

Reaffirming Safety Guidelines for Activities

Priesthood and auxiliary leaders should follow these guidelines when planning activities for members, especially children, youth and young single adults.

1. Plan activities that are safe and have minimal risk of injury or illness. Activities that pose greater risk, such as white water rafting or rock climbing, should not be undertaken unless led by trained and licensed guides, or in conjunction with Scout sponsored camps or High Adventure bases.
2. Activities should be appropriate for the participants ages and maturity. Instruct participants in safety practices unique to the activity before starting, and observe safety precautions at all times during the activity.
3. Be prepared for emergencies that may occur. Know in advance how to contact law enforcement and emergency services. Leaders who plan, conduct, and supervise activities should be knowledgeable about the Church Activity Insurance Program, including its restrictions and limitations. (See Handbook 2: Administering the Church, 13.6.9)
4. Use the Parental or Guardian Permission and Medical Release form (33810) and the Activity Plan form (33809) for all about of area and overnight travel. These forms are available at LDS.org or through Church distribution. For Scout related activities, use the appropriate Scouting approval and consent forms.
5. Activities normally should not require Long distance travel. However, in the case of approved long distance travel, use commercial transportation whenever feasible. Commercial transportation should be licensed and protected by liability insurance.
6. When using private passenger vehicles, instruct drivers in safe driving practices before each outing. Ensure that each vehicle is in safe operating condition and properly insured and that each person in the vehicle uses a seat belt. Each driver should be a licensed responsible adult.
7. Ensure that at least two adult supervisors are present at every activity. For overnight activities involving young women, two or more Melchizedek Priesthood brethren should be present. The number of adult supervisors will vary depending on the type of activity and the maturity and number of participants.
8. Notify the bishop and stake president promptly if an accident, illness, or injury occurs on Church property or during a church sponsored activity. Notify the Risk Management Division at Church headquarters if the accident involves serious injury (telephone 1-801-240-4049 or 1-800-453-3860k, Ext. 2-4049).

All adult leaders who participate in Scouting activities in the Church are to be duly registered with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) through their local council. The BSA completes a background check on all adults as part of the registration approval process. Priesthood leaders should cooperate with BSA officials to resolve any issues that arise and complete this process before sustaining, and setting apart each Scout leader.

8. Notify the bishop and stake president promptly if an accident, illness, or injury occurs on Church property or during a church sponsored activity. Notify the Risk Management Division at Church headquarters if the accident involves serious injury (telephone 1-801-240-4049 or 1-800-453-3860k, Ext. 2-4049).

All adult leaders who participate in Scouting activities in the Church are to be duly registered with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) through their local council. The BSA completes a background check on all adults as part of the registration approval process. Priesthood leaders should cooperate with BSA officials to resolve any issues that arise and complete this process before sustaining, and setting apart each Scout leader.

For more information, see the safety guidelines in the Activities chapter of Handbook 2: Administering the Church (pages 101-11); the BSA guide to Safe Scouting. Safety training is also available to Scouting leaders through local Scouting roundtables and other Scout sponsored meetings.