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# **RISK MANAGEMENT**

By

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# Acknowledgements

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To the Great Master of all Scouts, Yours is the Honor and Glory..... Amen.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Thesis project is intended for the Unit Serving Commissioner. The Unit Serving Commissioner who is in the front line of Scouting activities and needs to be aware of all safety policies, procedures, and precautions those are in place for the protection of our membership. This work will serve as a reference guide/tool to assist commissioners in promoting a greater situational awareness of the environments where our Scouts and Scouters are participating. It is recommended that the unit serving commissioner maintain a “toolbox” of the referenced items and training courses that are mentioned directly within this work. All of the directly referenced items within this work are currently available at no cost. Becoming familiar with the suggested reference points will enable the Commissioner to better assist their units with their pre-trip planning and follow-up should an incident occur. The main focus is to help the Unit Serving Commissioner and designated Unit Leadership individuals to, “Be Prepared.”

## **INTRODUCTION**

Thousands of accidents occur throughout the United States every day. The failure of people, equipment, supplies, or surroundings to behave or react as expected seem to cause most of the accidents. The BSA Commissioner should be a relevant resource in the planning of all activities. A commissioner who properly provides good service to our units will be well versed in the management of risks. A commissioner may be one of the first volunteers that are contacted should an accident or injury occur. Commissioners are often times called upon to exercise their good judgment and provide counsel based on their respective experience.

The person on the front line who is the best scouting risk manager is the unit-serving commissioner. A very well trained commissioner will be armed with the necessary tools, resources, whether the resources are by print, electronic, social media, other Scouting volunteers to be the one to help mitigate any scouting hazard. It is sometimes the unit-serving commissioner that is consulted before a unit leader makes the call to the Scout Executive or designee. If the unit-serving commissioner is properly trained in risk management, is familiar with all units in their charge, the chances of an accident/injury are minimal. Should the unexpected occur, the unit-serving commissioner stands ever vigilant and ready to contribute his/her knowledge, skills, and abilities for the betterment of the Scouting program.

## **ACCIDENT PREVENTION**

An injury that doesn't happen needs no treatment. An emergency that doesn't occur requires no response. An illness that doesn't develop demands no remedy. The best way to stay safe in the outdoors is to avoid getting into trouble in the first place. That requires planning, training, leadership, good judgment, and accepting responsibility—in short, identifying and managing risk.

Scout leaders manage risk in almost every aspect of unit operations. There is risk involved in stepping out of our homes in the morning, but we go anyway. There are risks in crossing a street, catching a bus, and taking part in sports, but we find ways to minimize these risks and maximize our safety and well-being.

The only way to eliminate risk completely in the outdoors is to give up the pleasures, challenges, and satisfaction of taking part in an adventure. Rather than attempting to do away with it, the commissioner corps and leaders can manage risk by identifying its sources, understanding its boundaries, and tailoring their behavior to minimize exposure to danger.

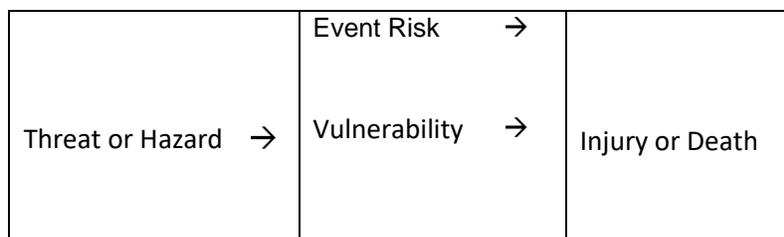
The BSA as well as many outdoors-oriented organizations have guidelines to address certain hazards they believe to be of particular concern to their members. A truly effective approach to risk management, though, is found not only in the details, but also in the willingness of everyone in a group (from commissioner to the newest Boy Scout) to take an active role in maximizing his or her own safety and the safety of others. A well seasoned commissioner will empower an activity leader with all available resources. A Scout leader who empowers group members with resources, training, and responsibilities for conducting successful activities often will find that they also can be trusted to do their part to manage risk. When each person has a part to play in the success of an activity, everyone has a stake in risk management. Through commissioner service, members are

far better prepared to deal with illnesses or injuries if they are versed in response plans and if they know where they are, what resources are at their disposal, and what skills they can draw upon. On the other hand, leaders who expect group members simply to obey rules and instructions—to be followers rather than thinkers and problem solvers—might discover that their groups aren't able to deal effectively with the changing nature of risk. The important goal is to involve commissioners in event planning by letting commissioners play the role of a neutral/friendly “devil’s advocate” and making sure that all potential risks are identified, planned for, minimized or mitigated through proper planning, training, and event management.

## ASSESSING RISK

Risk is conceptually defined as a function of threat or hazard and vulnerability. A threat or hazard is anything that potentially endangers human life and could be identified with events such as lightning, flooding, fire, vehicle accidents, water, wilderness, etc. Vulnerability relates to how susceptible a person is to the injury by the threat or hazard.

Figure 1. Risk Assessment Model



	Outcome Risk →	
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The three parts identified in this column distinguish between the chance of threat or hazard at the location of the event (event risk), the vulnerability of human subjects to injury when in contact with the threat or hazard, and the potential significance of injury from the threat or hazard to those human subjects who may be affected (outcome risk).

The following will provide an example and demonstrate the significance of the terms used in the second column of Figure 1. For example, a Scout unit plans a one day canoe trip on a lake. The event risk is high because the event will occur on a large and presumably deep body of water. The body of water is a potential threat or hazard. It is a threat or hazard to human life because human are not designed to live in water. If a human is placed into water over their head and they tire, and are unable to reach the surface for air, they may perish if no help arrives. Water itself may be a threat or hazard because of currents that may overpower a swimmers ability to stay afloat or swim ashore. The water also hides additional threats or hazards beneath its surface which may interfere with a swimmer trying to reach the surface for air, incapacitate a swimmer, or damage a water craft.

Water surfaces can also be affected by weather. Wind may increase surface choppiness and swamp water craft. Wind may also cause watercraft to drift in an undesirable location beyond the ability of the Scout/Scouter to change course. Lightning may be present and endanger everyone on the

water surface. Weather can change without much notice thus impeding an escape that the danger may bring.

Humans are highly vulnerable to danger while in or on the water. It makes little difference whether the water is still as in a lake or moving as in a creek or river. Danger could also exist in eddies, unexplained water depths, where water currents tend to have significant changes. Strong river currents are deceptively present at all times and can surprise a novice or experienced Scouts whether it be a swimmer or boater.

The significance of a water injury is high: the event risk is high, the vulnerability is high and the outcome risk is also high.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

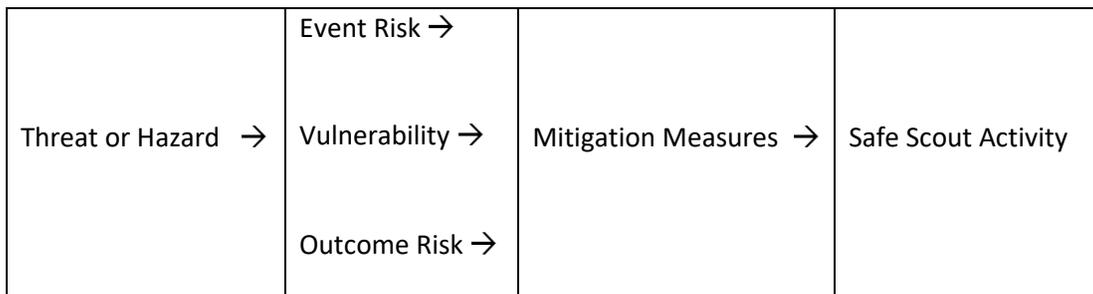
Once risk has been identified and assessed, it is important for unit leaders to mitigate it. It would be at this point where a commissioner's advice, counsel, and experience would be most successfully utilized. Mitigation measures will be different based on what a thorough risk assessment reveals. The event may be identified as a LOW, MODERATE, or HIGH; and mitigation is identified and specified for that specific event. The intent is not to develop some type of risk management color code, however, it is the goal to, "embody good judgment and use common sense." Some mitigation measures have already been developed by the BSA while others must be created to match the risks that are identified for that particular planned event.

For a large Scouting activity (camporee, fishing derby, fun with son, etc.) with subordinate activities, risk assessments should be completed for each subordinate activity. When each risk

assessment is completed, it should be combined and an overarching mitigation strategy should be developed and applied throughout the activity.

Mitigation measures when designed and employed, modify the risk assessment model (Figure 1) and a new mitigated risk assessment model is with attributes is displayed as Figure 2.

Figure 2. Mitigated Risk Assessment Model



## MITIGATIONS

Mitigation comes in two forms. The first form is applying the policies and procedures of the chartered organization in addition to those of the BSA. A commissioner may/should also be consulted for any additional mitigation strategies, equipment, and planning. If those sources/resources do not provide satisfactory mitigation solutions, then experts and literature from professional reputable sources should be consulted for additional acceptable mitigation measures. Should no mitigations be found, then the event should be changed to eliminate the high risk portion of the activity where no safety measures are presently/currently available. When needed and

recommended, the unit-serving commissioner, without bias or prejudice, will provide counsel and, potentially, other resources to consider.

There are a number of resources that are in place to protect Scouts, Scouters, and our chartered organizations. All chartered organizations have agreed to “conduct the Scouting program according to its own policies and guidelines as well as those of the BSA.

Besides agreeing to, “provide camping facilities, a service center, a full time professional staff to assist with the organization in every way possible,” the council provides much needed literature explaining the policies and procedures of the BSA as well as training that explains those policies and procedures. Samples of literature that can be consulted are listed as follows: Health and Safety Guide (34415), Guide to Safe Scouting (34416), Tours and Expeditions (33737), Safe Swim Defense (34370), Trek Safely (20-125), Climb on Safely (20-099), Safety Afloat (34368), The Boy Scout Handbook (33015) and the Field book (34024). Because health and safety is always ongoing, it is highly recommended that the above references be examined and checked for updates on at least a yearly basis.

