

Scouting's Barriers to Abuse: Adult Supervision Update Requirements

Effective September 1, 2023

As part of our ongoing commitment to abuse prevention, the Boy Scouts of America is updating the adult supervision requirements for overnight activities. This update enhances the minimum "two deep leadership" requirements by additionally requiring every adult present on overnight activities to be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America. These adults must submit an adult application and registration fee, undergo a criminal background check, a volunteer screening database check and must complete mandatory Youth Protection training.

A limited exception for parents and legal guardians of Cub Scout youth attending overnight with their children is planned due to the family centric nature of Cub Scouting.

All Cub Scout Packs, Scouts BSA Troops, Venturing Crews, Sea Scouting Ships, Exploring Posts, council, and district overnight programs will be required to comply with this update by September 1, 2023. We encourage early adoption prior to the effective date. This updated Barrier to Abuse can be referenced as part of the Guide to Safe Scouting, Youth Protection and Adult Leadership section, [Scouting's Barriers to Abuse](#).

[Youth Protection and Barriers to Abuse FAQ's](#) will be expanded to include additional FAQ's as they are developed.

Learn more about the BSA's Commitment to Safety [here](#).

Barriers to Abuse - Adult Supervision:

(Effective September 1, 2023) Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including all meetings. There must be a registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth or female adult program participants.

Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided.

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 below for Cub Scout overnight Programs.*

See FAQ for list of adult fee required positions. Registration as a Merit Badge Counselor does not meet this requirement.

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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Additional Frequently Asked Questions to Add to Barriers to Abuse FAQ Website:

Q: Does a Cub Scout parent or legal guardian have to be a registered leader to participate in a Cub Scout overnight program with their own child/ward?

A: No. However, they cannot serve as unit or den two deep leadership or supervision.

Q: What is an adult program participant?

A: An adult program participant is an individual aged 18 or older (most often aged 18-20) who is registered as a program participant in which youth members are also eligible to participate (for example Venturing, Sea Scouting, and Exploring). Adult program participants are subject to the same youth protection policies and guidelines as adult Scouters.

Q: I am an adult attending a pack, troop, crew, or ship overnight activity, do I have to be registered?

A: Yes, if you participate/stay overnight, you must be currently registered in an adult fee required position or as an adult program participant. Also, see Cub Scout Exception for parents or legal guardians.

Q: What is an adult fee required position?

A: Adults may select from the list below 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. For example, registration as a Merit Badge Counselor, Lion Cub Partner, Tiger Partner does not meet this requirement.

Unit Positions

Assistant Cubmaster (CA)
Assistant Scoutmaster (SA)
Assistant Webelos Leader (WA)
Assistant Den Leader
Chartered Organization Rep.
Committee Chairman
Committee Member
Cubmaster
Den Leader
Explorer Post Advisor
Lion Coordinator
Lion Den Leader
Mate
New Member Coordinator
Pack Trainer
Post Explorer Post Associate Advisor
Post Committee Chairman
Post Committee Member
Principal / Executive Officer

Scoutmaster
Skipper
Tiger Den Leader
Unit Chaplain
Unit College Scouter Reserve
Unit Scouter Reserve
Venturing College Sctr Reserve
Venturing Crew Advisor
Venturing Crew Assoc. Advisor
Webelos Leader.

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Council and District Positions

Assistant Council Commissioner
Asst Roundtable Commissioner
Asst. District Commissioner
College Scouter Reserve
Council Advisory Council
Council Assistant Treasurer
Council Associate Member
Council Camp Staff (Adult)
Council Camp Staff (Youth)
Council Chaplain
Council Commissioner
Council Committee Member
Council Executive Board Member
Council Expl/LFL Committee Chr
Council Expl/LFL Committee Mbr
Council Honorary Member
Council Member-at-Large
Council President
Council Religious Emblems Coord
Council Scout Alumnus

Council Service Team Chair
Council Service Team Member
Council Treas
Council Vice-President
Dist Exploring/LFL Committee
District Chairman
District Chaplain
District Commissioner
District Exploring / LFL Comm Chr
District Member-at-large
District Religious Emblems Coord
District Service Team Chair
District Service Team Member
District Vice-Chairman
LFL Stem Day Camp Staff (Adult)
LFL STEM Day Camp Staff (Youth)
Neighborhood Chairman
Neighborhood Committee
Roundtable Commissioner
Scouter Reserve
Unit Commissioner

Q: Do "Unit Functional Position codes" like Merit Badge Counselor, Unit Advancement Chair or Unit High Adventure Chair found in the "Registration Guidebook of the Boy Scouts of America" fulfill this registration requirement?

A: No.