

AGE-APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

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



TIGER CUBS
(WITH ADULT PARTNER)



WOLF/BEAR
CUB SCOUTS



WEBELOS
SCOUTS



BOY SCOUTS



OLDER BOY SCOUTS,
Varsity Scouts,
AND VENTURERS



OUTDOOR SKILLS

Camporees			Visit Only		
Conservation Projects					
Cooking Outdoors					
Fire Building					
Fishing					
Fueled Devices (Stoves and lanterns)					
Hiking—Day					
Hiking—Multiple Day					
Horseback Riding					
Hunting					Venturers Only
Map and Compass	Map Only				
Mountain Boards					
Mountaineering/Scrambling/Cross-Country Travel					
Orienteering					
Pioneering					
Rope Bridges/Pioneering Towers (Check requirements for height restrictions.)					
Survival Training					
Winter Camping					



SPORTS

Field/Wide Games					
Flag Football					
Gymnastics					
Ice Hockey					
Ice Skating					
Martial Arts—Defensive					
Roller Blades/Skates					
Scooters—Nonmotorized					
Skateboarding					
Skiing/Snowboarding					
Sledding/Tubing					
Soccer					
Street Hockey					



TOOLS

Axes					
Bow Saws					
Hand Ax					
Hand Tools					
Pocketknife		Bear Only			



TREKKING

Backpacking—Overnight, Backcountry					
Bike Treks—Day Ride					
Bike Treks—Multiple Overnights					
BMX Biking					
Day Hikes					
Horse Treks					
Mountain Biking					
Search and Rescue Missions					
Search and Rescue Practice					
Ski Touring—Multiple Days and Nights Carrying Gear					



AIRCRAFT

Commercial Flight Experience					
Ground School					
Hands-On Flying Experience					
Hot-Air Balloons (Tethered only)					
Orientation Flight					
Soaring (Orientation flights only)					

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VEHICLES

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV)				Approved Council Use Only; No Unit Use
Dirt Bikes				Venturers Only
Driving Derbies				
Personal Watercraft (PWC)				Approved Council Use Only; No Unit Use
Snowmobiles				



SHOOTING

.22 Rifle				
Air Rifle (Pellet Guns)			Webelos Resident Camp Only	
Archery—Field				
Archery—Target, Action (Moving targets)			Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	
BB Guns			Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	
Catapults				
Large-Bore Rifles				Venturers Only
Muzzleloaders				
Pistols*				Venturers Only
Shotguns				
Slingshots			Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	



CLIMBING

Belaying				
Bouldering				
Canopy Tours				
Caving (Other than simple novice activities)				
Climbing—Commercial or Horizontal Wall				
Climbing—Rock				
Climbing—Vertical Wall or Tower				
Initiative Games				
Lead Climbing				
Project COPE				A Few Low-Course and High-Course Activities
Rappelling				
Snow and Ice Climbing				



AQUATICS

Canoeing—Flat Water			Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	
Canoeing—Flowing Water				
Kayaking—Flat Water			Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	
Kayaking—Flowing Water				
Motorboating—Adult Operated			Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	
Motorboating—Youth Operated				
Rafting—Flat Water			Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	
Rafting—Flowing Water				
Rowing—Flat Water			Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	
Rowing—Flowing Water				
Sailboarding				
Sailing—Adult Operated			Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	
Sailing—Youth Operated				
Scuba				
Snorkeling (In clear, confined waters, all ages and abilities can use snorkeling equipment. Snorkeling in open water is limited to Boy Scouts with Snorkeling BSA or equivalent.)				
Surfing				
Swimming				
Tubing (Floating in an inner tube)			Council/District Flat Water Events	
Tow Sports (including waterskiing, wakeboarding, kneeboarding, and tubing)				



CAMPING

Day Camp				
Den Overnights				
Camporees				
Family Camping				
High Adventure				
Jamboree				
Parent/Son Overnights				
Resident Camp				
Weekend Overnights				