The BSA also offers a variety of training courses that are offered on-line. The BSA on-line section, “provides a variety of materials, from quick references to complete courses, all designed to help our members improve leadership skills and deliver a quality program. A login is required, but anyone may create a user account and view the courses. Registered members of the BSA may provide their member numbers (as part of the user profile) to receive credit.” BSA on-line training can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/Training/adult.aspx>

## **NEAR MISS REPORTING / ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT**

The following is taken directly from the Guide to Safe Scouting:

The Boy Scouts of America provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness. A key responsibility that we all share is providing an effective program that meets the needs of young people and provides the proper health and safety of everyone concerned.

It is important that we sustain the safe operation of our programs and promote continuous improvement through organizational learning. Timely and complete incident reports support analysis that is critical to identifying needed improvement of the programs offered by the Boy Scouts of America.

At [samhoustonbsa.org](http://samhoustonbsa.org), Leader Resources, Enterprise Risk Management there are several additional resources to unit-serving commissioners and well as the local unit leadership: [Enterprise Risk Management Guide for Units](#), [Incident Reporting Kit](#), (which will contain [Incident Definitions](#) #680-033, [Incident Descriptions and Reporting Instructions](#)); [Near Miss Incident Information Report](#) # 680-017 and [Incident Information Report](#) #680-016. A copy of the Enterprise Risk Management Guide for Units and related forms are attached to the appendix of this report. The above information can also be found in the print version as well as the online version of the Guide to Safe Scouting. Because health and safety is always ongoing, it is highly recommended that the above references also be examined and checked for updates on at least a yearly basis.

## **EFFECTIVE MITIGATION**

Scouting embraces and encourages what is known as, “The Sandwich Principle” of Safety. For all practical purposes, the concept can be described as, “like bread that holds a sandwich, discipline and leadership are the foundation and cover that make Scouting safety a reality, (Health and Safety Guide, Page 40). Also attached and incorporated into the sandwich principle is, The Sweet 16 of

BSA Safety, (Health and Safety Guide, Pages 20 and 21). All of the points of The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety are considered to be “applicable to all Scouting activities” (Health and Safety Guide, Page 20). The phrase, “embody good judgment and common sense,” should be of interest to all Scouters from the local unit level to the professional commissioned Scouter because it implies that all Scouters should recognize the importance of each point of The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety as they represent good judgment and common sense.

It can be argued that the vast majority of citizens are devoid of good common sense and use of effective safety procedures. Of equal concern is that our present day Scout leaders come from this same pool of citizens. If this is the current practice, and it is today, the question is, “What hopes do we have to make sure that our leaders will follow sound safety practices and be better than the rest of the citizenry?” Our Scout leaders are no better than the rest of the citizenry or no more prepared than the most minimally prepared citizen. We then have to ask ourselves, “What measures and procedures are in place to help mitigate a hazard of leadership along with a deficit of common sense to the Scouts that they lead themselves and the Scouting program that everyone desires to enjoy?”

## **RISK MANAGEMENT TRAINING**

Discipline and leadership are important rungs to any safety ladder; however, humility is the attitude that causes a Scout leader to take the first step on safety ladder. If the Scout leader, through commissioner service or some outside counsel, conclude that he or she, “embody good judgment and common sense,” what forces whether internal or external will cause a good leader to research the level of threats and hazards that they plan to expose their Scouts and fellow leaders and then

plan, develop and give leadership to mitigation measures that will significantly reduce risks to an acceptable level?

Cub Scouting may appear to be a program of minimal risks; however, Commissioners need to be aware that Cub Scout Pack overnights with “green” Tiger Cubs and untrained parents do occur. The inherent risk of Scouts and Scouters in Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, Venturing, and Sea Scouts to sustain an injury are ever present. The concept of effective risk management helps protect program participants. When there is no effective risk management, suffering may occur through injury or possible death. A unit-serving commissioner who is without bias or prejudice or neutral can serve as an effective safety advisor.

The Sandwich Principle of risk mitigation then becomes Qualified Supervision, Scouting Safety, and Discipline.

Figure 3. Sandwich Principle



Qualified Supervision opens the door to learning, when evenly applied, eventually replaces ignorance with mastery. Learning combined with quality discipline, opens the door to effective leadership. Leadership with discipline prepares a Scouter to embody good judgment and common

sense. “Like bread that holds a sandwich, discipline and leadership are the foundation and cover that make Scouting safety a reality (Health and Safety Guide, Page 40).

In the previous mitigation section, several resources pieces that are produced by the BSA are readily available from the local BSA Council and or Scout Shop. Within several training courses the BSA attempts to educate leaders on the important points of safety. At various Scouting activities, discussions regarding safety usually arise at roundtables and Scout specific training. As a commissioner, we are often advising our units about safety while at the same time we see our unit leaders signing off on requirements for rank advancements that often stress some elements of safety. In addition to informal training, there are several safety trainings, drills, briefings, during camporees, summer camps, and district/council activities.

The BSA regularly operates training courses to help unit leaders achieve minimum certification for certain activities. It is the responsibility of the chartering organization’s executive officer to make sure that their appointed leader(s) have completed the necessary training for the relevant program/activity that is being operated. The unit-serving commissioner will be able to refer unit/activity leaders to the following resources that are available online or via a formal classroom training session:

1. BSA Lifeguard
2. Climb on Safely
3. Health and Safety
4. Safe Swim Defense
5. Safety Afloat

6. Trek Safely
7. Youth Protection Training, (YPT)
8. Computer Based Training (E-Learning)
  - a. Physical Wellness
  - b. Safe Swim Defense
  - c. Safety Afloat
  - d. Climb On Safely
  - e. Weather Hazards

Some of our unit leaders discover the lack of training when they attempt to complete a Tour and Activity Plan. The Plan, if submitted, requires the unit leader or activity leader to certify that certain items are completed thus resulting in “Qualified Supervision.” When unit/activity leaders fail to submit the Tour Plan, there is no accountability for the all important, “Qualified Supervision.”

Safety training is readily available to any desiring Scouter. The problem that is ever present is that not all Scouters make themselves available to take such training. A sample of a district/council training report would easily indicate *SAFETY* training deficiencies in all areas of unit leadership. It is at this point where a unit-serving commissioner could stress the importance and relevance of attending safety based training. A roundtable commissioner could also make a monthly safety presentation on a generally accepted topic.

## **PROACTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT**

The unit-serving commissioner can be an active player in providing proactive risk management oversight by ensuring that the following ingredients of safety are mixed together: certification, training, experience of a unit/activity leader, approval of a unit committee (using The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety) participant health evaluations, submitting the proper and completed tour permit,

parental permission, the availability of personal health insurance, vehicle safety with proper insurance, with leader and trip insurance as needed.

A Scout unit/chartering organization in partnership with the unit-serving commissioner who are proactive in managing their activity risks will make positive efforts to search for policies and guidelines, find and participate in training, locate interested individuals to lead/participate in general/specialized activities and mitigate activity risks by using The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety. Leaders will find appropriate safety mitigation literature as previously mentioned and seek advice from other leaders who have the relevant experience or who have lead such activities. The unit-serving commissioner should explicitly be asking the unit leader/committee chair if a Tour Plan has been submitted for all activities. Additionally, he/she should check to see if activity releases have been received from all their youth, health histories in hand or on file, and insurance information on all possible drivers. Additional information should be ascertained if all participants will convoy to the event or just rendezvous. Having a positive proactive risk management attitude is where we would like each unit to attain.

## **MANAGING LIABILITY**

If such a moment in time occurs despite all of the positive efforts that our leaders have taken to mitigate safety hazards and such, an accident will occur. What can we then expect? We could easily expect property loss, serious injury and wrongful death may present questions that must be answered before they are compensated through a large sum of money. When appropriate and just, our Scout leaders could be charged with negligence and potentially serve time in a correctional

facility. There is a heavy personal and institutional cost for mistakes that could be prevented through training and mitigation of activity elements through changing attitudes, and mitigating activities into program elements that are health and safe.

The personal benefits of becoming trained and planning safe Scouting activities reduce the chances of being personally liable for claims of wrongful action and suffering and the monetary penalties that follow. Every chartering organization should encourage their leaders to protect themselves by carrying a reasonable amount of liability insurance. A chartering organization may not be able to protect all leaders from all liability.

The overall benefit of having a qualified trained leader is that they plan safe Scouting activities thus reducing the chance that large sums of money will be diverted from settling lawsuits to program use. Should a lawsuit claim that a unit/activity leader is arrogant, irresponsible, negligent, it would be very difficult from keeping a claim from attaching to the chartering institution who has approved the person to be in a leadership position and then to show how this person was certified or why the person has failed to become certified. The BSA has the strongest financial reserves; the BSA may be probably be sued first as a partner in proposed litigation lawsuit. The BSA will defend its trained leaders, but cannot support untrained leaders to the same extent in lawsuits. The BSA and all of its chartering organizations should continue to conduct necessary and required training, keep a paper trail of all persons in attendance and closely monitor all activity leaders as they perform their duties.

## **INSURANCE COVERAGE - LIABILITY OR ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS COVERAGE**

The BSA provides general comprehensive liability coverage for the membership. From the current Guide to Safe Scouting:

This coverage responds to allegations of negligent actions by third parties and provides protection for Scouting units, volunteer Scouters, and chartering organizations with respect to claims for property damage or bodily injury arising out of a Scouting activity. Chartered organizations, participating organizations, and registered volunteers are provided primary coverage through the BSA general liability program, but not for automobile or maritime (boat) liability, which is only on an excess basis; the owner's automobile or maritime (boat) liability is primary. Unregistered volunteers are provided excess general liability coverage. There is no coverage for those who commit intentional or criminal acts

Another benefit to the BSA's membership is accident and sickness insurance. The following is also taken from the current Guide to Safe Scouting

Accident and sickness insurance (also known as accident and health insurance) coverage for Scouts and Scouters furnishes medical reimbursement in case of death, accident, or sickness within the policy amounts. Information regarding unit accident coverage is available through the local council. Who is covered? All registered youth and seasonal staff are eligible as well as registered leaders and volunteer leaders.

