

# AGE-APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

Age- and rank-appropriate guidelines have been developed based on the mental, physical, emotional, and social maturity of Boy Scouts of America youth members. These guidelines apply to Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout teams, and Venturing crews.



**TIGER CUBS**  
(WITH ADULT PARTNER)



**WOLF/BEAR CUB SCOUTS**



**WEBELOS SCOUTS**



**BOY SCOUTS**



**OLDER BOY SCOUTS, VARSITY SCOUTS, AND VENTURERS**



## OUTDOOR SKILLS

|  |          |  |            |  |                |
|--|----------|--|------------|--|----------------|
| Camporees  |          |  | Visit Only |  |                |
| Conservation Projects  |          |  |            |  |                |
| Cooking Outdoors   |          |  |            |  |                |
| 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  |          |  |            |  |                |
| Winter Camping   |          |  |            |  |                |



## SPORTS

|                        |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Field/Wide Games       |  |  |  |  |  |
| Flag Football          |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gymnastics             |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ice Hockey             |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ice Skating            |  |  |  |  |  |
| Martial Arts—Defensive |  |  |  |  |  |
| Roller Blades/Skates   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Scooters—Nonmotorized  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Skateboarding          |  |  |  |  |  |
| Skiing/Snowboarding    |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sledding/Tubing        |  |  |  |  |  |
| Soccer                 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Street Hockey          |  |  |  |  |  |



## TOOLS

|             |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Axes        |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bow Saws    |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hand Ax     |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hand Tools  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pocketknife |  |  |  |  |  |



## 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) |  |  |  |  |  |

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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                |  |  |  |  |



## SHOOTING

|   |  |  |  |                |
|---|--|--|--|----------------|
| .22 Rifle                               |  |  |  |                |
| Air Rifle (Pellet Guns)                 |  |  | Webelos 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                              |  |  | Council/District Outdoor Programs Only |                |



## CLIMBING

|  |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Belaying                                     |  |  |  |   |
| Bouldering                                   |  |  |  |   |
| Canopy Tours                                 |  |  |  |   |
| Caving (Other than simple novice activities) |  |  |  |   |
| Climbing—Commercial or Horizontal Wall       |  |  |  |   |
| Climbing—Rock                                |  |  |  |   |
| Climbing—Vertical Wall or Tower              |  |  |  |   |
| Initiative Games                             |  |  |  |   |
| Lead Climbing                                |  |  |  |   |
| Project COPE                                 |  |  |  | A Few Low-Course and High-Course Activities |
| Rappelling                                   |  |  |  |   |
| Snow and Ice Climbing                        |  |  |  |   |



## AQUATICS

|   |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Canoeing—Flat Water   |  |  | Council/District Outdoor Programs Only |  |
| Canoeing—Flowing Water  |  |  |  |  |
| Kayaking—Flat Water   |  |  | Council/District Outdoor Programs Only |  |
| Kayaking—Flowing Water  |  |  |  |  |
| Motorboating—Adult Operated   |  |  | Council/District Outdoor Programs Only |  |
| Motorboating—Youth Operated   |  |  |  |  |
| Rafting—Flat Water  |  |  | Council/District Outdoor Programs Only |  |
| Rafting—Flowing Water   |  |  |  |  |
| Rowing—Flat Water   |  |  | Council/District Outdoor Programs Only |  |
| Rowing—Flowing Water  |  |  |  |  |
| Sailboarding  |  |  |  |  |
| Sailing—Adult Operated  |  |  | Council/District Outdoor Programs Only |  |
| Sailing—Youth Operated  |  |  |  |  |
| Scuba   |  |  |  |  |
| Snorkeling (In clear, confined waters, all ages and abilities can use snorkeling equipment. Snorkeling in open water is limited to Boy Scouts with Snorkeling BSA or equivalent.) |  |  |  |  |
| Surfing   |  |  |  |  |
| Swimming  |  |  |  |  |
| Tubing (Floating in an inner tube)  |  |  | Council/District Flat Water Events     |  |
| Tow Sports (including waterskiing, wakeboarding, kneeboarding, and tubing)  |  |  |  |  |



## CAMPING

|                       |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Day Camp              |  |  |  |  |
| Den Overnights        |  |  |  |  |
| Camporees             |  |  |  |  |
| Family Camping        |  |  |  |  |
| High Adventure        |  |  |  |  |
| Jamboree              |  |  |  |  |
| Parent/Son Overnights |  |  |  |  |
| Resident Camp         |  |  |  |  |
| Weekend Overnights    |  |  |  |  |