2019 World Scout Jamboree

The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve was the site for the 24th World Scout Jamboree. More than 35,000 youth, adults, and staff (International Service Team, or IST) were on hand to witness a world jamboree like no other. This jamboree included many activities, such as mountain biking, skateboarding, and shooting sports that youth Scouts from around the world have not been exposed to in their home country. Many countries had their own tent so others could “explore” the country’s home culture.

Having thousands of people from around the world made ensuring safety somewhat of a challenge. The Safety Service team—with staff from Germany, France, Finland, Sweden, Mexico, and Sri Lanka, in addition to the U.S.—had fun getting to know about the safety culture in countries around the world. Many of the activities had signage in all three of the Jamboree’s official languages (English, French, and Spanish) along with pictures to assist in getting the word out about safety. Program hazard analyses were developed for many activities, and each activity area made sure their IST were knowledgeable about the safety concerns. Overall, the 2019 World Scout Jamboree was a very safe event.

There is a short turnaround in getting ready for the 2021 National Scout Jamboree. If anyone is interested in being on the Safety Service team, please contact Sven Rundman, Safety Service lead, at srundman@cox.net.
“Personal safety awareness” is not a new term, but it now has a broader definition. Our youth in the Venturing program have known Personal Safety Awareness training as a series of excellent videos helping them navigate the many safety issues today’s teenagers face. The new Personal Safety Awareness is still that but also much more. It is a term the BSA uses to describe a broad program of safety and youth protection for youth across all our youth programs—Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Exploring, Sea Scouts, and Venturing.

For Cub Scouting, the BSA partnered with the Barbara Sinatra Children’s Center to produce age-appropriate videos for each program level.

Along with the Youth Protection parent guide, included with each rank’s handbook, these videos and the discussions each Scout has with their parents and leaders are required elements of the new Protect Yourself Rules adventure. Youth in Scouts BSA will soon have a similar program. Together these excellent safety programs for youth replace the older videos “It Happened to Me” and “A Time to Tell.”

Keeping Scouts safe is critical to an effective Scouting program at all levels. While Youth Protection training is the mandatory program for training adults, Personal Safety Awareness is now the training program for our youth.
Hazard Trees

Do you have trees on your council property? Do your Scouts camp around trees? Then you should know what a hazard tree is and how you can manage the risk to your participants.

That’s why it is important to:

• Assess your site.
• Avoid campsites with dead or hanging limbs.
• Obey any warning signs for hazards or dead trees.

Snow, ice, excessive rain or drought, wind, fire, age, and disease can cause a tree or its limbs to fall. Look up and around when choosing a campsite, and be mindful when traveling as healthy trees can also be hazardous with little to no warning.

Take a look at the Hazard Trees Safety Moment for more information on how to prevent a hazard tree from affecting your units.

Resource

Updates to the *Guide to Safe Scouting* Prohibited Activity Listing

The updates approved in May and incorporated into the *Guide to Safe Scouting* in August 2019 are now in effect. This includes updates to both the online and PDF versions of the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

We encourage each council to share the updates and the Prohibited Activity FAQs with all staff and Scouting volunteers and to emphasize that prohibited activities put participants, volunteers, the council, and the organization at risk and cannot be tolerated.

To help you spread the word, there will be a quiz in an upcoming issue of *Scouting* magazine. There is also a Safety Moment to help you communicate and the Prohibited Activity FAQs to help explain why some of these changes are needed.

If you have any questions that your council staff cannot answer after reviewing the FAQs, you may send us a note at health.safety@scouting.org.

**Resource**

The revised Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR) will soon be available on the Scouting Safely website. We already know what you’re thinking: “Didn’t they just do that?” No, not really. The last updates were completed in 2014.

Health and medical information seem to change almost daily, and the medical subcommittee reviews this information as it pertains to the AHMR. The changes you will see are minor, incorporating lessons learned from the high-adventure bases and jamborees. In addition, we have incorporated changes based on your comments, as well as those of camp health officers, council health supervisors, and the medical community.

Please be sure to fill out each section fully and carefully. Although no one wants an accident or illness to occur, an accurately completed AHMR can make a difference in your or your youth’s care in the event of an emergency.

**Resources**

How to review the AHMR:  
www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/how-to-review-the-ahmr/

AHMR landing page:  
www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/

AHMR FAQs:  
www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/medical-formfaqs/