## **POST ACCIDENT REVIEW**

Table 1 displays characteristics of accidents that involved Scout/Scouter injury or death that was reported by local newspapers (see Appendix). In this section a review of the accidents will be conducted to potentially narrow down any violation of The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety. Since the information is taken from newspaper accounts, some discretion must be taken as not all facts may have been reported. The main goal here is to review the safety elements which have been violated and to determine which of these unsafe elements could have been prevented, avoided, mitigated through effective training and qualified oversight supervision. Table 1 is a matrix of with the Sweet 16 of BSA Safety in the left column and selected incidents, numbered nine columns to the

right. The newspaper articles related to these incidents are attached to the end of this report and should be consulted for accident details as reported. Table 1 was developed by using a sample of Scouting incidents that have occurred and then taking a post accident review of what was reported and comparing against The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety. Surveys were submitted to several Scouters for their respective rating. A compilation/summary of what was received is reported in Table 1.

TABLE 1 Incident Survey Against the Sweet16 of BSA Safety Matrix

Incident Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1 Qualified Supervision	N	N	N	P	P	N	N	N	N
2 Physical Fitness	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
3 Buddy System	N	N	N	P	P	N	N	N	N
4 Safe Area or Course	N	P	P	P	P	P	N	N	N
5 Equipment Selection and Maintenance	N	N	N	P	P	P	N	N	N
6 Personal Safety Equipment	N	N	P	P	P	P	N	N	N
7 Safety Policies and Procedures	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
8 Skill Level Limits	N	N	P	P	P	P	N	N	N
9 Weather Check	N	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
10 Planning	P	P	N	N	P	N	N	N	N
11 Communications	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
12 Permits and Notices	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
13 First Aid Resources	N	P	N	P	P	N	N	N	N

14 Applicable Laws	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
15 CPR Resources	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
16 Discipline	N	N	N	P	P	N	N	N	P

N= Probably NOT a factor, *P*= Probable contributory factor of outcome

Table 1 shows where several accidents resulted in the death or serious injury of a Scout(s) and or leader(s). In reviewing each of the selected accidents, it appears that several elements of The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety have been violated or perhaps even ignored. Although where one or two violations can be rationalized by the fact that the individual(s) knew what they were doing and perhaps had the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities, the fact of ignoring proper safety elements of The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety could indicate possible ignorance of the elements of The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety. With such ignorance of The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety, it begs the question if general common sense was even applied. It may very well indicate that common sense is not as common as our unit leaders would like it to be and perhaps may indicate that our leaders may not be getting the necessary training required to maintain the “qualified supervision” of The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety. *Qualified Supervision* as defined by the Guide to Safe Scouting is described as follows:

Every BSA activity should be supervised by a conscientious adult who understands and knowingly accepts responsibility for the well-being and safety of the children and youth in his or her care. The supervisor should be sufficiently trained, experienced, and skilled in the activity to be confident of his/her ability to lead and to teach the necessary skills and to respond effectively in the event of an emergency. Field knowledge of all applicable BSA standards and a commitment to implement and follow BSA policies and procedures are essential parts of the supervisor's qualifications.

## CONCLUSION

I would like to conclude this report by comparing the duties of an airline pilot and those of the unit leader and the unit serving commissioner.

At any given moment, there is an airline pilot who is currently analyzing all available data before starting a flight. The pilot may start by watching the local weather channel for weather advisories. The pilot will file a flight plan, receive a weather briefing and depending on the pilot's knowledge, skills, and ability, make a decision to proceed with the flight, cancel, or delay. Once the pilot determines that the flight is safe to proceed, there is a comprehensive checklist that the pilot must complete before take-off. Most of the aviation accidents that have occurred are due to human error, (not successfully completing the checklist or not knowing ones knowledge, skills, and abilities to successfully handle the flight). The Federal Aviation Administration's investigators have found that for the most part that the root causes of accidents are a series of miscalculations, erroneous decisions, and the failures of a pilot to know his/her limitations. In Scouting, the unit-serving commissioner serves as a safety net for our unit leaders. The unit-serving commissioner should act as a clearing house of all available data for a unit leader, possess the necessary tools, and experience or perhaps know who to go to for additional help and counsel.

The bottom line is that both the unit-serving commissioner and the local unit leader have a stake in providing a safe and wholesome environment for those they lead. Not only do leaders and commissioners need to read and be familiar with all policies, they must proactively promote that safe practices are taught and followed. There is no excuse acceptable enough to protect our membership, leaders, and our organization from the liability actions that follow serious property loss or injury that the leader and the BSA can demonstrate that they followed the policies and guidelines of the BSA and member chartered organizations.

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## Attachment/Incident 1

Database: Newspaper Source

### **Analysis: Accident at a Boy Scout Jamboree in Virginia leaves four Scout leaders dead**

9:00-10:00 PM , Now an update on yesterday's fatal **accident** at a **Boy Scout** event in Virginia. Four adult **Scout** leaders were killed when a tent pole they were helping set up touched a power

line. The **Boy Scout** Jamboree is being held at an Army base, so military investigators are looking into what happened. Eric Niiler reports.

ERIC NIILER reporting:

**Boy Scout** Jamborees are supposed to be something like the Olympics of Scouting; lots of archery contests, hikes, environmental projects and trading patches with **Scouts** from around the world. But yesterday's **accident** has shaken the 42,000 **Scouts** and leaders. Even spokesman Gregg Shields was overcome by emotion as he spoke to reporters this morning.

Mr. GREGG SHIELDS (Spokesman, National **Boy Scout** Jamboree): Our hearts go out to the families--excuse me. Our hearts go out to the families of these dedicated **Scout** leaders who gave so much to their sons, their troops and their communities.

NIILER: Shields said that two private contractors were in charge of putting up the white canvas tent, and the four men were helping out. Something happened when a main tent pole touched a power line overhead.

Mr. SHIELDS: What we know is that it involved a big tent being put up that was to be used for a dining area. At 4:30, we were not experiencing any thunderstorms or lightning like we did later in the evening.

NIILER: The four men were among 80 adults and youths who traveled from Anchorage, Alaska, to the Army's sprawling Ft. AP Hill for the 10-day Jamboree. Two victims--Michael Shibe and Mike Lacroix--were putting up the tent with their three sons standing nearby. Those **boys** have left camp, but the rest of the Anchorage **Scouts** are remaining. The other victims--Ronald Bitzer and Scott Powell--were both longtime **Scout** leaders in Alaska.

Army spokesman Major Vincent Mitchell said authorities ordered a safety review because of the incident and today's 105-degree heat that withered most of the outdoor activities.

Major VINCENT MITCHELL (Spokesman, US Army): This safety review is the right thing to do, and will allow us to step back, re-emphasize and reinforce our safety procedures.

NIILER: The two contractors were injured; one remains in stable condition at a Richmond, Virginia, hospital. A fifth **Scout** leader is also hospitalized. On Wednesday, the Jamboree holds its opening ceremonies. It will likely be a bittersweet event with a memorial service and a visit from President Bush. For NPR News, I'm Eric Niiler.

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Attachment/Incident 2

Title: Suit over accident at Boy Scout camp settled By: Schmidt, Sanford J., Telegraph, The (Alton, IL), Jun 26, 2013

Database: Newspaper Source

**Suit over accident at Boy Scout camp settled**

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Sanford J. Schmidt

June 26--EDWARDSVILLE -- A suit filed by a man whose legs were crushed when a tree fell on him at Camp Warren Levis has been settled shortly after the trial began.

John Gremler and his wife, Brenda Gremler, have settled with defendants Lewis and Clark Council Inc. and **Boy Scouts** of America. The terms of the settlement were not available.

Gremler lost his right leg above the knee after a rotted tree fell on him on July 22, 2010. He also suffered crushing injuries to his left leg, but it did not require amputation.

Gremler, of Alton, was sleeping in a tent at the Ranger Camp, an isolated part of the camp in Godfrey. He was an assistant Scoutmaster, and his son was participating in the camp.

The suit claims Scouting officials knew or should have known the danger and removed the tree.

The suit included three counts, asking for damages of at least \$50,000 to pay his extensive medical bills. His wife also asked for damages for loss of consortium. The suit also claimed the defendants spoiled evidence by removing the tree. Gremler was 51 at the time of the **accident**.

Rescuers had to travel more than 100 feet down a mud path to reach Gremler. The tree had to be cut into pieces to remove Gremler. He was airlifted to a St. Louis hospital.

The defendants claimed that the case should be dismissed because Gremler signed a release from liability before participating in the camping event. They argued that the responsibility was at least in part on the plaintiff.

The Lewis and Clark Council and the BSA argued that Gremler was voluntarily assuming a risk when he participated.

The defendants also argued that there is a law called the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act.

The act, according to lawyers for the defendants, provides that owners of land who invite people to use it for recreational or conservation purposes need not extend any assurance that the premises are safe for any purpose.

The owners do not assume any responsibility or incur any liability for any injury to an invitee for injuries, according to the act, the attorneys claim.

sanfordschmidt@yahoo.com

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Item: 2W63310519789

Attachment/Incident 3

### **Second person killed in accident near Hocking Hills**

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Lou Grieco

May 21--Two days after a Centerville man died after he fell from a cliff near Hocking Hills State Park in front of a group of **Boy Scouts**, a second person was killed Monday after they fell from a waterfall in the recreation area.

Peter Randall Livingston, 53, a teacher at a Dayton charter school and longtime **Scout** leader, was killed Saturday in Hocking Hills Forest following a rappelling **accident**.

An incident report released by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources shows that Livingston had been rappelling in the forest located near Hocking Hills State Park when he fell about 125 feet. When the park officer arrived, local EMS services were already trying to revive Livingston, but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Columbus Dispatch reported Livingston's group had finished for the day and he was lowering a gear-filled backpack when he fell in front of several **Scouts**.

On Monday, the Dispatch reported a person fell to their death around 4 p.m. at Cedar Falls, a waterfall in the state park. No other details were available.

It is the fourth serious **accident** -- and third fatality -- in the past four weeks near the park. On April 27, Josias Rodriguez, 19, of Columbus, fell 130 feet to his death. He had been hiking with friends when he left the marked trail and climbed a rock face, but fell as he tried to climb down, the Columbus Dispatch reported.

That same day, a 23-year-old woman from Chillicothe was in a different part of the park when she and her boyfriend left a trail and walked along a cliff's edge. The woman, who slipped and fell 100 feet, was flown to an area hospital and survived.

