

All Scouting activities must comply with the national organization's standards surrounding health & safety.

Scouting is committed to the prevention of illness and injury by integrating safety measures into our handbooks, literature, training materials, and activity planning.

The *Guide to Safe Scouting* (GSS, available for free online), in addition to state and local regulations, is the publication used by unit leaders in planning and carrying out Scouting activities. Adult leaders are required to become familiar with and consistently use the GSS.

GUIDE TO

SAFE SCOUTING

GSS covers policies according to types of activities:

- Aquatics
- Camping
- First Aid
- Fuels & Equipment
- Activity Planning
- Risk Assessment
- Shooting Sports
- Winter Activities
- ...and many others



All families can benefit from teaching their children how to stay safe.

We encourage you to use our resources to have those conversations with your kids.

How to protect your children from child abuse: A Parent's Guide



Scouting America's *Bullying Prevention Guide*

**RECOGNIZE
RESPOND
REPORT**
1-844-SCOUTS1

Prepared. For Life.®

Our Commitment to Safety

An introduction to how Scouting keeps participants safe.

Scouting America
Mount Baker Council

Scouting America uses expert-informed and industry-leading principles as the foundation for its system of protecting participants.



The combination of our *Barriers to Abuse*, national policy framework, and mandatory training for youth, families, and volunteers leads to one of the safest environments for youth extracurriculars in the United States.

Barriers to Abuse

Required Registration



- Approval by host organization
- Criminal background check
- Volunteer Screening Database
- Youth Protection Training

Appropriate Supervision

Two registered adults at all activities

Electronic communication between an adult and a youth must include another registered adult or that youth's parent.

Never one-on-one contact between an adult and a youth whether inside or outside a Scouting activity

Prohibition of corporal punishment, isolation, or ridicule

Accommodations

Separate tenting for youth and adults (except a Cub Scout with their own parent)

Youth tenting together must be within two years of age.

Program Requirements

Buddy system always used

All aspects of the program are open to observation by families.

Prohibition of phones, etc. in settings where privacy is expected

Prohibition of hazing and bullying

Prohibition of all forms of sexual activity or public displays of affection

Reporting Requirements

All persons participating in Scouting are mandatory reporters of child abuse.

Reports must be made to local law enforcement and child protective services.

Reports are made to the Scout Executive or the Scouts First Helpline to ensure follow-up.



Scouting America's Incident Reporting landing page

