



Scouting's Barriers to Abuse Update

Effective 9/1/2023



Why is the BSA updating the Barriers to Abuse?

BSA's Commitment to Safety

- Mandatory Youth Protection Training
- Criminal Background Checks
- Banning One-on-One Adult and Youth Interactions
- Mandatory Reporting of Suspected Abuse
- A Volunteer Screening Database

BSA
Commitment
to Safety





Barriers to Abuse Update

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Barriers to
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- “72-Hour Rule” will be eliminated.
- All adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouting activity must be currently registered in an adult fee required position as listed or as an adult program participant.

Limited exception for Cub Scout overnight Programs.



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Cub Scout Programs - Overnight Exception: Cub Scout parents or legal guardians taking part in an overnight Cub Scout program *with their own child or legal ward* are not required to register as leaders.

All adults must review the “[How to Protect your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent’s Guide](#)” that can be found in the front of each Cub Scout Handbook.

In addition, the parent or legal guardian must be accompanied by a registered leader at any time they are with youth members other than their own child/ward. All other overnight adults must be currently registered in an adult fee required position.



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Put simply...

- All 18+ adults attending a Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scout or Exploring OVERNIGHT event/activity must be currently registered.
- 18+ adults attending a Cub Scout OVERNIGHT event/activity who are not the parent or legal guardian of a Scout in attendance must be registered in an adult fee required position.



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YP FAQs



What is an adult fee required position?

Adults may select from the list of adult leader position options provided in the “[Registration Guidebook of the Boy Scouts of America](#)” that is available for their unit, district or council position. Full list available on the YP FAQ webpage.

For example, registration as a Merit Badge Counselor, Lion Cub partner, Tiger Partner does not meet this requirement.



Barriers to Abuse Update

YP FAQs



Scenario #1

A Cub Scout mom wants to camp overnight with her Bear Cub Scout at their Pack campout. She is not registered with the BSA. Is this, ok?

Yes, the exception for Cub Scouting allows a parent to attend with their child even if not registered. Reminder the parent does not count as two-deep leadership, nor can they supervise children other than their own.



Barriers to Abuse Update

YP FAQs



Scenario #2

An Arrow of Light den is camping with a troop for their Scouting Adventure pin. Do all the adults need to be registered?

Parents who are attending with their Arrow of Light Scout do not have to register and will camp alongside their den. Reminder the den must still have registered two-deep leadership.

All adults camping with the troop must be registered.



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Scenario #3

A Scouts BSA parent is one of the drivers for a campout. They do not volunteer for the troop other than driving. Do they have to register?

Yes, if the parent plans to stay overnight, they must register with the troop in one of the approved positions. If they are driving to the event and not staying overnight, they do not have to register.



Barriers to Abuse Update

Scenario #4

YP FAQs



A Venturing crew is participating in an overnight event at a public location – a submarine. Do all adult present have to register?

Every adult staying overnight with the crew must register.

Members of the public who may be present are not part of the crew outing and therefore not required to register.



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Scenario #5

YP FAQs



A merit badge counselor wants to attend a troop overnight activity.

Merit Badge Counselor is a council position that would require another multiple registration from the list of approved positions. An adult registered only as a merit badge counselor would not qualify.

Reminder - only adults registered in one of the positions on the approved list of “fee required positions” may stay overnight.



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Scenario #6

YP FAQs



Scouting's Barriers to Abuse states "All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders." Does this update change that policy?

No - Parents are still able to attend any program within Scouting; however, to observe programs and stay overnight, they must register with the BSA.



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Scenario #7

YP FAQs



The Order of the Arrow (OA) is hosting a fellowship weekend. Do the OA volunteers have to register with the BSA?

Yes. All adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouting activity must be currently registered in an adult fee required position as listed or as an adult program participant.



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Scenario #8

A Cub Scout pack is having their unit campout. A grandpa wants to bring his grandson to the pack campout because the Scout's parents will be out of town. Does grandpa have to register?

Yes. The Cub Scout exception is limited to a parent or legal guardian. A grandparent or other family member who is not the legal guardian could attend overnight but must register. Reminder, the Scout and grandpa cannot share the same tent. See definition of legal guardian. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/faq/custody3>



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What should your council do next?

- Inform your units now about the coming change.
- Ensure they meet current policy but encourage early adoption.



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What are the next steps for National?

- Updating Youth Protection Training.
- Updating the PDF version of the Guide to Safe Scouting.
- Additional communications resources for local councils to communicate to leaders .
- Continue to update the FAQs as questions are identified.

Youth Protection and Adult Leadership

9/1/23 update

- All adults staying overnight must be currently registered (limited Cub Scout Exception)

Responsibility

- Monitor behavior and intervene when necessary; discipline should be constructive
- All leaders are required to adhere to the Scouter Code of Conduct

Other

- Privacy of youth is respected – monitor facilities, but only enter as needed for youth protection or health and safety reasons
- ALL forms of bullying and harassment (verbal, physical, cyber) are prohibited. Reporting violations is a responsibility

Camping Highlights

Cub Scouts

- Pack coordinated campouts are limited to single overnights
- Webelos/AOL may do den coordinated camping including with a ScoutsBSA Troop (all Cub requirements still apply including BALOO and age appropriate requirements for activities such as shooting sports). They may be day visitors at Camporee

ScoutsBSA

- Youth who are not registered in the unit may not accompany parents or siblings in camping programs of ScoutsBSA (as well as Venturing or Sea Scouting)

General

- Council approval is needed for unit-coordinated overnight camping activities involving units not chartered by the same org.

FAQ Highlights

Family Scouting

- Buddy pairs cannot be co-ed
- Leaders cannot bring opposite gender Scouts BSA son/daughter to opposite gender Troop activity

Accommodation

- Scouts may choose to tent alone; in Scouts BSA youth tent separately from parents

Adult Supervision

- Two registered adults must be present for all Scouting activities and meetings. For merit badge counseling, the parent or guardian of the Scout may serve as the second adult and does not need to be registered.
- Adults should never be alone with youth who are not their child

Questions