Livingston, who retired from the U.S. Air Force, started teaching math at Dayton Business Technology High School in August. The charter school is at 348 W. First St. in Dayton.

"Mr. Livingston has been with us a short amount of time, since August, but he's had a huge impact on our school," said principal Phillitia Charlton on Monday. "He was a very caring person."

Livingston brought energy and compassion to the classroom, where he served kids ages 16 to 21 in an "alternative education setting," Charlton said. "Whatever was needed, he was there to do it for us."

The students were taking the news "very hard," she said.

Doug Nelson, council executive and CEO of the Miami Valley Council of the **Boy Scouts** of America, said Livingston had long served the **scouts**. The organization held a memorial service Sunday night for the **boys**, who ranged in age from 14 to 17, who were with him when he fell, Nelson said.

"It's just a very tragic **accident**," Nelson said. "Pete was a great guy, very dedicated to Scouting, a great family man, a leader, a role model, a mentor and a good friend."

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#### Attachment/Incident 4

Title: Boy Scout burned at camp dies By: and Martha Woodall, Maya Rao, Philadelphia Inquirer, The (PA), Jul 12, 2008

Database: Newspaper Source

#### **Boy Scout burned at camp dies**

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Maya Rao and Martha Woodall

Jul. 12--Family and friends yesterday were mourning the death of Sean Whitley, a 17-year-old **Boy Scout** counselor from Marlton who died from burns sustained when another **Scout's** stunt went awry at a camp last weekend.

Sunday's **accident** at the Joseph A. Citta **Scout** Reservation in Waretown, Ocean County, also resulted in less serious injuries to Whitley's twin brother and a younger teen.

"Sean was a mature, funny kid who loved the friends he made in Scouting," Kevin Whitley said of his son outside the family's home last night.

The teen died Thursday at Temple University Hospital, where he had been since Sunday's **accident**.

The youth's mother, Laurie, said Sean had been a counselor for several summers at the Ocean County reservation where he was injured.

"He was a counselor there, and he loved it," she said.

Authorities have said Whitley received second- and third-degree burns when an 18-year-old senior staff member attempted a "ring of fire" demonstration Sunday.

Ocean County officials have said the 18-year-old, whose name has not been released, poured rubbing alcohol to make a circle on a makeshift table and ignited it.

When he thought the fire had died out, he squirted more rubbing alcohol onto the table. An ember ignited a flame, which then traveled back up the liquid and into the bottle.

The 18-year-old tossed the bottle, and flaming liquid spilled onto Whitley. The liquid also splattered onto the victim's twin, Kenneth, and a 14-year-old unidentified **boy** who were also watching the demonstration.

The 14-year-old, who was flown to Temple University Burn Center with Whitley, remained hospitalized yesterday.

Craig H. Shelley, **Scout** executive of the Jersey Shore Council of **Boy Scouts**, last night said the hospitalized **Scout** was "doing well."

Kenneth Whitley was treated at Southern Ocean County Hospital.

All four teens were staff members at the camp, which this week hosted 180 **Scouts** between the ages of 11 and 17, said Shelley, whose council oversees the reservation.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of this young man and our camp staff," Shelley said last night. "The safety and security of our **Scouts** and staff is our absolute top priority, and we are working with the local authorities in relating to this tragic incident."

Shelley said the **Scouts** had been providing counseling to staff at the reservation this week. He said the **accident** took place in an area that was restricted to staff. It was not witnessed by younger **Scouts**, he added.

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, which announced the teen's death yesterday, is conducting an investigation. No charges have been filed.

An autopsy is scheduled for today.

Contact staff writer Maya Rao at 856-779-3220 or mrao@phillynews.com.

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Item: 2W61727253066

## Attachment/Incident 5

Title: Sledding death of Pottstown Boy Scout ruled accidental By: Cook, Bonnie L., Philadelphia Inquirer, The (PA), Jan 19, 2010

Database: Newspaper Source

## **Sledding death of Pottstown Boy Scout ruled accidental**

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Bonnie L. Cook

Jan. 19--The death of a Pottstown **boy** who was carrying a Bible passage when he was involved in a sledding mishap this weekend in Coudersport, Pa., was a "tragic **accident**," the Potter County coroner ruled yesterday.

Coroner Kevin J. Dusenbury Sr. said Ian Joshua Miller, 12, died after his plastic saucer-shaped sled plowed into a ski lift tower at Ski Denton at 11:05 p.m. Friday.

The **boy** -- a member of **Boy Scout** Troop 95, hosted by Cedarville United Methodist Church in North Coventry, Chester County -- was pronounced dead at Charles Cole Memorial Hospital in Coudersport, three hours from Montgomery County, Dusenbury said.

"The Scouting group had been coming there for years," Dusenbury said. "It's heartbreaking."

The **boy's** father, Ronald C. Miller, said Ian and his buddies were eager to get in an hour of sledding before bedtime.

"It was the last trip down the hill," the **boy's** father said. "Somehow, he veered away from the group. They found him sitting up, leaning against a pole. He had injuries to the back of his head."

Dusenbury said members of the Scouting party and paramedics tried unsuccessfully to revive the **boy**.

"Everything possible was done to aid Ian. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family," the coroner said.

When Ronald Miller and his wife, Holly Wastler-Miller, arrived in Coudersport, they found Dusenbury waiting for them at the hospital. In his hand was a typed Bible passage on a folded piece of paper that had been in the **boy's** ski boot.

It was from James 1:2-4, and read, Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

"There was not a dry eye when I took that out of there," Dusenbury said. "In today's world, how many kids would have a Bible passage in their boot?"

The **boy's** final gift, his father said, was to be an organ donor. The family had discussed the issue, and Ian had readily agreed.

"We were driving home from the hospital, saying, 'Our son's heart could be beating in someone else now,' " Miller said.

"That's the only saving grace to a tragedy," the coroner said.

Ian was born in Phoenixville. An only child, he was encouraged to try new things, such as cooking classes and the scuba-diving certification he earned in 2008.

Starting in kindergarten, Ian attended West-Mont Christian Academy in North Coventry. At the time of his death, he was a straight-A student in the seventh grade, his father said.

Ian was goalkeeper on the school's soccer team, and played baseball. He had just been elected to student council, and played piano and saxophone with the middle school's band, his father said.

In addition, Ian played goalie in Coventry Red Storm Soccer, a youth league, and second base in the Coventry Little League. He had just been selected for the Soccer Olympic Development Program.

"He was torn between being a soccer player and joining the Naval Academy," his father said. "I have no clue where it would have gone."

Surviving, in addition to his parents, are paternal grandparents Charles and Eleanor Miller, maternal grandparents Leo and Phyllis Wastler, and aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Memorial services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at the Church of the Saviour, 651 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. The family will greet mourners at the church after the service.

Memorial donations may be made to West-Mont Christian Academy, 873 S. Hanover St., Pottstown, Pa. 19465.

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Contact staff writer Bonnie L. Cook at 610-313-8232 or [bcook@phillynews.com](mailto:bcook@phillynews.com).

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articles for individual use. Source: Philadelphia Inquirer, The (PA), Jan 19, 2010  
Item: 2W61739288590

## Attachment/Incident 6

Title: BRIEF: Funeral services today for Plano boy killed in boating accident By: Selk, Avi,  
Dallas Morning News, The (TX), Jun 18, 2009

Database: Newspaper Source

### **BRIEF: Funeral services today for Plano boy killed in boating accident**

Avi Selk

Jun. 18--Funeral services are today for a Plano **boy** who died in a boating **accident** Saturday during a **Boy Scout** outing on Lavon Lake.

John Potanka, 12, was being towed in an inner tube behind a boat full of **Scouts**, his father and an adult driver when he fell out and was struck by the boat as it turned, said Capt. Garry Collins, a game warden with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

John died at Children's Medical Center Dallas later that day, the Dallas County medical examiner's office said.

"People need to know that they need to spend time with their children," said Paul Potanka, the **boy's** father. "You don't know. It can be over, just like that."

John had just completed sixth grade at Schimelpfenig Middle School, according to a paid obituary that appeared in The Dallas Morning News .

His funeral is at 11 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 2700 W. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

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Item: 2W6911773704

#### Attachment/Incident 7

Title: Settlements reached in Boy Scouts' deaths in wreck By: Applegate, Aaron, Virginian-Pilot, The (Norfolk, VA), May 17, 2008

Database: Newspaper Source

#### **Settlements reached in Boy Scouts' deaths in wreck**

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Aaron Applegate

May 17--VIRGINIA BEACH -- The families of three **Boy Scouts** killed in a fiery wreck in 2006 have settled separate wrongful-death claims against the **Boy Scouts** of America and the estate of the assistant **Scout** leader who was driving the car.

The **Boy Scouts** of America did not admit to fault by agreeing to the settlement, and the families gave up their right to further legal action.

The crash happened when a sport utility vehicle driven by Assistant Scoutmaster John Oliver veered off a Southampton County road, hit a tree and burst into flames.

Luke Drewry, 12, Jackson Fox, 13, Carter Stephenson, 14, and Oliver, 43, died. The group was returning from a camping trip. The official cause of the crash was driver distraction, police said.

The Fox and Stephenson families will get \$425,000 each from the **Boy Scouts** of America's insurance company, Liberty Mutual, and \$25,000 each from Geico, the company that insured Oliver's car, according to court documents.

The Drewry family will get \$550,000 from Liberty Mutual and \$25,000 from Geico, documents showed.

Sam Drewry, father of Luke Drewry, said he didn't blame the **Boy Scouts** for the **accident**, adding that the organization offered the settlement.

"They weren't responsible for anything, in my opinion," he said. "They offered, and we accepted. It was out of the goodness of their hearts."

The Stephenson and Fox families declined to comment.

Aaron Applegate, (757) 222-5122, aaron.applegate@pilotonline.com

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Item: 2W62W63867410568

## Attachment/Incident 8

4 returning to Springs killed in Wyoming head-on crash

Authors: [Mary Shinn](#), [Wayne Heilman](#)

Source: [Gazette, The \(Colorado Springs, CO\)](#), 07/01/2012

Document Type:

Article Accession Number:2W62693607541

Database: Newspaper Source

## 4 returning to Springs killed in Wyoming head-on crash

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Wayne Heilman and Mary Shinn

July 01--Five people, including three **Boy Scouts** and one adult leader from Woodland Park died in two vehicle crash Saturday on the way home from Buffalo Bill Cody **Scout** Camp in Wyoming.

