

# **Cub Scout Outdoor Program Guidelines for 2003**

Well-planned council- and pack-organized outdoor activities fulfill the promise made to many of our Cub Scouts. Young boys have a natural desire for fun, excitement, and adventure in the outdoors. These experiences encourage them to spend quality time with family and friends. Quality council camps and fun pack outdoor events directed by qualified, trained leaders provide an ideal setting for these activities.

## **Standards for Privacy on Trips or Outings**

To support the BSA policy of two-deep leadership on all trips or outings, we must address the sleeping arrangements of male and female leaders.

All leaders are expected to reflect high moral standards established by customs, traditional values, and religious teachings.

Male and female leaders require separate sleeping facilities. Married couples may share the same quarters if appropriate facilities are available.

Male and female youth participants must not share the same sleeping facility.

When tents are used, no youth will stay in the tent of an adult other than his/her parent or guardian.

When housing other than tents is used, separate housing must be provided for both male and female participants. Adult male leaders must be responsible for the male participants. Adult female leaders must be responsible for the female participants.

Adult leaders need to respect the privacy of youth members in situations where the youth are changing clothes or taking showers, and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults also need to protect their own privacy in similar situations.

Although it is not mandatory, councils are strongly encouraged to have separate shower and latrine facilities for females. In camps where separate facilities are not available, separate shower schedules for males and females should be posted.

Use the buddy system for latrine use by having one person wait outside the entrance, or use Occupied and Unoccupied signs on door latches.

## **Why Cub Scout Outdoor Activities?**

When a boy and his family join Cub Scouting, they are joining an organization that values the fun and excitement of experiencing the outdoors. Each Cub Scout pack is encouraged to provide its youth members with enriching, positive outdoor experiences. This may be a youth member's first organized outdoor activity. With this in mind, the following definitions and recommendations are provided to help assure it will be a positive one.

## **Cub Scout Day Camp**

Day camp is an organized one- to five-day program for Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts that is conducted by the council under certified leadership at an approved site, during daylight or early evening hours. Day camps do not include any overnight activities.

Approval to conduct a day camp is granted by the council. Certification of the day camp director and program director is provided through the National Camping School. All day camps shall be conducted in accordance with established standards as given in *National Standards for Local Council Accreditation of Cub Scout/Webelos Scout Day Camps*, No. 13-108.

## Reference

- *Cub Scout Day Camp*, No. 13-33815

## Cub Scout/Webelos Scout Resident Camp

Cub Scout and Webelos Scout resident camping is a council organized, theme-oriented overnight camping program. It operates for at least two nights and is conducted under certified leadership at a camp approved by the council.

Resident camping typically includes the following outdoor program areas: Showmanship, Sportsmanship, Craftsmanship, Waterfront, Fitness, Campcraft, and Nature.

Each year, councils change their overall theme to offer different adventures.

Examples of themes include Sea Adventure, Space Adventure, Athletes, Knights, Circus Big Top, American Indian Heritage, Folklore, and the World Around Us.

Certification of the resident camp director and program director is provided through the National Camping School. All Cub Scout and Webelos Scout resident camps shall be conducted in accordance with established standards as given in *National Standards for Cub Scout/Boy Scout Resident Camps*, No. 19-108.

## References

- *Resident Camping for Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, and Parents*, No. 13-33814
- *Staff Training and Parent Orientation Guide*, No. 13-167

## Webelos Den Overnight Camping

Webelos Scout overnights introduce the boy and his parent to the basics of the Boy Scout camping program. These events are conducted under the leadership of a trained Webelos den leader. In most cases, the Webelos Scout will be under the supervision of a parent or guardian. In all cases, each Scout is responsible to a specific adult. BSA health and safety and youth protection guidelines apply.

Webelos Scout dens are encouraged to visit Boy Scout district camporees and Klondike derbies. The purpose of these visits should be for the boys to look ahead

with anticipation to their future as Boy Scouts and observe troops they might join. Webelos Scout dens should not compete against or participate in activities designed for Boy Scouts. Webelos Scout dens should not spend the night as participants at the event if the program is Boy Scout-based.

## References

- *Cub Scout Leader Book*, No. 33221B, "Planning the Webelos Overnight"
- *Webelos Leader Guide*, No. 33853B

## Additional Cub Scout Overnight Opportunities

Cub Scouts can experience overnight activities in venues other than accredited resident camping. There are two categories of Cub Scout overnights:

### Council-Organized Family Camp

Council-organized family camps are overnight events involving more than one pack. The local council provides all of the elements of the outdoor experience, such as staffing, food service, housing, and program. These are often referred to as Parent/Pal or Adventure weekends. Council-organized family camps should be conducted by trained leaders at sites approved by the local council. In most cases, the youth member will be under the supervision of a parent or guardian. In all cases, each youth participant is responsible to a specific adult.

Overnight activities involving more than one pack must be approved by the council. Council-organized family camps must be conducted in accordance with established standards as given in *National Standards for Council Family Camping*, No. 13-408.

### Pack Overnights

These are pack-organized overnight events involving more than one family from a single pack, focused on age-appropriate Cub Scout activities and conducted at council-approved locations (councils use *Site Approval Standards*, No. 13-508). If nonmembers (siblings) participate, the event must be structured accordingly to accommodate them. BSA health and safety and youth protection guidelines apply. In most cases, each youth member will be under the supervision of a parent or guardian. In all cases, each youth participant is responsible to a specific adult. Adults giving leadership to a pack overnights must complete *Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO)* (No. 34162A) and be present on campouts. BALOO trains participants to properly understand the importance of program intent, youth protection guidelines, health and safety, site selection, age-appropriate activities, and sufficient adult participation. Permits for campouts shall be issued locally. Packs use Local Tour Permit Application, No. 34426.

## References

- *A Guide to Safe Scouting*, No. 34416
- *Camping Program and Property Management*, No. 20-920
- *Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO)*, No. 34162A

## Cub Scout Pack National Quality Unit Award

Each Cub Scout pack must achieve six of 10 requirements to qualify for the award. One of the six required is outdoor activities. To meet this requirement, the pack is to participate in one or more of the following experiences: Cub Scout day camp, resident camp, family camping, pack camping, and/or Webelos den overnighter.

## Resource

- *Cub Scout Pack National Quality Unit Award*, No. 14-220

## Cub Scout Trips and Excursions

Trips or excursions by Cub Scout packs under chartered organization leadership are a recognized part of the Cub Scout program. Trips should be conducted in accordance with established procedures.

Permits for such tours shall be issued locally or nationally, depending on the distance traveled.

The National Council has established the following guidelines:

- Trips normally will be one-day excursions.
- Although overnight stays are permitted, they are not encouraged.
- When overnight stops are necessary, participants will stay in private homes, motels, or hotels.
- Lock-ins or overnight programming at local museums or other appropriate locations may be approved by the local council.
- Den leaders, pack leaders, and parents are expected to accompany the boys on approved trips.
- Tiger Cubs are limited to boy-parent excursions, day camps, pack overnights, or council-managed family camping.

## Accident and Sickness Insurance Protection

For questions about current camper accident and sickness insurance, please refer to the latest material sent to Scout executives from the Insurance and Risk Management Service of the Boy Scouts of America.