

AGE-APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

Age- and rank-appropriate guidelines have been developed based on many factors. When planning activities outside of program materials or handbooks, ask this question: Is the activity appropriate for the age and for Scouting? Not every activity needs to be conducted.



TIGERS
(WITH ADULT PARTNER)



WOLF/BEAR
SCOUTS



WEBELOS
SCOUTS



BOY SCOUTS



OLDER BOY SCOUTS,
VARSITY SCOUTS,
SEA SCOUTS,
VENTURERS



OUTDOOR SKILLS

Camporees			Visit Only		
Conservation Projects					
Cooking Outdoors		Bear Necessities Requirement			
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			Castaway Elective		
Winter Camping					



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)					



SHOOTING

.22 Rifle					
Air Rifle (pellet guns)			Webeelos 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/Wrist Rockets			Council/District Outdoor Programs 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				Venturers Only



COPE AND CLIMBING

Belaying				
Bouldering				
Caving (other than simple novice activities)				
Climbing (age-appropriate man-made facility)				
Advanced Climbing				
Climbing—Rock				
Lead Climbing				
Rappelling				
Snow and Ice Climbing				
COPE (age-appropriate activities for younger Scouts)				
Aerial Adventure Parks				
Canopy Tours				
Zip Lines				



AQUATICS (See Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat for restrictions based on skills, such as swimming ability, rather than age.)

Aerial Towed Activities (kitesurfing, parasails)				Not authorized
Cliff Jumping, High Dives				Not authorized
Commercial Marine Transport (ferries, excursion ships)				
Day Rides on Large Private Craft With Trained Adult Operator				
Motorboats: Youth Operated (check state regulations)				
Overnight Cruise on Live-Aboard Vessel				
Paddle Sports: Youth Operated on Calm or Gently Flowing Water				Paddle Sports Include Canoes, Kayaks, Pedal Boats, Rafts, Rowboats, SUP
Paddle Sports: Youth Operated on Class I or II Whitewater				
Paddle Sports: Youth Operated on Class III or Above Whitewater				
Paddle Sports: Whitewater With Professional Guide on Board				
Personal Water Craft (PWC)				Approved Council Programs Only
Sailboats and Sailboards: Youth Operated				
Swimming				
Snorkeling in Confined Water				
Snorkeling in Open Water				
Scuba				
Surfing				
Towed Activities (waterskiing, knee boarding, floats)				
Triathlon: Swim Races in Open Water				Sanctioned Events
Tubing (floating in gently flowing water)				
Water Parks, Slides, and Floating Attractions				Appropriate Age Varies by Feature



CAMPING

Day Camp				
Den Overnights				
Camporees				
Family Camping				Council-Designated Location Only
High Adventure				
Jamboree				
Pack Overnights				Council-Designated Location Only
Parent/Son Overnights				
Resident Camp				
Weekend Overnights				