"Yesterday was an extremely difficult day for the entire Scouting family," **Boy Scouts** Council said in a written statement.

The **Boy Scouts** and their leader were traveling southbound on Wyoming Highway 120 in Hot Springs County, 33 miles north of Thermopolis. Their car crossed the center line into the northbound lanes shortly after 10 a.m. and it hit head-on a motor home pulling a passenger car, a state patrol press release said.

A 3-year-old **boy** in the motor home also was killed in the crash.

Reuters reported the vehicle crashed 20 miles south of the town of Meeteetse. Reuters also reported that speed and alcohol are not believed to be a factor in the **accident** and that two of the passengers in the motor home were taken to a nearby hospital and released.

The Honda Element was the second of three vehicles in a convoy returning to the Springs area; the other two vehicles were not involved in the crash. Another occupant believed to be the driver of the motor home was taken by Life Flight helicopter to a hospital in Billings, Mont., and three other passengers in the motor home were taken by ambulance to a hospital in Thermopolis. One person in the Honda Element was taken by ambulance to a hospital in Cody, but didn't survive.

The names of the victims have not been released and the investigation into the crash continues.

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Item: 2W62693607541

## Attachment/Incident 9

Title: Parents see son die after falling in river on Beaver Scout walk By: Kaya Burgess; Steve Bird, Times, The (United Kingdom), Jun 18, 2009

Database: Newspaper Source

### **Parents see son die after falling in river on Beaver Scout walk**

Section: News Edition: 01

Sudbury A **boy** aged 6 died after falling into a river while on a trip with a Beaver **Scout** group (Kaya Burgess and Steve Bird write). Alan Lock, right, was on a guided walk along the bank of

the River Stour in Suffolk, left, when the **accident** happened shortly after 7pm on Tuesday. Staff tried to revive him as his parents looked on, but he died in West Suffolk Hospital.

Police are treating the **boy's** death as "unexplained" after he reportedly slipped and fell at an isolated spot near Ballingdon Bridge in Sudbury. It is believed that the group had walked the path before.

There were between 15 and 20 children in the group, from the 1st Acton and Waldingfield **Scout** Group. The **Scout** Association could not confirm how many adults were accompanying the children.

Adam's parents, Sharon, 30, and Allan, 33, of Acton, Suffolk, were being consoled by friends and family yesterday. It is believed that they arrived while efforts were being made to resuscitate their son.

Dale Forman, 62, saw Alan being pulled from the water. He said: "There were a bunch of around 50 young children and they were all crying and upset. I saw two teachers trying to revive him. It's very sad, especially since another child drowned on the same stretch of river about two years ago."

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#### Photo Captions

Alan Lock: fell into River Stour

Source: Times, The (United Kingdom), Jun 18, 2009, p21, 1p  
Item: 7EH24684755

#### Attachment/Incident 10

Title: Scouts weigh risk after killer storm: They say Iowa tragedy reinforces the need for campers' preparedness By: Caggiano, Janet, Richmond Times-Dispatch (VA), Jun 13, 2008

Database: Newspaper Source

**Scouts weigh risk after killer storm: They say Iowa tragedy reinforces the need for campers' preparedness**

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Janet Caggiano

Jun. 13--Seamus McCombs understands the risks associated with camping in the great outdoors.

Flash flooding, dangerous lightning and tornadoes can strike with little warning.

"If you go camping, there's always that chance that something might happen," he said. "You just have to be prepared."

Seamus, 15, is a **Boy Scout** with Troop 555 in Hanover County. He and his brothers, Will and Scott, have camped for several years. They leave July 13 for their next **Scout** outing at Camp T. Brady Saunders in Goochland County.

The dangers are on the minds of more families this week after a tornado struck a **Boy Scout** camp in western Iowa on Wednesday. Four **Scouts** were killed, and more than 40 other people were injured during a weeklong leadership training camp.

"I personally have tremendous faith there is just as much chance they'd get hurt in a car **accident**," said Seamus' mother, Carolyn. "The good things they get from the **Scouts** -- the leadership skills, the survival skills, how to get along in less-than-ideal situations -- far outweigh the one-in-a-million chance that something bad might happen."

"It's a sad event," said John McCulla, Scoutmaster for Troop 715 in Henrico County (Three Chopt Presbyterian Church) and the father of an Eagle **Scout**, James.

"It's alarming. If anything can come out of it, it's to be prepared for anything that might happen," McCulla said.

**Scout** leaders and volunteers receive training in all aspects of safety, including emergency preparedness and first aid, said Brad Nesheim, **Scout** executive for the Heart of Virginia Council of the **Boy Scouts** of America, which is made up of about 20,000 **boys** from nine districts throughout central Virginia.

"You can't anticipate [natural disasters], but you know they will happen from time to time," he said. "You could stay home, but life is not about staying home. Life is about risks and being prepared for them."

In 2005, **Scouts** fell ill in the extreme heat at the National **Scout** Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Caroline County, and four **Scout** leaders were electrocuted in a tent **accident**.

"It's scary what can happen," Seamus said. "But part of Scouting is to prepare you for these natural disasters. You are in good hands."

During the 2005 Jamboree, McCulla and his group of **boys** faced a thunderstorm with heavy winds. He quickly gathered his group, took a head count and moved everyone into their tents away from trees and structures that could collapse.

"The immensity of nature is huge when it deals a blow," he said. "You certainly develop great respect for lightly."

The Jamboree is held about every four years and has been at Fort A.P. Hill since 1981. The next is scheduled for 2010, when the **Boy Scouts** of America celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Contact Janet Caggiano at (804) 649-6157 or [jcaggiano@timesdispatch.com](mailto:jcaggiano@timesdispatch.com).

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Item: 2W62W61309915265

## Attachment/Incident 11

Title: Teen who fell off rappelling tower is doing well: Boy injured during nighttime climb at Camp Mountaineer Dominion Post, The (Morgantown, WV), Jul 15, 2009

Database: Newspaper Source

**Teen who fell off rappelling tower is doing well: Boy injured during nighttime climb at Camp Mountaineer**

Jul. 15--A 16-year-old who fell from a rappelling tower Monday night is doing as well as can be expected, said Dan Wagner, **Scout** Executive of the Mountaineer Area Council of the **Boy Scouts** of America No. 615.

Wagner said he spent Monday evening with the **boy**, who has a broken wrist, lacerations and a broken vertebra as a result of the fall. Wagner declined to give the **boy's** name. He remains at Ruby Memorial Hospital, Wagner said.

The **boy** has complete movement and is worried about getting back to camp, Wagner said.

The fall happened on the Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE) course of Camp Mountaineer, Wagner said. The **boy** worked on staff at the camp and was assisting campers at the 35-foot tower. Campers were finishing the nighttime climb when the incident occurred, Wagner said, adding that the tower is well lit at night.

Camp Mountaineer is about 8 miles south of Morgantown off U.S. 119 South.

The 16-year-old didn't tell those on the ground that he was leaving the tower when he stepped off and fell, Wagner said. It is normal procedure to let those on the ground know that you are coming down.

MECCA 911 received a call at 9:10 p.m. Monongalia EMS and the Clinton District Volunteer Fire Department responded to the **accident**.

Wagner said he spoke with camp staff Monday evening and updated them on the **boy's** condition. The staff then held a prayer vigil for the injured teen. On Tuesday morning, Wagner addressed all the campers to let them know about the **accident**; they also had a morning prayer for the **boy**.

Wagner said the tower remained closed on Tuesday, and they are continuing to gather information about the **accident**. Wagner said he didn't believe there was a mechanical issue with the tower. Two months ago, it was inspected and was cleared for use.

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Item: 2W63957098058

## Attachment/Incident 12

Title: The Dominion Post, Morgantown, W.Va., local briefs Dominion Post, The (Morgantown, WV), Sep 17, 2006

Database: Newspaper Source

### **The Dominion Post, Morgantown, W.Va., local briefs**

Sep. 17--A **Boy Scouts** ceremony went awry Saturday night after a hollowed-out tree caught fire in the woods at Camp Mountaineer.

"**Boy Scouts** were up there doing a ceremony ... they thought they had it out; [the fire] came back later and it was on fire," said Capt. Keith Straight, of the Clinton District Volunteer Fire Department.

Straight said he did not know what kind of ceremony they were doing, or which **Boy Scouts** troop it was.

The tree was located about 200 feet into the woods, he said. A MECCA 911 dispatcher said the call came in at 7:24 p.m. and the fire, located off of Camp Mountaineer Road, was under control by 7:50 p.m.

"You could see flames coming out of the tree. It was like a chimney," Straight said.

Firefighters cut down the tree and soaked it and the surrounding area in water.

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Source: Dominion Post, The (Morgantown, WV), Sep 17, 2006  
Item: 2W62W61219494349

### Attachment/Incident 13

Title: Scouts Unshaken by Week of Tragedy, Extreme Heat By: Ian Shapira, Washington Post, The, 01908286, Jul 29, 2005

Database: Newspaper Source

### **Scouts Unshaken by Week of Tragedy, Extreme Heat**

Section: , A02

FORT A.P. HILL, Va., July 28 -- In the **Boy Scouts'** sprawling makeshift city of green and red tents, it's hard to tell that tragedy and a potentially fatal episode of mass heat exhaustion has unfolded.

The **Scouts'** quadrennial National Jamboree appears to have quickly returned to normal, and many Scouts and leaders say that this week's events have not distracted them very much from their daily schedule of scuba diving, sliding down a hillside of ping pong balls and, of course, trading patches.

"That's the nature of these kids. They don't fixate on the negative or frustrating aspects that adults do. They tend to work around it," said Renee L. Fairrer, a jamboree spokeswoman. "You have to take into account that we're building a city of nearly 50,000 people. There are going to be **accidents**, just by virtue of all of us being in an area."

On Wednesday, the **Scouts** postponed their opening arena show, an event that usually kick-starts the jamboree and that was supposed to feature a speech by President Bush. It was called off because of severe storms.

Then on Thursday, Bush's appearance and the arena show were canceled again by jamboree officials in order to give everyone a break.

