

REAFFIRMING SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR ACTIVITIES

The following safety guidelines are provided to emphasize principles that priesthood and auxiliary leaders should follow when planning activities for children, youth and young single adults:

1. Plan activities that are safe and have minimal risk of injury and illness. Observe safety precautions at all times during the activities. Activities should be appropriate for the participants' ages and maturity.
2. Obtain the approval of priesthood leaders when traveling in Church-sponsored groups, including Scout groups.
3. Activities normally should not require long-distance travel. In the case of approved long-distance travel, however, use commercial transportation when feasible. Commercial transportation should be licensed and protected by liability insurance.
4. Plan, organize and prepare for emergencies that may occur, including how to contact law enforcement and emergency services.
5. Instruct participants in safety practices unique to the activity before the activity begins.
6. Obtain appropriate releases and permits for all travel and overnight activities, including Activity Plan forms (33809) and Parental or Guardian Permission and Medical Release forms (33810). Boy Scouts of America Local or National Tour Permit Application forms are required for all Scouting trips and camps. Scouts Canada forms and information can be found in the *Fieldbook for Canadian Scouting* and the *Camping and Outdoor Activity Guide* available in the *Bylaw Policies and Procedure Handbook*.
7. Ensure that each private passenger vehicle used for Church group travel is in safe operating condition, properly insured, and that each person in the vehicle uses a seat belt. Each driver should be a licensed, responsible adult.
8. Ensure that at least two adult supervisors are present in an activity. For overnight outings involving young women, two or more Melchizedek Priesthood brethren should be present in addition to female adult leaders.
9. Use the buddy system for hiking, camping and aquatic activities.
10. Discourage parents, including those who are leaders, from taking their younger children on Church-sponsored youth activities.
11. 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 1-800-240-4049 or 1-866-LDS-RISK [537-7475]).

For more information, see the safety guidelines that are included in the Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2 (271-80), the *Young Women Camp Manual*, The BSA *Guide to Safe Scouting* (available at www.scouting.org), and the Scouts Canada's *Camping and Outdoor Activity Guide* (available at www.sunshine.scouts.ca/bpp/Section%2010000.pdf). Safety training is also available to Scouting leaders through local Boy Scouts of America and Scouts Canada roundtables and other Scout-sponsored meetings.