

# Guide to Safe Scouting

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The purpose of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* is to prepare members of the Boy Scouts of America to conduct Scouting activities in a safe and prudent manner. The policies and guidelines have been established because of the real need to protect members from known hazards that have been identified through 100 years of experience. Limitations on certain activities should not be viewed as stumbling blocks; rather, policies and guidelines are best described as stepping-stones toward safe and enjoyable adventures.

**All participants in official Scouting activities should become familiar with the *Guide to Safe Scouting*** and be aware of state or local government regulations that supersede Boy Scouts of America policies and guidelines. The *Guide to Safe Scouting* provides an overview of Scouting policies and procedures rather than comprehensive, standalone documentation. For some items, the policy statements are complete. Unit leaders are expected to review the additional reference material cited prior to conducting such activities.

In situations not specifically covered in this guide, activity planners should evaluate the risk or potential risk of harm, and respond with action plans based on common sense, community standards, the Boy Scout motto, and safety policies and practices commonly prescribed for the activity by experienced providers and practitioners.

## Viewing the online *Guide*

The *Guide to Safe Scouting* is available [here](#).