

# CM 008

## Commissioners and S.A.F.E. Scouting



Time allotted	15 minutes
Teaching format	Instructor-led discussions with PowerPoint support

### Resources

Handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• S.A.F.E. Checklist – 1 per person</li></ul>
Equipment and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CM 008 – Commissioners and S.A.F.E. Scouting Discussion Guide</li><li>• CM 008 – Commissioners and S.A.F.E. Scouting PowerPoint presentation</li><li>• Computer and projector</li></ul>
Resources for additional participant learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Commissioner Website (<a href="https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/">https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/</a>)</li><li>• Scouting Safely Website (<a href="https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/">https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/</a>)</li></ul>

### Course Connections

Connections to other courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BCS 111 – Commissioner and S.A.F.E. Scouting</li></ul>
------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

### Presentation Outline

#### Introduction and Course Objectives – 2 minutes

##### Slide 1 – Commissioners and S.A.F.E. Scouting

Parents are always concerned about their children's safety. Commissioners support the unit's understanding that all safety needs to be an overt and constant awareness at every meeting and outing. It begins with leadership knowledge and then action. Scouting America's Commitment to Safety states that:

Scouting will not compromise the safety of our youth, volunteers, and employees. Safety is a **value** that must be taught and reinforced at every opportunity. Within Scouting, all are responsible and must hold each other accountable to provide a safe environment for all participants.

## **Slide 2 – Course Objectives**

For a commissioner, this means we need to be aware and knowledgeable of all that is available to support safety within Scouting and find every opportunity to share with units.

At the end of this training, a commissioner will be able to:

- Understand the safety measures in place
- Know the resources for guidance
- Understand the reporting instruments

## **Commissioners' Role in Scouting America's Commitment to Safety – 1 minute**

### **Slide 3 – Commissioner Priorities**

Commissioners support the unit's successful and safe conduct of the Scouting program. To truly be the best resource, a commissioner needs to know or be able to access critical information about Scouting. Safety is one area of critical information. Each commissioner needs to be familiar with the steps that are in place to ensure safety, as well as suggested unit practices and tools.

Making safety an ongoing constant visible to all members is one of the attributes that will support Scouting's growth.

## **Safety Measures in Place – 6 Minutes**

### **Slide 4 – Safe Leadership**

One of the consistent safety measures is that every leader, committee member, and adult member of the Scouting community must register and adhere to the practices that create a leadership corps committed to ensuring a safe environment while running the Scouting program.

This starts with registering with Scouting America, which includes approval by the Chartered Organization, a criminal background check, and a volunteer database screening. Adult membership starts at age 18, but an adult cannot be counted as part of the 2-deep supervision required until age 21.

Each adult member must also take Youth Protection Training (YPT) before their registration is fully approved and renew it before the expiration date, so they are always YPT-trained. The chartered organization may require additional youth protection training.

This is the frontline for abuse prevention in Scouting.

## Slide 5 – S.A.F.E. Model

Scouting attracts members by offering exciting, safe challenges. Its consistent emphasis on safe practices assures members that the challenges they face are safe to participate in. The specifics of a safe program are listed here.

Scouting is committed to injury and illness prevention. To this end, safety measures are integrated into program handbooks, literature, and training manuals. Leaders are expected to use the message of SAFE when delivering the program.

**The “S” is for Supervision** – Supervision is required for all scouting activities. Each scout activity must have 2 registered leaders age 21 or older at the event, including at least one female leader if there are female Scouts involved. This is so the adult leadership can monitor for any potential issues that may arise and advise the youth as needed.

**“A” is for Assessment** – Assessment is about developing situational awareness, both in the moment as we monitor potential issues but also in the planning process. Safety is our first priority in Scouting, which means that as an event is planned out there needs to be consideration in that process as well as during the event itself.

**“F” is for Fitness** – When planning activities, the unit leadership and participants must know the physical fitness required for the event and the group's current fitness level. This includes having the Annual Health and Medical Record form on file for all participants but also being familiar with the capabilities of the Scouts and Scouters and knowing their limitations for certain activities.

**“E” stands for personal and unit Equipment as well as the Environment** – Some aspects overlap with other pieces that have been previously discussed.

The leadership needs to ensure that everyone is prepared with the appropriate personal gear for the activity and the possible weather changes predicted. Some activities may require specialized equipment. This needs to be recognized during the planning process, and the presence and condition of the necessary equipment should be verified before the activity as part of the assessment.

The environment should also be a part of the assessment process, both in planning and during the activity. The environment can change rapidly, and there needs to be a constant awareness of those possibilities and contingency plans in place.

## Resources – 4 Minutes

### Slide 6 – Resources for Support

As the single best resource, you need to be able to find support for a unit. These are 3 essential resources.

- The *Guide to Safe Scouting* contains all the regulations for planning age-appropriate safe activities for scouts of all ages.
- The Youth Protection Site, [Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org/youth-protection), contains essential information to ensure that our youth and adults are safe to participate in scouting activities.

- S.A.F.E. checklists are detailed lists to ensure that you have considered all activities to be prepared for a successful, safe activity and possible complications.

**Instructor Note:** *Have the class scan the QR code on the slide*

### **Slide 7 – Safety Moments**

To build a culture of safety, take time at the beginning of each activity and meeting for a safety moment. Spending a few minutes on safe practices directly related to the A/Assess of the S.A.F.E. model is essential.

Unit leadership or scouts can develop these to share before projects and activities. The Safety Resources site offers suggestions on creating safety moments.

### **Slide 8 – Incident Reporting**

Despite all the planning and proper supervision, accidents happen. These incidents need to be reported to your local council. At this site, fillable forms can be downloaded and carried on Scouting events. There is also a 10-step checklist that could be handed to several witnesses to complete gathering all the information about the incident.

This site also has the reporting form for near misses (incidents that resulted in minimal injury but had the potential to be serious). These should be used to reflect the activity and as a data point in case more action is needed to ensure the activity can be conducted safely. They also need to be submitted to the council. We all have a role in making activities safer by reporting issues.

**Instructor Note:** *Have the class scan the QR code on the slide*

## **Summary – 1 Minute**

### **Slide 9 – Summary**

As we complete this presentation, you now should be able to:

- Understand the safety measures in place
- Know the resources for guidance
- Understand the reporting instruments

Keep in mind the words of CSE James West:

*“So many things are the result of lack of careful planning, lack of careful thinking through, thoughtfulness. And the health and safety practices of Scouting, we hope, are going to help boys (Scouts) plan more definitely to avoid accident and illness, and to prepare themselves in a positive way to face life.”*

## **Questions? – 1 minute**