



BSA SAFETY MOMENT

IS IT SCOUTING?

SUMMARY

What is an official Scouting activity? An official Scouting activity is consistent with the values, charter and bylaws, rules and regulations, operations manuals, and applicable literature of the Boy Scouts of America.

So, what is the program of the BSA? Collectively, it is all the books, literature, training, materials, policies, and guidelines provided by the BSA. The program is not something you create and call Scouting but something that can be found in the resources provided by the BSA. It develops leadership, character, and physical and mental fitness when executed properly.

GENERAL INFORMATION

What are three questions you can ask yourself when deciding if your activity is within the scope and guidelines of the Scouting program?

1. Is it age appropriate? Age- and rank-appropriate guidelines have been developed based on many factors.
2. If you are planning activities that fall outside of program materials or handbooks, ask this question: Is the activity appropriate for the age and appropriate for Scouting? Not every activity needs to be conducted.
3. Which book are you in, and what page are you on? The Scouting program is designed to be intrinsically safe. There are handbooks, guidance, and training resources for both professionals and volunteers.

RESOURCES

- Unauthorized & Restricted Activities Safety Moment: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/unauthorized-restricted-activities/
- Activity Planning and Risk Assessment: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss07/
- Age-Appropriate Guidelines: <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-685.pdf>
- Guide to Safe Scouting: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/toc/