

## AGE APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

Age- and rank-appropriate guidelines have been developed based on many factors. When planning activities outside of program materials or handbooks, ask this question: *Is the activity appropriate for the age and for Scouting?* Not every activity needs to be conducted.



**LIONS**  
(WITH ADULT PARTNER)  
Kindergarten



**TIGERS**  
(WITH ADULT PARTNER)  
First Grade



**WOLF/BEAR SCOUTS**  
Second and Third Grades



**WEBELOS**  
Fourth Grade



**ARROW OF LIGHT SCOUTS**  
Fifth Grade



**SCOUTS BSA**



**OLDER SCOUTS BSA, SEA SCOUTS, VENTURERS**

"Older Scouts BSA" are age 13 and have completed eighth grade or 14 years old and up.



## Outdoor Skills

	LIONS	TIGERS	WOLF/BEAR SCOUTS	WEBELOS	ARROW OF LIGHT SCOUTS	SCOUTS BSA	OLDER SCOUTS BSA, SEA SCOUTS, VENTURERS
Hunting							Prohibited
Mountaineering/Scrambling/Cross-Country Travel							✓
Search and Rescue Missions							✓
Search and Rescue Practice						✓	✓
Fueled Devices (Stoves and lanterns)						✓	✓
Hiking—Multiple Day						✓	✓
Mountain Boards						✓	✓
Orienteering						✓	✓
Wilderness Survival Training						✓	✓
Fire Building				✓	✓	✓	✓
Pioneering				✓	✓	✓	✓
Cooking Outdoors				✓	✓	✓	✓
Horseback Riding			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Map and Compass		Map only	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pioneering Towers (Check requirements for height restrictions.)		Council/district events only		✓	✓	✓	✓
Rope Bridges (Check requirements for height restrictions.)		Council/district events only		✓	✓	✓	✓
Conservation Projects	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fishing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hiking—Day	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



## Tools (See SAFE Project Tool Use Guidelines: [filestore.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-028.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-028.pdf))

	LIONS	TIGERS	WOLF/BEAR SCOUTS	WEBELOS	ARROW OF LIGHT SCOUTS	SCOUTS BSA	OLDER SCOUTS BSA, SEA SCOUTS, VENTURERS
Power Tools—Chain Saws, Log Splitters, Wood Chippers, Power Saws							Adult use only
Power Tools							See <a href="#">SAFE Project Tool Use</a>
Axes						✓	✓
Bow Saws				✓	✓	✓	✓
Pocketknife			Cub Scouts must earn the knife safety Adventure for their rank and must recertify each year.		✓	✓	✓
Hand Tools		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



## Trekking

	LIONS	TIGERS	WOLF/BEAR SCOUTS	WEBELOS	ARROW OF LIGHT SCOUTS	SCOUTS BSA	OLDER SCOUTS BSA, SEA SCOUTS, VENTURERS
Horse Treks							✓
Backpacking—Overnight, Backcountry						✓	✓
Bike Treks—Multiple Overnights						✓	✓
Ski Touring—Multiple Days and Nights Carrying Gear						✓	✓



## Range and Target Activities (Policy as of 9/01/2024. See *Range and Target Activities Manual* for program details. Activities outside program literature is prohibited.)

	LIONS	TIGERS	WOLF/BEAR SCOUTS	WEBELOS	ARROW OF LIGHT SCOUTS	SCOUTS BSA	OLDER SCOUTS BSA, SEA SCOUTS, VENTURERS
Pistols – NRA FIRST Steps Program Only							Council-sponsored events and day camps, short-term camps, long-term camps
Specialty Programs – Cowboy Action							Council-sponsored events and day camps, short-term camps, long-term camps
Specialty Programs – Airsoft						✓	✓
Specialty Programs – Chalkball						Council-sponsored events and day camps, short-term camps, long-term camps	
.22 Bolt Action Rifle						✓	✓
Shotguns						✓	✓
Muzzleloaders – Rifle and Shotgun Only						✓	✓
Archery – Field		Council-sponsored events and day camps, short-term camps, long-term camps				✓	✓
Archery – Target, Action (moving targets)						✓	✓
Pellet Rifle				Council-sponsored long-term camps		✓	✓
BB Guns		Council-sponsored events and day camps, short-term camps, long-term camps				✓	✓
Slingshots/Wrist Rockets		Council-sponsored events and day camps, short-term camps, long-term camps				✓	✓
Catapults/Trebuchets				Projectiles must be soft and small (no larger than a tennis ball).			



## Camping (See Guide to Safe Scouting: [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss](https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss))

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Unit-Coordinated Camping				Camping as a den or pack at council's designated locations	Camping as a den or pack at council's designated location. May camp with Scouts BSA troops at troop- or council-sponsored short-term camps	✓	✓
Council-Coordinated Camping	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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### Vehicles

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV)							Approved council use only; no unit use
Personal Water Craft (PWC)							Approved council use only; no unit use
BMX Biking			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mountain Biking			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bike—Day Trip	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



### COPE and Climbing

Caving (other than simple novice activities)							✓	
Lead Climbing							✓	
Snow and Ice Climbing							✓	
Belaying						✓	✓	
Natural Rock Climbing/Top Rope Belayed						✓	✓	
Amusements—Aerial Adventure Parks						✓	✓	
Amusements—Canopy Tours						✓	✓	
Amusements—Zip Lines						✓	✓	
Rappelling				✓	✓	✓	✓	
COPE	Age-appropriate initiative games						✓	✓
Bouldering	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Climbing (age-appropriate man-made facility)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	



### Aquatics (See [Safe Swim Defense](#), and [Safety Afloat](#) for restrictions based on skills, such as swimming ability, rather than age.)

Aerial Towed Activities (kitesurfing, parasails)	Prohibited						
Cliff Jumping, High Dives	Prohibited						
Triathlon: Swim Races in Open Water							Sanctioned events
Paddle Sports: Youth Operated on Class III or Above Whitewater							✓
Paddle Sports: Whitewater With Professional Guide on Board						✓	✓
Paddle Sports: Youth Operated on Class I or II Whitewater						✓	✓
Motorboats: Youth Operated (check state regulations)						✓	✓
Overnight Cruise on Live-Aboard Vessel						✓	✓
Sailboats and Sailboards: Youth Operated						✓	✓
Snorkeling in Open Water						✓	✓
Scuba						✓	✓
Surfing						✓	✓
Towed Activities (waterskiing, knee boarding, floats)						✓	✓
tubing (floating in gently flowing water)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Paddle Sports: Youth Operated on Calm or Gently Flowing Water	Passengers only			Paddle sports include canoes, kayaks, pedal boats, rafts, rowboats, SUP			
Commercial Marine Transport (ferries, excursion ships)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Day Rides on Large Private Craft With Trained Adult Operator	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swimming	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Snorkeling in Confined Water	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Parks, Slides, and Floating Attractions	Appropriate age varies by feature						