"We feel our **Scouts** and leaders will benefit most from an opportunity to review and emphasize our safety procedures and replenish our resources," Jamboree Chairman Francis H. Olmstead Jr. said in a statement. "We want all participants to safely enjoy the many, many activities and programs at the Jamboree. Also, the drop in temperature is a welcome change which should provide an opportunity to refresh."

The **Scouts** are hoping Bush can come Sunday for their closing arena show. But by last evening, they had received no word from the White House on whether he would appear.

It has been a turbulent week. A North Carolina man involved with the jamboree died of a heart attack walking on the grounds as the jamboree was beginning. On Monday, four **Scout** leaders from Alaska were killed when a pole they were holding to erect a dining canopy apparently hit a power line and they were electrocuted.

On Wednesday, as many of the **Scouts** were waiting in nearly 100-degree heat at the base amphitheater for Bush to arrive, 306 people -- parents, **Scouts** and others -- suffered heat exhaustion, many of them collapsing on the ground.

Two people were hospitalized overnight. A jamboree spokesman said he did not know whether the two were **Scouts** or others. Most of the others were treated at an on-post medical facility.

The deaths jolted many **Scouts** out of their routine, but they also said the news has not dominated their minds as much as it has dominated the media.

"It's kind of like in the news, when you hear about people dying. You think, 'Oh, that's really terrible,'" said Andrew Richards, 12, a seventh-grader from Idaho Falls, Idaho. "But it doesn't really bug us because we didn't really know them."

Brett Gunter, 13, an eighth-grader, also from Idaho Falls, said **Scouts** have been talking about the deaths only when asked by reporters or parents or during evening prayer services. Details about this week's events are sketchy to them.

Brett said he thought two people had died from dehydration, when in fact, they had only been hospitalized.

He spoke about the deaths and their implications.

"There's a rumor going around here that if there's 10 deaths this week, everyone's going to have to go home. But I don't think that's going to happen. The jamboree goes on."

Many **Scouts** said that the cases of heat exhaustion are more distressing than the leaders' deaths because they seem closer to home. It's harder to relate to electrocution, they said.

Many expressed gratitude for cooler weather and hoped that Bush could carve out a little time for them Sunday. When they leave next week, they said, they will come away with a newfound appreciation for water, which they have been reminded to drink frequently.

"I'm definitely going to bring a Nalgene [water container] everywhere with me from now on," said Andrew Clouse, 14, of Greensboro, N.C.

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Source: Washington Post, The, Jul 29, 2005  
Item: WPT012936938205

Attachment/Incident 14

Title: Friends mourn Kannapolis teen who fell to death on Scout hike Independent Tribune (Concord, NC), Sep 23, 2012

Database: Newspaper Source

**Friends mourn Kannapolis teen who fell to death on Scout hike**

Sept. 23--KANNAPOLIS, N.C. -- Friends and classmates gathered to remember Chris Overcash on Sunday, the day after the 16-year-old A.L. Brown junior fell to his **death** during a **Boy Scout** outing on Stone Mountain in Wilkes County.

Overcash apparently fell from a cliff while hiking near the top of the 600-foot summit with other members of Troop 128, which is based in Concord. State park officials and the **Boy Scouts** said they are investigating the **death**.

On Sunday, the "spirit rock" outside A.L. Brown High School in Kannapolis was painted in his honor, reading "RIP Chris Overcash 2014."

A.L. Brown students remembered their friend fondly, describing Overcash as thoughtful and kind-hearted.

"He loved every one of his friends and hated it when they were sad, so he would try everything to make them happy," said Erin Deese. "He will be missed and he will always be loved by all his friends."

"It was impossible not to like him," said Mekayla Dakotah Bishop. "He loved My Little Pony and Hello Kitty and wasn't afraid to let everyone know."

His fondness for those cartoon characters, along with Japanese anime and the heavy-metal band Metallica, are evident on Overcash's Facebook page.

Chris Overcash also enjoyed Scouting and hoped to join the military someday, friends said.

"He had his heart set on going into the Army," Deese said. "You never would have thought this would happen to him because he was so cautious about this kind of thing," Deese said.

Charlie Peek, a spokesman for the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, said that Overcash was with a group of **Scouts** that had camped overnight at Stone Mountain State Park near Roaring Gap and were on the summit of the mountain about noon on Saturday.

The mountain is a 600-foot dome of granite.

Peek said Overcash was about 100 yards from the marked trail on the summit when he fell an estimated 500 feet. Other **Scouts** were in the area when he fell.

Wilkes County EMS Director Greg Hendren said the call for help came out at 12:01 p.m. The fall was on the south cliff of Stone Mountain, he said.

Peek said Overcash was pronounced dead at the scene. He was not engaged in rock-climbing or any similar activity when he fell, Peek said.

"An investigation is being conducted by the state park officials, and we will work with them," said Todd Walter, an official in Albemarle with the **Boy Scouts** of America. "Our focus right now is pure and simply on the **boys** that were on this trip, their parents and the adult leaders who were with them."

The troop is based at Epworth United Methodist Church in Concord, and the church's pastor, the Rev. Glenn Myers, and grief counselors were there to meet the group when they returned

"Today is an extremely difficult day for our entire Scouting family," read a statement from the **Boy Scouts** of America. "We are sad to confirm the **death** of a **Scout** who was participating in a troop weekend activity at Stone Mountain State Park. The health and safety of our youth members is of paramount importance to the **Boys Scouts** of America. At this time we have arranged for counselors to meet with members of the troop and we will continue to assist the family and **Scouts** with their needs. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the family of this **Scout**."

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Item: 2W62788103368

## Attachment/Incident 15

14-year-old **Boy Scout** from Edina dies while hiking: Timothy Nunn died while hiking with members his **Scout** troop at Philmont **Scout** Ranch, a 200-square-mile base in northern New Mexico.

Authors:[Feyder, Susan](#)

Source: [Star Tribune \(Minneapolis, MN\)](#), 07/26/2009

Document Type: Article

Accession Number: 2W61312769870

Database: Newspaper Source

## **14-year-old Boy Scout from Edina dies while hiking: Timothy Nunn died while hiking with members his Scout troop at Philmont Scout Ranch, a 200-square-mile base in northern New Mexico.**

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Susan Feyder

Jul. 26--The parents of a 14-year-old Edina **Boy Scout** who collapsed and died at a wilderness camp in New Mexico are taking solace in the belief their son died doing something he loved.

Timothy Nunn died Friday while hiking with members his **Scout** troop at Philmont **Scout** Ranch, a 200-square-mile base in northern New Mexico. The cause of the **boy's death** is not known.

Timmy's parents, Jim and Zibby Nunn, flew to New Mexico Friday night after being notified of their son's **death** by the executive staff of the Northern Star Council, which includes **Scout** troops from Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

The Nunns were not available for comment Sunday, but in a prepared statement said: "Timmy loved **Boy Scouts**. All preliminary indications are that there is nothing anyone could have done, whether he would have been at home or out on a hike, to save him."

The Nunn family also said they have encouraged the **Scouts** in Timmy's group to continue their trip at Philmont and that their son's funeral will be held in early August after the group returns from New Mexico. "Timmy would have wanted them to finish their trek; they have all been looking forward to it for a year or more," said Jim Nunn.

Timmy's group, which included 28 **boys** and adults, was in the third day of its trip to Philmont when he collapsed, said Kent York, marketing director for the Northern Star Council. York said group members immediately performed CPR, as did emergency medical personnel called from Philmont and Cimarron, New Mexico. They were unable to resuscitate the **boy**, York said.

York said **Scouts** spend years preparing for their trips to Philmont, a mountainous base geared for older **Scouts** who can handle rigorous activities and adventures. **Scouts** are required to get physical examinations before going, he said.

York said he had never met Timmy but added: "By all accounts he was well-loved and a great kid. This is a very sad day for everyone in our Scouting family."

In addition to Scouting, Timmy was active in baseball in Edina as a member of the 14/15 Babe Ruth Twins team.

Donations for a memorial fund in Timmy's name can be made through the Edina Baseball Association on its website, [edinabaseball.org](http://edinabaseball.org), or by sending a check to the Edina Park and Recreation Department, 4801 W. 50th St., Edina, MN 55424.

Susan Feyder --612-673-1723

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Item: 2W61312769870

# Enterprise Risk Management

# Guide For Units

The purpose of this guide is to prepare adult leaders to conduct Scouting activities in a safe and prudent manner. Policies and guidelines have been established because of the need to protect members from risk and hazards that have been identified through one hundred-plus years of Scouting experience. This guide provides adult leaders with information on:

- \_ **Council Emergency Procedures / Press Relations**
- \_ **Incident Reporting**
- \_ **Youth Protection Procedures**
- \_ **Insurance Coverages**
- \_ **Tour and Activity Plans**
- \_ **Volunteer Background Checks**
- \_ **BSA Training Courses for Health & Safety**

**Every registered adult leader should have a copy of this important Council resource.**

In the case of a reportable situation, it is the responsibility of the person in charge of the event/function/trip to contact one of the following Council officials and their District Executive:

Director of Support Service **David Foil**  
Office: 713-756-3319  
Cell: 281-795-7812

Risk Management Staff **Vincent Manning**  
Advisor Office: 713-756-3380  
Cell: 713-259-9407

**SCOUTING SAFETY...**  
**...BEGINS WITH LEADERSHIP**

**INITIAL RELEASE**  
**Version: February 9, 2013**

All youth activities have some potential for accidents or fatal injury. If an accident or serious injury occurs, it is important that the Sam Houston Area Council be prepared to respond in an appropriate manner. The following procedures have been established to guide volunteers and staff personnel as they relate to fatal or serious accidents, injuries, or illness.

1. Proper planning to avoid possible injuries and for adequate emergency response is the responsibility of all Scouting leaders. In addition, the observance of all laws that might apply to a Scouting event is necessary, for example, speed limits, wearing of seat belts, tire maintenance, and reading and following safety precautions, etc.

2. In an event where an individual is injured or serious illness occurs, proper and adequate care, treatment, and transportation of the individual is of primary importance. Careless handling of a victim following an accident can make the injuries worse. Do not transport injured individual by private vehicle when an ambulance is needed. Condition of injured can deteriorate quickly and proper medical supervision should be utilized.

