and inventory controls is discussed with the camp director or business manager.

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

AO-807

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

(Revised January 1, 2013)

STANDARD:

Operating telephones or another reliable communication system must be accessible to designated staff members at all times.

Information and procedures must be in place for emergency communications with

- **Medical providers, police, fire, and other rescue personnel**
- **Scout executive and other key professional staff**
- **Parents of campers**

INTERPRETATION:

Designated staff members must have immediate access, through posting or other means, to the current emergency telephone numbers for fire, police, hospital, rescue squad, and camp physician. They must have immediate access to communication with the Scout executive. Alternatives should be provided for the camp physician and Scout executive if they cannot be reached.

Policies and procedures should be in place for contacting parents and communicating with the media.

A backup or alternative communication system must be available at all times.

VERIFICATION:

- Written procedures
- Director/staff description of procedures in practice
- Observation of procedures in practice

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

AO-808

REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNCIL REPORTING

(Revised January 1, 2025)

STANDARD:

The camp has completed required Scouting America reports in a timely manner. Required reports include:

A. National incident and near miss reports in the form and within the times required by Incident Reporting at the following URL: scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/

B. Camping Attendance Report.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. **Precamp.** Within 60 days prior to the start of camp, the camp director, program director (for long-term camps and day camps), and professional advisor shall access the Scouting America Incident Report page, download a copy of the current Incident Information Reporting Tool, Youth Protection/Membership Infraction Information Reporting Tool, and Near Miss Incident Information Reporting Tool and review the balance of the webpage. The individuals shall sign a certification statement that this review was completed and keep a copy of each tool available. The certification statement shall be provided to the assessment team.

B. **Camp.** At camp, the camp director, or chair for a short-term camp, shall ensure that all required reports are filed within the times set forth on the Scouting America Incident Report page. The camp director or short-term camp chair shall notify the professional advisor of all incidents requiring reporting, including those requiring notice to the National Crisis Communication Support team (PR@scouting.org), occupational injury reporting, and U.S. Coast Guard reporting. If the professional advisor or Scout executive cannot be reached within the required times, the camp director or short-term camp chair shall make any required reports.

C. **Camp Attendance Reports.** National Outdoor Programs will email a link to each council for filing attendance reports. The report shall be filed within the time specified in the Outdoor Programs email or an extension sought from NCAP@scouting.org

VERIFICATION:

- The National Service Center will review reports and notify NCAP if a council or camp is not filing reports as required by this standard. The NCAP staff advisor will provide direction to the assessment team on the required action.
- Review the certification statement and discuss with the camp director when incident reporting is required and how it is accomplished.

REFERENCES:

Detailed instruction on reporting and frequently asked questions are found at scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

AO-809

CUSTOMER SURVEY

(Revised January 1, 2013)

STANDARD:

The camp surveys its customers to assess satisfaction.

INTERPRETATION:

Camps use a written or electronic survey of adult and youth leaders to assess their experience and impressions of camp. The survey's length and content are determined by the camp, and it contains questions that satisfy the following requirements:

- Open-ended questions that solicit a wide range of input (e.g., what did you like the most about camp, what did you think of the campfire programs, what area of camp could be most improved for next year)
- Objective rating questions (e.g., on a scale of 1 to 10, please rate the dining hall facility)
- Questions identified by the National Council that will be provided as part of the application package

The council provides the National Council with aggregate data on the specified questions.

VERIFICATION:

- Observation of survey form and results from previous year (if applicable)

Applies to:

Day camp

Long-term camp

AO-810

CONTINUOUS CAMP IMPROVEMENT

(Revised January 1, 2024)

STANDARD:

The camp participates in the Scouting America Continuous Camp Improvement Program that addresses improvements in:

- **Staff**
- **Program**
- **Program equipment**
- **Facilities**
- **Sustainability**
- **Marketing and communication**
- **Attendees and participation**

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. The council has performed an analysis to identify its stakeholders and involved them in gathering information on areas of possible improvement and areas of strength.

B. The camp has a camp program and property strategic improvement plan that identifies one or more areas of improvement and one or more areas of strength that the council will address over the next four to seven years, which collectively address at least five of the continuous camp improvement categories. For each identified area, the plan sets forth improvement measures, an approximate time for initiation and completion, and how the camp will determine the success of its measures.

C. Each year, the council will develop an annual camp improvement plan that identifies one or more areas of improvement and one or more areas of strength that the camp will address during the year, which collectively address at least four of the continuous camp improvement categories. Some of these measures may be based on the camp strategic improvement plan and some should be based on postcamp/precamp inspections, camp staff reports, customer satisfaction surveys, or other feedback. For each area identified, the council determines a goal, a quantitative metric, and success criteria.

