AGE-APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

Age- and rank-appropriate guidelines have been developed based on the mental, physical, emotional, and social maturity of Boy Scouts of America youth members. These guidelines apply to Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout teams, and Venturing crews.

	TIGER CUBS (WITH ADULT PARTNER)	WOLF/BEAR CUB SCOUTS	WEBELOS SCOUTS	BOY SCOUTS	OLDER BOY SCOUTS, VARSITY SCOUTS, AND VENTURERS
OUTDOOR SKILLS					
Camporees			Visit Only		
Conservation Projects					
Cooking Outdoors					
Fire Building					
Fishing					
Fueled Devices (Stoves and lanterns)					
Hiking—Day					
Hiking—Multiple Day					
Horseback Riding					
Hunting					Venturers Only
Map and Compass	Map Only				
Mountain Boards					
Mountaineering/Scrambling/Cross-Country Travel					
Orienteering					
Pioneering					
Rope Bridges/Pioneering Towers (Check requirements for height restrictions.)					
Survival Training					
Winter Camping					
SPORTS					
Field/Wide Games					
Flag Football					
Gymnastics					
Ice Hockey					
Ice Skating					
Martial Arts—Defensive					
Roller Blades/Skates					
Scooters—Nonmotorized					
Skateboarding					
Skiing/Snowboarding					
Sledding/Tubing					
Soccer					
Street Hockey					
TOOLS					
Axes					
Bow Saws					
Hand Ax					
Hand Tools					
Pocketknife		Bear Only			
TREKKING					
Backpacking—Overnight, Backcountry					
Bike Treks—Day Ride					
Bike Treks—Multiple Overnights					
BMX Biking					
Day Hikes					
Horse Treks					
Mountain Biking					
Search and Rescue Missions					
Search and Rescue Practice					
Ski Touring—Multiple Days and Nights Carrying Gear					
AIRCRAFT					
Commercial Flight Experience					
Ground School					
Hands-On Flying Experience					
Hot-Air Balloons (Tethered only)					
Orientation Flight					
Soaring (Orientation flights only)					

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VEHICLES					
All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV)				Approved Council Use Only; No Unit Use	
Dirt Bikes					Venturers Only
Driving Derbies					
Personal Watercraft (PWC)				Approved Council Use Only; No Unit Use	
Snowmobiles					
SHOOTING					
.22 Rifle					
Air Rifle (Pellet Guns)			Webelos Resident Camp Only		
Archery—Field					
Archery—Target, Action (Moving targets)	Council/District Outdoor Programs Only				
BB Guns	Council/District Outdoor Programs Only				
Catapults					
Large-Bore Rifles					Venturers Only
Muzzleloaders					
Pistols*					Venturers Only
Shotguns					
Slingshots	Council/District Outdoor Programs Only				
CLIMBING					
Belaying					
Bouldering					
Canopy Tours					
Caving (Other than simple novice activities)					
Climbing—Commercial or Horizontal Wall					
Climbing—Rock					
Climbing—Vertical Wall or Tower					
Initiative Games					
Lead Climbing					
Project COPE				A Few Low-Course and High-Course Activities	
Rappelling					
Snow and Ice Climbing					
AQUATICS					
Canoeing—Flat Water	Council/District Outdoor Programs Only				
Canoeing—Flowing Water					
Kayaking—Flat Water			Council/District Outdoor Programs Only		
Kayaking—Flowing Water					
Motorboating—Adult Operated	Council/District Outdoor Programs Only				
Motorboating—Youth Operated					
Rafting—Flat Water	Council/District Outdoor Programs Only				
Rafting—Flowing Water					
Rowing—Flat Water	Council/District Outdoor Programs Only				
Rowing—Flowing Water					
Sailboarding					
Sailing—Adult Operated	Council/District Outdoor Programs Only				
Sailing—Youth Operated					
Scuba					
Snorkeling (In clear, confined waters, all ages and abilities can use snorkeling equipment. Snorkeling in open water is limited to Boy Scouts with Snorkeling BSA or equivalent.)					
Surfing					
Swimming					
Tubing (Floating in an inner tube)			Council/District Flat Water Events		
Tow Sports (including waterskiing, wakeboarding, kneeboarding, and tubing)					
CAMPING					
Day Camp					
Den Overnights					
Camporees					
Family Camping					
High Adventure					
Jamboree					
Parent/Son Overnights					
Resident Camp					
Weekend Overnights					

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*Exceptions may be made for authorized pilot programs operated by a council under a formal memorandum of understanding.

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