3. The next responsibility is to notify the proper Scouting authorities. It is the Council policy that the following be reported to the Council Scout Executive or his designee as soon as practically possible:

\_ All deaths or serious injuries

\_ Injury to a Scout or adult on a Scout function (on or off Scout property) in which medical treatment other than at-scene first aid is necessary or recommended

\_ Any situation occurring in connection with a Scout function (whether on or off Scout property) in which a Scout or adult is transported to a hospital, whether or not the Scout/adult is admitted.

**Reporting Procedure:** In the case of a reportable situation, it is the responsibility of the person in charge of the event/function/trip to contact one of the Council officials as listed on the cover of this guidebook.

4. The Council official will make arrangements to contact the family physician or other medical assistance as required or requested by the parent or guardians and to provide transportation, counseling, or other support as is within the purview of the Council. Arrangements will be made to secure personal equipment for safe delivery to the home, if requested.

5. The Council official handles procedures regarding insurance, media relations, and ensures that National and local Scout policies are met. It is the hope of the Council that with thorough prior planning and emphasis on safety, Scouting can avoid accidents and injury.

Should they occur, however, it is the responsibility of all BSA leaders to respond and follow the procedures indicated. The concern for the injured person(s) and their family is of primary importance. In responding to the news media, the following principles should be observed:

1. It is the Council policy to work with the media to provide factual, accurate, and timely information. The Council will not adopt a “no comment” attitude.
2. Only one Council spokesperson will be selected to be the news source, usually the Council Scout Executive or Council President. Individual leaders/adults should refer all media inquires to the Council news source and should give accurate directions for locating the Council news source.

**Lynda Sanders,**  
**Director of Marketing / Communication**  
**713-765-3301 ofc / 713-820-8010 cell**

3. The Council spokesperson will note which representatives of the media were involved. If possible, a press release or media advisory will be prepared as soon as possible so that all media representatives are given the same information.

### **Incident Definitions:**

**First Aid:** Any injury or illness treated by Scout rendered first aid but does not include treatment that has to be done by a medical professional such as a nurse, EMT, or doctor. Scout-rendered includes a Scout or Scouter.

**Near Miss:** An unplanned event that DID NOT result in injury, illness, or damage by definition, but had the potential to cause less than serious damage or injury.

**Serious Near Miss:** An unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage by definition (e.g., emergency response was called to find a lost Scout), but had the potential to cause serious damage or injury.

**Vehicle Accident:** An unintentional damaging event involving one or more vehicles that causes damage to the vehicle, damage to property, or physical harm. Vehicles include automobiles and other motorized equipment (e.g., four-wheelers, farm equipment, industrial equipment, or motorcycles).

**Victimization of Scout:** An intentional incident in which a Scout is physically or psychologically harmed.

### **BSA Incident Reporting Policy:**

The BSA provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness. A key responsibility that we all share is providing an effective program that meets the needs of young people and provides the proper health and safety of everyone concerned. It is important that we sustain the safe operation of our programs and promote continuous improvement through organizational learning. Timely and complete incident

reports support analysis that is critical to identifying needed improvement of the programs offered by the BSA.

### **What is an Incident?**

Loosely defined, an incident is any unplanned event that results in harm to an individual, property, or the environment.

### **Why Report an Incident?**

The information reported from incidents is valuable in preventing the reoccurrence of similar incidents. Reporting incidents promptly is also critical so we can respond to incidents in an appropriate manner, and it helps us properly manage any potential claims.

### **How Do I Report an Incident?**

Reporting requirements are based on the severity of the incident. Please see the Incident Descriptions and Reporting Instructions on the following page.

### **Report Writing Tips:**

It is imperative that you fill out any incident reports as thoroughly as possible. This will help bring clarity to the situation and avoid unnecessary calls or emails to the situation and avoid unnecessary calls or emails for additional information. Photographs of the site, facilities, vehicles, or equipment can add value to the report. The following examples demonstrate a good, better, and best approach to incident reporting. Remember to include only pertinent facts about the incident. Do not assign blame or include personal opinions or recommendations.

***Good:*** At summer camp, a Scout was playing a game and fell, twisting his ankle. He was sent off camp for more help.

***Better:*** This August, a Scout was playing tetherball at summer camp, when he fell and broke his ankle. He was sent to the ER and was released.

***Best:*** On August 6, 2012, a Scout was playing a game of tetherball at a Beaver Dam Summer Camp event, when he fell and twisted his left ankle. The Scout was initially treated by other Scouts and the health lodge, but further treatment was needed. The Scout was diagnosed with a high ankle fracture, was treated in an ER, and released later in the day with a restriction to stay off the ankle until he sees his personal physician.

## **Incident Descriptions and Reporting Instructions**

### **INCIDENT TYPE PERSONAL INJURY / ILLNESS VEHICLE, PROPERTY, OR PROGRAM INCIDENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

#### **CATASTROPHIC**

- Fatality or hospitalization for a life-threatening or critical condition

- Allegation of suspected sexual abuse
- Victimization of Scout
- Vehicle accident, theft, or damage with a greater than \$1 million loss
- Litigation anticipated
- National publicity or media attention

## **IMMEDIATELY**

Do the following:

1. Get help for injured parties (e.g., call 911).
2. Notify the Council Scout Executive
3. Complete an Incident Information Report, No. 680-016.
4. Forward the incident report to your Council enterprise risk management contact.

## **SERIOUS / CRITICAL**

- Hospitalization for less than a life-threatening or critical condition
- Transport to the ER in an emergency vehicle
- Allegation of suspected nonsexual child abuse
- Communicable disease outbreak or mass food borne illness
- Vehicle accident, theft, or damage with a \$100,000 to \$1 million loss
- Building or camp shut down for more than a day
- Bomb threat
- Local publicity or media attention

**Within 24 hours do the following:**

1. Get help for injured parties (e.g., call 911).
2. Notify the Council Scout Executive
3. Complete an Incident Information Report, No. 680-016.
4. Forward the incident report to your Council enterprise risk management contact.

## **MARGINAL**

- First aid
- Transport to the ER in a personal vehicle and released
- Serious near miss
- Emergency response initiated
- Vehicle accident, theft, or damage with a \$100,000 loss or less
- Program area closed down for safety concerns
- Emergency response initiated

**In no later than five days do the following:**

1. Attend to any injured parties.
2. Complete an Incident Information Report, No. 680-016.
3. Forward the incident report to your Council enterprise risk management contact.

**NEGLIGIBLE**

- Near miss
- Injury / illness not requiring first aid

**By the end of the unit recharter year do the following:**

1. Complete a Near Miss Incident Information Report, No. 6880-017
2. Keep the report in your unit or forward to the enterprise risk management contact
3. Evaluate near misses in your unit for any lessons learned and/or program enhancements

**NOTE;** This matrix does not supersede reporting requirements for specific program activities (e.g., pilot programs or climbing near misses), reporting required by law, or BSA Youth Protection reporting requirements.

The Sam Houston Area Council feels **EDUCATION IS THE KEY** to creating additional protection and security for our Scouts. Through adult leader Youth Protection Training, we hope to bring awareness to all adults who work with youth on the following:

\_ **Recognizing** situations that place a child at-risk of abuse, how child abusers operate, and how to deter a child abuser from entering into the Boy Scouts of America.

\_ **React or Respond** to a child who has been abused, and the type of abuse they have fallen victim to.

\_ **Report** a suspected case of abuse within Scouting procedure and State Law. As a volunteer for the nation's largest youth organization, you should be aware of how to help a child in need, and how to keep child abusers out of the Boy Scouts of America. The Sam Houston Area Council hopes to educate all adult leaders through Youth Protection Training in order to create a barrier to child abuse and to abusers. All adults must attend Youth Protection Training. A child deserves no less.

**Reporting Procedure:** It is the policy of the Sam Houston Area Council that a suspected or observed case of child abuse or victimization involving a participant in any program, activity, camp or unit of the Boy Scouts of America be immediately reported to the Council Scout Executive or first available Council official listed on the cover of this guidebook.

**BARRIERS TO ABUSE WITHIN SCOUTING**

The BSA has adopted the following policies to provide additional security for our members. These policies are primarily for the protection of our youth members; however, they also serve to protect our adult leaders from false accusations of abuse. Full descriptions of these barriers are outlined in Youth Protection Training.

- “ Two-deep Leadership
- “ No one-on-one Contact
- “ Respect of Privacy
- “ Cameras, Imaging, and Digital Devices
- “ Separate Accommodations
- “ Proper Preparation for High Adventure Activities
- “ No Secret Organizations
- “ Appropriate Attire
- “ Constructive Discipline
- “ Hazing Prohibited
- “ Junior Leader Training and Supervision

All BSA registered volunteers, regardless of their position are required to complete Youth Protection Training. Youth Protection Training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer’s Youth Protection Training record is not current at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be re-registered.

- \_ Chartered organizations provide local insight and ongoing supervision of adult volunteers.
- \_ Adults selected by chartered organizations apply for leadership roles.
- \_ The BSA requires criminal background checks on all adult volunteers.
- \_ The BSA’s Ineligible Volunteer Files provide an added layer of protection.

Listed below is a brief outline of the insurance coverages provided by the Sam Houston Area Council through the support of the Friends of Scouting campaign and activity fees. This Accident and Sickness insurance is provided for youth members and adult volunteer leaders registered in the Council. (LDS units carry their own accident insurance coverage.) This plan provides coverage for accidents and sickness (as well as accidental death and dismemberment) while participating in any official Scouting activity, including going to and from meetings. New members are automatically covered under this plan. Non-Scouts attending scheduled activities (including group travel to and from activities) for the purpose of being encouraged to participate in Scouting are also automatically covered. However, the plan does not cover parents, siblings, or other guests. This coverage provides primary general liability coverage for **registered** Council, volunteer Scouters, Scouting units, chartered organizations, and Scouting professionals and employees, with respect to claims arising in the performance of their duties in Scouting with the exception that the coverage is excess over any insurance which may be available to the volunteer for loss arising from the ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle or watercraft. This insurance is only available while the vehicle or watercraft is in actual use of a Scouting unit and being used for a Scouting purpose. Coverage is for more than \$5 million for bodily injury and property damages. The insurance provided unregistered Scouting volunteers through the BSA General Liability Insurance program is excess over any other insurance the volunteer might have to his or her benefit, usually a homeowners, personal liability, or auto liability policy. There is no coverage for those who commit intentional or criminal acts. Because of the high limits, volunteers should not be placed in a position where their assets are

jeopardized because of a negligence liability claim or lawsuit. All vehicles **MUST** be covered by a liability insurance policy. The amount of this coverage must meet or exceed the insurance requirement of the State in which the vehicle is licensed. It is recommended that coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000. Any vehicle carrying 10 or more passengers is **REQUIRED** to have limits of \$100,000/\$500,000/\$100,000 or \$500,000 single limit. In case of rented vehicles, the requirement of coverage limits can be met by combining the limits of personal coverage carried by the driver with coverage carried by the owner of the rented vehicle. All vehicles used in travel outside the United States must carry a liability insurance policy that complies with or exceeds the requirements of that country. For information, claim forms, or if legal papers are served in a Scouting-related incident, please contact the Director of Support Services at the Cockrell Service Center, 713-756-3319.