D. Annually, the council collects data that indicates progress on the measures, and at the start of the following season includes in the Declaration of Readiness a report on the goals, their success criteria, and whether the goals were achieved.

Applies to:

Camp properties

Long-term camp

CONTINUOUS CAMP IMPROVEMENT

AO-810

(Revised January 1, 2024)

Applies to:

Camp properties

Long-term camp

INTERPRETATION:

The continuous camp improvement program is the heart of Scouting's effort to provide a better experience to each camper each year. Detailed guidance on the continuous improvement process is provided in the *Guide to the Continuous Camp Improvement Program.* The standard requires that the council and camp participate in the process contemplated by the standard and does not require the camp to successfully complete each goal. It is the process of identifying goals, measures, and metrics, and completing them that will elevate camp performance.

Specifically, Requirement A emphasizes that all stakeholders should have a role in the process. The best program is a collaboration of the council professionals, volunteers, camp staff, and camp users.

Requirement B is the multiyear camp strategic improvement plan. It is intended that this plan ultimately work in concert with the Application and Authorization to Operate process, where the plan is prepared and submitted with the application. Councils are to develop a plan that takes them to or beyond their next application period. The camp strategic improvement plan is <u>not</u> a term or condition of the Authorization to Operate.

Requirement C is the annual or seasonal improvement plan. These are the specific steps that the council will take during the year. Some of these may come from the camp strategic improvement plan identified in Requirement B, while others will be items that come up from camp staff, customer satisfaction surveys, or the work of council professionals or committees. The goals should be specific, measurable, attainable, and realistic, and have a targeted metric that can be tracked to show progress. The annual plan should be revised as needed during the season to address customer feedback and improve the camper experience.

Camps that operate off camp property should review the existing facilities for adequacy and may propose steps (such as negotiating for improvements or relocating), but are not expected to provide for physical improvements to noncouncil property.

CONTINUOUS CAMP IMPROVEMENT

(Revised January 1, 2024)

VERIFICATION:

- The authorization reviewer will review the camp strategic improvement plan for consistency with Scouting America standards and continuous camp improvement goals. The approved plan will be attached to the Authorization to Operate.
- The camp assessment team should review the Authorization to Operate and any attached camp strategic improvement plan, and comment in the report on whether steps called for in the camp strategic plan were implemented in a timely manner. However, an explained failure or delay is not the basis for a noncompliant or deviation finding if the council has made other improvements.
- On the annual plan, the camp assessment team should review the Declaration of Readiness to ensure it includes: 1. the prior year's goals, metrics, and success criteria, and whether the goals were successfully achieved and, if not, any lessons learned; and 2. the current year's goals, metrics, and success criteria. Failure to have prepared and measured goals in the prior year reported in the Declaration of Readiness or failure to have prepared and be measuring goals in the current year by the date of assessment warrants a noncompliant finding. Partial or late compliance should be noted with a deviation.

REFERENCES:

The *Guide to the Continuous Camp Improvement Program* is available at scouting.org/NCAP

Applies to:

Camp properties

Long-term camp

AO-811

REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNCIL PROGRAM AND SITE APPROVALS

(Effective January 1, 2022)

STANDARD:

Each council exercising delegated authority to authorize a day camp or short-term camp shall verify, to the best of its ability, that the camp as planned will comply with the requirements of the National Camp Standards applicable to the proposed camp. Each NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration issued by a council shall be executed on an approved form, signed by the Scout executive or designee and council NCAP chair. Only day camps and short-term camps not held on NCAP authorized camp properties are required to complete an NCAP Site Appraisal Form.

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

INTERPRETATION:

Prior to issuing an NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration, the council shall review the proposed camp's site and program for consistency with the National Camp Standards, Scouting America and local council policy, health and safety, and other risks.

An additional site review and completion of the NCAP Site Appraisal Form is not required if the camp will be located on an NCAP-accredited camp property. The NCAP Site Appraisal Form must be completed individually for each day camp and short-term camp location due to the individuality of each event and site.

The program review shall be completed using the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration form.

For short-term camps: After required review is completed, the Scout executive and the Short-term Camp Administrator must sign the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration. The Scout executive may designate another member of the council's management team as designee.

For short-term camps: Prior to the start of camp, the short-term camp administrator must review the camp and complete the Declaration part of the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration. At the conclusion of the camp, the short-term camp administrator must complete the "camp report" section of the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration and place it in the file maintained by the council to be used during the council's yearly NCAP assessment review.

