

Unauthorized and Restricted Scout Activities

The policies and guidelines set forth in BSA's *Guide to Safe Scouting* have been established because of the real need to protect members from known hazards that have been identified through 100 years of experience. As you complete your scouting activities this year and plan your activities for 2013, please note that the following activities have specifically been declared unauthorized and restricted by the Boy Scouts of America:*

- All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are banned from program use. ATVs are defined as motorized recreational cycles with three or four large, soft tires, designed for off-road use on a variety of terrains.
- Boxing, karate, and related martial arts—except judo, aikido, and Tai Chi—are not authorized activities.
- Exploration of abandoned mines is an unauthorized activity.
- Fireworks secured, used, or displayed in conjunction with program and activities is unauthorized except where the fireworks display is conducted under the auspices of a certified or licensed fireworks control expert
- 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 and council or district sponsorship of rodeos 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. Units with council approval may participate in formally organized historical reenactment events, where firearms are used and intentionally aimed over the heads of the reenactment participants. The use of paintball guns, laser guns or similar devices may be utilized in target shooting events with council approval and following the Sweet 16 of BSA Safety. Council approval means the approval of the Scout Executive or his designee on a tour permit specifically outlining details of the event. (However, law enforcement departments and agencies using firearms in standard officer/agent training may use their training agenda when accompanied with appropriate safety equipment in the Law Enforcement Exploring program.)
- Hunting is not an authorized Cub Scout or Boy Scout activity, although hunting safety is part of the program curriculum. (The purpose of this policy is to restrict chartered packs, troops, and teams from conducting hunting trips. However, this policy does not restrict Venturing crews from conducting hunting trips or special adult hunting expeditions provided that adequate safety procedures are followed and that all participants have obtained necessary permits and/or licenses from either state or federal agencies. While hunter safety education might not be required prior to obtaining a hunting license, successful completion of the respective state voluntary program is required before participating in the activity.)
- Motorized personal watercraft, 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.
- 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 camping, hiking, backpacking, or any other Scouting activity other than those specifically planned for target shooting under the supervision of a certified firearms instructor. (Among the purposes of this policy is to prohibit adult leaders from bringing firearms on BSA camping and hiking activities or to unit meetings.
- 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.
- Downhill skiing, snowboarding and operating snowmobiles without a helmet. Appropriate personal protective equipment is required for all activities. This includes the recommended use of helmets for all participants engaged in winter sports, such as sledding and riding other sliding devices. The use of helmets is required for the following activities: downhill skiing, snowboarding and operating snowmobiles (requires full face helmets).
- Driving more than 10 hours in one 24-hour period. Driving is limited to a maximum of 10 hours in one 24-hour period and must be interrupted by frequent rest, food and recreation stops.
- Allowing passengers to ride in the bed of a truck. Safety belts are provided and must be used by all passengers and drivers. (Exception: A school or commercial bus, when required by law.) Passengers will ride only in the cab if trucks are used.
- Citizenship activities are encouraged, but partisan political activities are prohibited.
- The use of liquid fuels for starting any type of fire.

***The list of unauthorized and restricted activities is regularly reviewed, updated and modified by the BSA. For the most up-to-date list, please consult: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/HealthandSafety/GSS/toc.aspx>**