

## Age-Appropriate Guidelines and Unauthorized or Restricted Activities

Can a Cub Scout shoot a .22 rifle at a council day camp? Can Varsity team members use a powered circular saw during a team service project to build a handicap access ramp into a home? Can our Venturing crew explore an abandoned mine in the west desert near Eureka? These questions and many more can be answered quickly when you take just a few moments to familiarize yourself with many resources available on the **Scouting Safely** website at:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsourc/HealthandSafety.aspx>.

The **Age Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities** can help us answer the first question. They provide guidance to unit leaders on what activities their young men can safely participate in as a part of an official Scouting activity. They can be found online at [http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34416\\_Insert\\_Web.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34416_Insert_Web.pdf). By the way, a boy must be a Boy Scout in order to shoot a .22 rifle even at a council camp.

Service projects, woodworking, handicraft and many other Scouting-related activities require the use of tools. Are you aware that BSA provides a resource to guide unit leaders as to what tools are appropriate for use during these events? The resource document **Age Guidelines for Tool Use and Work at Elevations or Excavations** can be found online at:

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-028.pdf>. FYI – Scouts must be 18 years of age in order to use a powered circular saw during a service project.

There are an unlimited number of activities that individuals and units can safely participate in during their time in Scouting. As you complete your unit's Scouting activities during the remainder of this year and plan your activities for 2014, please note the excerpts below from the 18 activity categories listed as **Unauthorized and Restricted Scout Activities** by the Boy Scouts of America. The policies and guidelines set forth in BSA's "Guide to Safe Scouting" have been established to protect members from known hazards based on years of experience. This list is continually being reviewed and updated. For the most complete and up-to-date information, please visit:

[www.scouting.org/scoutsourc/HealthandSafety/GSS/toc.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsourc/HealthandSafety/GSS/toc.aspx). As you will see in the excerpts below, exploration of abandoned mines is unauthorized.

- All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are banned from program use. The exception is council-approved ATV programs. They are not approved for unit use.
- Boxing, karate, and related martial arts—except judo, aikido, and Tai Chi—are not authorized activities.
- Chainsaws and mechanical log splitters may be authorized for use only by trained individuals over the age of 18, using proper protective gear in accordance with local laws.
- Exploration of abandoned mines is an unauthorized activity.
- Fireworks secured, used, or displayed in conjunction with unit programs or activities, including sales, is unauthorized.
- Flying in hang gliders, ultralights, experimental aircraft, or hot-air balloons (nontethered); parachuting; and flying in aircraft as part of a search and rescue mission are unauthorized activities. Tethered hot-air balloon flights are authorized, and a flying plan must be submitted.

- Motorized go-carts and motorbike activities are unauthorized for Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs. Go-carting conducted at a commercial facility that provides equipment and supervision of cart operation is authorized upon submittal of a completed tour and activity plan. Participating in motorized speed events, including motorcycles, boats, drag racing, demolition derbies, and related events are not authorized activities for any program level.
- Participation in amateur or professional rodeo events are not authorized.
- Pointing any type of firearm or simulated firearm at any individual is unauthorized. Scout units may plan or participate in paintball, laser tag or similar events where participants shoot at targets that are neither living nor human representations.
- Hunting is not an authorized Cub Scout or Boy Scout activity, although hunting safety is part of the program curriculum. However, this policy does not restrict Venturing crews from conducting hunting trips or special adult hunting expeditions provided that adequate safety procedures are followed.
- Motorized personal watercraft (pwc), such as Jet-Skis®, are not authorized for use in Scouting aquatics, and their use should not be permitted in or near BSA program areas. The exception is council-approved PWC programs. They are not approved for unit use.
- Except for (1) law enforcement officers required to carry firearms within their jurisdiction, and (2) circumstances within the scope of the BSA hunting policy statement, firearms should not be in the possession of any person engaged in any Scouting activity other than those specifically planned for target shooting under the supervision of a certified firearms instructor.
- Parasailing, or any activity in which a person is carried aloft by a parachute, parasail, kite, or other device towed by a motorboat, including a tube, or by any other means, is unauthorized.
- All activities related to bungee cord jumping (sometimes called shock cord jumping) are unauthorized.
- Technical tree-climbing with ropes or harnesses is not authorized as an activity.
- Water chugging and related activities are not authorized for any program level.

Please take a few minutes and become familiar with these helpful resources as we work together to inform and educate the youth we serve. If you have any questions, please visit the Great Salt Lake Council's safety website at: <http://www.gslc-bsa.org/safety-resources/45823> or contact a representative of the Council's Enterprise Risk Management Committee. Thank you for your service to youth!