For day camps: During the camp assessment led by the local council assessment team, the assessment team leader should complete the "camp report" section of the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration and place it in the file maintained by the council to be used during the council's yearly NCAP assessment review.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNCIL PROGRAM AND SITE APPROVALS

(Effective January 1, 2022)

Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

VERIFICATION:

- During an assessment, the camp must produce a copy of the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration signed by the Scout executive or designee and council NCAP coordinator. The team should assess whether the camp is complying with the requirements of the NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration.
- During the council NCAP program administration assessment, the council must produce a copy of the complete NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration package for all completed camps since the last NCAP administration assessment for review by the lead council assessor appointed by the zone assessment coordinator. The lead assessor will review each document for completeness and timeliness and submit an NCAP administration score sheet to NCAP@scouting.org with a copy to the council president and Scout executive.

REFERENCES:

NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration

NCAP Site Appraisal Form

AO-812

REVIEW OF COUNCIL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NCAP PROGRAM

(Effective January 1, 2021)

STANDARD:

The National Council periodically shall review the assessment reports submitted pursuant to Standard SA-003 and any reports submitted pursuant to Standards AO-808, as well as other relevant information concerning a council's or individual's implementation of the NCAP program, and shall take such action as may be appropriate to ensure program safety, quality, and the integrity of the Scouting America brand.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

A. The National NCAP Committee may compile and publish statistical data concerning council implementation of the NCAP program.

B. The National NCAP Committee may use statistical data to determine when a council or camp is an outlier in terms of program quality, attendance, reporting, administration, or sustainability. The National NCAP Committee may require such a camp or council, after an opportunity to be heard, to implement a corrective action plan or a plan of improvement to address such outlier findings.

C. The National NCAP Committee may use data gathered through such review to reopen, revoke, modify, or condition a council's Authorization to Operate. The National NCAP Committee may also use such data to terminate a council interim Authorization to Operate day and voluntary camps. The National NCAP Committee will provide a council notice and an opportunity for hearing on such reopening, revocation, modification, or conditioning of its Authorization to Operate or terminate a council interim Authorization to Operate day and short-term camps.

D. If the National NCAP's Committee assessment determines that an individual subject to NCAP has acted intentionally, knowingly, or in an unacceptably negligent fashion in violation of NCAP standards, The National NCAP Committee may, after notice and an opportunity for hearing, revoke any NCAP authorization or National Camping School certification, declare such individual ineligible for further work in Scouting America outdoor programs, or, in appropriate cases, recommend revocation of the individual's commission and/or membership in Scouting America.

VERIFICATION:

- Verification of compliance with this standard shall be undertaken by the national accreditation committee or delegated staff at the direction of the national camp accreditation committee.

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Long-term camp

RP-851

COUNCIL COMMITTEE/ VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

(Revised January 1, 2020)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

Council committees provide support to camp staff, as requested by the camp director, to ensure continuity, quality of training, and resources for high-quality programming.

INTERPRETATION:

All councils are organized differently but, when possible, should have council committees support their camp staff upon request of the camp director. Committee members may:

- Provide expert advice.
- Provide resources.
- Assist in identifying qualified staff members.
- Assist in training staff before camp.
- Provide program continuity from year to year.
- Involve camp staff in the council's year-round program.
- Provide coordination between long-term camp and year-round programs.

Relevant committees and task forces are identified in PD-112 Council Program Design, Safety, and Risk Review.

Committee members should be careful not to intrude into the employer/ employee relationship, and any concerns should be addressed to the camp director or, if necessary, to the Scout executive.

VERIFICATION:

- Written report outlining steps taken to support the camp program

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Long-term camp

RP-852

ON-SITE CONTRACT PERSONNEL BACKGROUND CHECK

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

Camps employing outside food service contractors or other vendors whose function requires that their personnel are regularly on-site should request certification that criminal background checks have been conducted.

INTERPRETATION:

This recommended practice does not require that delivery personnel be addressed.

VERIFICATION:

- Discussion with camp director
- Review of letter of agreement between camp and vendor (letter may be submitted with declaration)

Applies to:

- Camp properties
- Day camp
- Short-term camp
- Long-term camp

RP-853

CAMP LONG-RANGE PLAN

(Revised January 1, 2015)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

There is a current long-range plan adopted by the council's executive board or responsible committee that addresses quality assurance, program development, promotional plans, health and safety concerns, sustainability, and land and facilities use (where the camp is located on council-controlled property).

INTERPRETATION:

A long-range plan is "current" if it has been reviewed within the last five years.