## **PROTECTING YOUR ASSETS**

Tour and Activity Plans have become recognized by national parks, military institutions, and other organizations as proof that a unit activity has been well planned and organized, and is under qualified leadership. The Tour and Activity Plan formally classifies the outing as an official Scout activity. Insurance coverage only applies to official Scout activities. Filing a Tour and Activity Plan signifies that a unit recognizes that BSA registration policies are being followed and national requirements are being met. Units are aware of safety, insurance and supervision policies of the Boy Scouts of America. Such policies are outlined in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*. Tour and Activity Plans help the Council know “what is going on,” by providing detailed information regarding unit outing and trips. It reinforces leader requirements, especially in regards to Youth Protection. It provides information to locate a unit if an emergency arises, and lets the council know of a point of contact when an emergency develops. It also reinforces driver and insurance requirements. In summary, Tour and Activity Plans re-enforce planning, safety, and two-deep leadership. Failure to file a Tour and Activity Plan does not relieve units or their leadership from abiding by the rules and regulations of the BSA. The Council is committed to providing a safe, fun environment for youth to enjoy, and protecting adult leaders from undue risk of litigation. Compliance to these Tour and Activity Plan guidelines ensure that the BSA is fulfilling its obligation to provide for the well being and safety of its membership.

## **WHEN TO FILE A TOUR AND ACTIVITY PLAN?**

**A TOUR PLAN IS *NOT* NEEDED, BUT YOU MUST FOLLOW POLICIES IN THE GUIDE TO SAFE SCOUTING FOR:**

1. Day Trips within the Sam Houston Area Council boundaries
2. Any Sam Houston Area Council or Sam Houston Area Council District sponsored events which include Camporees, Scout Fair, Day Camp, property owned by the council (El Rancho Cima).

**A TOUR PLAN IS *NEEDED* FOR:**

1. Day Trips **outside** of Sam Houston Area Council boundaries

2. Any overnight trip not on Sam Houston Area Council owned property (State Parks, Lock-ins, etc).
3. Trips of 500 miles or more from the Sam Houston Area Council boundaries
4. Trips to any National High-Adventure Base, National Scout Jamboree, National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC), or BSA regionally sponsored event.
5. When conducting, as a unit, any of the following activities not sponsored by the Sam Houston Area Council or its districts: (a) Aquatics activities (swimming, boating, floating, scuba, etc); (b) Climbing and rappelling; (c) Orientation flights (see flying plan); (d) Shooting sports (rifle, shotgun, archery); (e) Any activities involving motorized vehicles as part of the program (snowmobiles, boating, etc)

## **ONLINE TOUR AND ACTIVITY PLAN**

You will need to log in to [www.myscouting.org](http://www.myscouting.org) and select the tour and activity plan under your “Unit Tool.” There is an interactive video which shows how to complete the Tour and Activity Plan online. Everyone is encouraged to use the online system. To complete the online version of the Tour and Activity Plan you will need:

1. Leadership contact information
2. Vehicle information
3. Description of the activity
4. Travel itinerary

Planning and preparing for Hazardous Weather training is required for all tours.

## **PERMISSION SLIPS**

For all activities, trips, & outings, it is highly recommended that each youth provide a signed permission slip from parents authorizing them to participate, and for the leader to seek medical attention if required. Even when Tour and Activity Plans are not necessary, it is wise to have the slips on hand. Sample permission slips are available at the Council Service Center.

**THE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK IS A SECONDARY METHOD OF PROTECTING BOTH YOUTH AND ADULTS FROM UNACCEPTABLE PERSONS DESIRING MEMBERSHIP IN THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.**

## **STRUCTURE**

All new volunteer adults must submit an adult registration form. In a Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship – or in any position in a district or council – your leadership is a service to your community and helps youth become better citizens. Quality leadership is important in the training of youth as members of the Boy Scouts of America. The application helps select the best individuals for leadership roles. By submitting the application the volunteer is authorizing a Criminal Background Check of themselves. This check will be made from public record sources. The applicant will have an opportunity to review and challenge any adverse

information disclosed by the check. If the applicant would like a copy of their Criminal Background Report, they can contact the council service center.

\_ The Council registrar maintains a records system where those volunteers with completed background checks can be identified through the Council's membership database.

\_ Completed applications must be submitted to the Council registrar who then submits them to the National BSA Office.

\_ Any questionable background reports are forwarded to the Council Scout Executive for his review. Only the Council Scout Executive OR his designee will instigate action.

\_ There will be no reply to units or individuals of when checks are returned, and if individuals were cleared.

### **New Adult Volunteers**

Each new volunteer leader must submit an approved adult leader application with appropriate registration fees to the Council Service Center. That volunteer will have 90 days to complete Youth Protection Training. Failure to comply, will hold further processing of their application, and could lead to suspension of a volunteer from membership in the BSA. District and Council leaders, including Merit Badge Counselors, will have the same requirement unless they have a current completed background check on record in the Council.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q** I have had a background check completed by another agency, school, church, etc. Do I still need to have a background check with BSA?

**A** Yes. The BSA requires that every agency maintain their own background checks.

**Q** I am registered in several units, on the district, council, etc. Do I need to have a background check in each of these positions?

**A** No. Only one background check will be required. The Council maintains a database that identifies if an individual has completed the background process, regardless of position.

**Q** Are my records confidential?

**A** Yes. Only the Council Registrar and the Scout Executive have access to individual background reports. .

### ***Guide to Safe Scouting***

The *Guide to Safe Scouting* is a Unit Leader's guide for current policies and procedures to safe activities in the Boy Scouts of America. It outlines rules and regulations that must be followed for all Scouting functions, including adult leadership, transportation, and medical information. The *Guide to*

*Safe Scouting*, No. 34416, may be purchased through any council field office or the Scout Shop. It is also available online at [www.bsa.scouting.org](http://www.bsa.scouting.org). Before any Tour and Activity Plan may be filed, the tour leader verifies that he/she has a copy of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and has read it. Other resources that cover BSA rules and regulations include *Health & Safety Guide*, No. 34415 and *Tours and Expeditions*, No. 33737. The Sam Houston Area Council recognizes the immediate need to train adult leaders in the proper

design and operation of safe Scouting programs. There are four safety courses offered that provide the most important and valuable lessons on the Health & Safety issues of the BSA: BSA Health & Safety, Youth Protection, Climb on Safely, and Safe Swim Defense/Safety Afloat.

## **BSA HEALTH & SAFETY**

Experience has shown that the vast majority of serious injuries and fatalities reported to the National Health & Safety Service occurred in unrelated activities conducted off council properties. "Safe Activities are great activities." This course emphasizes the importance of qualified supervision and discipline. At least one leader from every unit is encouraged to complete this course and help promote the principles of safe Scouting. Participants will learn about the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, Sweet 16 of Safety, and the Risk Zone.

## **ONLINE TRAINING AVAILABLE: YOUTH PROTECTION**

This course will bring awareness to all adults who work with youth on the following:

- \_ **Recognizing** situations that place a child at-risk of abuse, how child abusers operate, and how to deter a child abuser from entering the BSA.
- \_ **React or Respond** to a child who has been abused, and the type of abuse they have fallen victim to.
- \_ **Report** a suspected case of abuse using Scouting procedures and applicable State Laws. Supplements to the Youth Protection Training are video programs for youth and parents. *A Time to Tell*, No. AV-09DVD04 is for youth ages 11 to 14. *It Happened to Me*, No. AV 09DVD11, is developed for youth ages 6 to 10, *Personal Safety Awareness*, AV-09DVD27, ages 14-20 COED.

## **CLIMB ON SAFELY**

Climb on Safely is the Boy Scouts of America's recommended procedure for conducting climbing/rappelling at a natural site or a specifically designed facility, such as a climbing wall or tower.

## **SAFE SWIM DEFENSE & SAFETY AFLOAT**

Every unit will need a qualified, trained person age 21 or older to supervise aquatic activities. This course will help unit leaders understand the rules and regulations for BSA aquatic activities, and the role leaders play in providing fun, safe events. Recertification is required every two years.

## **TREK SAFELY**

Trek Safely is the Boy Scouts of America's recommended procedure for organizing and carrying out outdoor treks including hiking, backpacking, canoeing, horseback riding, caving, rafting, kayaking, sailing, ski touring, mountain climbing, and mountain biking.

**PLANNING AND PREPARING FOR HAZARDOUS WEATHER, PHYSICAL WELLNESS SCOUTING SAFETY ... BEGINS WITH LEADERSHIP, WILDERNESS FIRST AID and TRANSPORTING SCOUTS SAFELY**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT HEALTH & SAFETY CHAIRPERSON, OR CONTACT A COUNCIL SERVICE CENTER NEAR YOU:**

**Council Headquarters**

2225 N Loop West  
Houston, Texas 77008  
Tel. 713-659-8111  
Fax 713-659-6729

**Mailing Address**

P O Box 924528  
Houston, Texas 77292

**Council Website**

[www.samhoustonbsa.org](http://www.samhoustonbsa.org)

*Mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.*

*Sam Houston Area Council's Mission Statement is:  
"Leading Youth of Lifelong Values, Service and Achievement"*

*Serving Youth and Families  
Since 1915*

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