VERIFICATION:

- Review of plan; observation of application

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Long-term camp

RP-854

FUNDING DEPRECIATION

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The council funds or has developed a plan to fund depreciation for the camp property and camp equipment and is progressing on its plan.

VERIFICATION:

- Council certification verified during application review

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Long-term camp

RP-855

OPENING AND CLOSING PROCEDURES

(Revised January 1, 2013)

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:

The camp has an opening and closing procedures plan or manual that sets forth how the camp is opened at the beginning of the season and closed at the end of the season. The plan or manual sets forth written procedures for the following:

- **Review of evaluations from previous or current year**
- **Review of check-out reports from staff**
- **Physical setup and takedown requirements**
- **Inventory, condition, and location of equipment and supplies**
- **Weatherproofing or reactivation of camp facilities and utilities**
- **Design and layout of program areas**
- **End-of-season maintenance**
- **Equipment and supply purchase needs**

VERIFICATION:

- Review of plans

Applies to:

Camp properties

Day camp

Long-term camp

GLOSSARY

Accreditation. Accreditation is granted to a camp that meets the requirements of the National Camp Standards and its Authorization to Operate. Accreditation may be conditional.

Annual camp improvement plan. The annual list of one or more areas of improvement and one or more areas of strength, the improvement goal for each such area, the metrics used to measure progress toward the goal, and the criteria by which success will be measured. Collectively, at least four of the seven categories should be addressed in the plan.

AO-8*xx* is an administration and operational management standard.

Application to Operate. The Application to Operate is filed by the council and lays out the business plan, program design, and quality and sustainability commitments for the council's camping programs. It forms the basis for the Authorization to Operate.

Applies to. Lists the types of camps to which the standard or recommended practice typically applies. Final decisions on applicability are included in the Authorization to Operate.

Assessment. The process used to determine whether a camp is complying with the National Camp Standards and its Authorization to Operate (if issued).

Authorization to Operate. The Authorization to Operate is issued by the National Council and authorizes the camping and outdoor program offered by the council. It contains the specific requirements for the camp and the council's sustainability and quality commitments. Authorizations to Operate may be conditional.

Camp. Camp includes any day camp, short-term camp, long-term camp, COPE course, or climbing and rappelling course. COPE courses and climbing and rappelling courses are sometimes referred to collectively as "COPE/climbing courses."

Camp assessment. Camp assessment is an on-site review of camp operations, conducted by the National Council (for national camps and long-term camps) or the council (for day camps and short-term camps) to assess conformance with the standards and make recommendations for program improvement.

Camp chair. A camp chair is an individual responsible for the short-term camp such as a camporee chair, a family camp coordinator, OA Lodge/Chapter event adviser, a Wood Badge course director, etc.

Camp property. Camp property is any property, whether owned, leased, licensed or permitted, over which a council exercises long-term control and which is made available to Scouting America units or individuals for use in Scouting America program activities.

Camp strategic improvement plan. The four- to seven-year plan developed by a local council for each camp that lists one or more areas of improvement and one or more areas of strength that the council seeks to address. Each area is given a goal for improvement, a metric, and criteria for how success will be determined. Over the course of the plan, at least five of the seven continuous camp improvement categories will be addressed.

GLOSSARY

Climbing and rappelling course. A council-operated program where participants climb, boulder, or rappel on natural rock sites, boulders, and artificial climbing structures.

Commitments. Commitments are discrete, measurable goals that are made by the council on program quality, facilities quality, and council camping program sustainability and that are incorporated into the Authorization to Operate.

Compliant. A compliant finding is a passing finding issued during a camp assessment and recognizes that the camp fully meets the requirements of a standard.

Conditional accreditation. A conditional accreditation is issued as a result of a camp assessment or self-assessment where there is a noncompliant finding for a standard or where more than 10 assessed items are graded as deviations.

Conditional authorization. A conditional authorization is issued as a result of either an Application to Operate or upon recommendation of a camp assessment team where serious questions have been raised about the quality and safety of the council's camping program or a particular camp. A conditional authorization will establish terms and conditions that the council must meet to continue to operate the camping program or camp.

COPE course. COPE course is defined as any constructed and/or portable challenge elements that are part of a challenge course program operated by the council either as part of a camp or on a stand-alone basis. Scout camp structures such as monkey bridges, obstacle courses, and pioneering towers are not a COPE course component unless included in a challenge course program.

Corrective action plan. A corrective action plan is developed by the council in consultation with the camp assessment team and the zone assessment coordinator and National NCAP staff advisor to address any noncompliant findings or excessive deviations. Based on a corrective action plan, the camp may continue its accredited status, be conditionally accredited, or if the plan is insufficient, have its accreditation denied.

Day camp. Day camp is a council-organized program of two or more days under council-retained leadership at an approved site during daylight or early evening hours but not overnight.
The program may operate at the Tiger Scout, Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, Venturer, or Sea Scout level.

Deviation. A deviation is a passing finding issued during a camp assessment and is a nonconformity with the standards that does not rise to the level of a noncompliant finding (failure). Deviations are used to apprise the council of weaknesses in its program that it should consider. Correction of the deviation is strongly recommended as soon as possible and not later than the next camping season. Repeated deviations of the same standard will be classified as noncompliant.

Equivalency determination. A waiver issued based on the determination that the skills for which the staff member has a waiver request application are equivalent to the training required in the standard. This waiver is given for as long as that staff member is in the position, at that camp.

FA-7xx is a facilities standard.

GLOSSARY

FS-6xx is a commissary and food service standard.

HS-5xx is a health and safety standard.

Improvement plan. An improvement plan is an agreed course of action that a council will implement as a result of a conditional accreditation, denial of accreditation, or an authorization review initiated under these Standards. Improvement plan commitments and milestones will be included in the authorization.

Intent to operate. The intent to operate is an annual notice of the camps that a council will operate, usually filed electronically at the request of the National Council. The notice of intent is typically requested in October of the year before the camp will operate.

Interpretation. Interpretation is a section in some standards and recommended practices that provides additional materials to support understanding of the standard or recommended practice.

Long-term camp (formerly resident camp). A council-organized camp that is four nights or more and operates under council-retained. This can include static campsites, transient campsites, high-adventure or trekking programs, or some combination thereof. These programs may operate at the Tiger Scout, Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, or Venturing level. However, Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, and Venturing programs cannot be combined into a single camp experience.

NCAP is the National Camp Accreditation Program.

NCAP Local Council Authorization and Assessment Declaration. Form used to plan and assess day camp and short-term camps. These forms are filed locally.

NCAP Site Appraisal Form. Form leadership uses as a check list to verify the location for a camp not held on a nationally approved council camp and to approve it for a short-term camp or day camp location.

Noncompliant. A noncompliant finding is issued where a camp assessment team determines that a camp is not complying with a standard. A noncompliant finding requires corrective action. Correction of the noncompliant finding is strongly recommended as soon as possible and no later than the next camping season.

PD-1xx is a program design standard.

PS-2xx is a program specific standard.

Recommended practice. A recommended practice is a nonmandatory part of the National Camp Standards. Recommended practices are abbreviated “RP.”

Short-term camp any council-organized overnight camping program, whether one-time or continuing, that is one, two or three nights in length where the council or its agents provide the staffing and may provide program and food services, and includes camps conducted off council properties. Some national training courses are subject to the short-term camp requirements, regardless of format or duration. See SA-001 for details.

GLOSSARY

Short-term Camp Administrator is a National Camping School-trained individual who administers short-term camp.

Standards. A standard is a mandatory part of the National Camp Standards. It consists of the standard and the specific requirements of the standard. Standards are supplemented by interpretation, which provides guidance on how the standard or specific requirements are to be applied in practice.

Template authorization. In reference to day camp, template authorization means that the council is authorized to offer the camps at multiple locations or occasions using a common program. Using different themes does not prevent template authorization.

Terms and conditions. Terms and conditions are requirements set forth in an Authorization to Operate.

Trek program. A trek program is a council-organized overnight program of at least two consecutive nights in duration, on or off council property, on land or water, and involving the participants moving from place to place, all operating under the overall supervision of council-retained camp leadership.

Upgraded from noncompliance (UNC). A passing score given by a camp assessment team for a standard that was noncompliant when the team arrived but was corrected prior to the team's departure and where the standard is fully met after correction.

Variance. A variance is issued in writing by the National Standards Commission that allows a camp to permanently vary from a requirement of the National Camp Standards upon demonstration that the variance provides equivalent program quality and safety. A variance may be conditioned. See also waiver.

Verification. A section of the standard or recommended practice that provides guidance to an assessment team or the council on how to determine whether the camp is complying with a standard or recommended practice.

Waiver. A waiver is issued in writing by the National Standards Commission that allows a camp to vary for one season from a requirement of the National Camp Standards. A waiver may be conditioned upon meeting similar safety and quality goals. See also variance.

Zone assessment coordinator. Scouter appointed by the National NCAP Committee to coordinate the NCAP business and camp assessments in a specified geographic area.

NOTES

NOTES

NATIONAL CAMP
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

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SKU 665483
7301766638876
BIN 430-056 2026 Revision