

BSA National announces clarification on Adult Registration Requirement Beginning with 2018 Boy Scout Camp Season

Email from Don McChesney, Assistant Chief Scout Executive, Field Services to Scout Executives

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The BSA's new adult registration requirements — which mandate that all adults accompanying a Boy Scout troop to a residence camp or other Scouting activity lasting 72 hours or more **must** be registered as a leader, including completion of a criminal background check and Youth Protection Training — will go into effect June 1, 2018, at the start of the BSA's summer camp season.

Several of you have inquired as to the “why” behind these updated adult registration requirements. The change to the adult registration requirement for Boy Scout activities described below is a first step. With the increased emphasis on youth protection and safe Scouting, this new requirement applies to the area of “highest risk” insofar as Boy Scout activities involve the most youth whose parents are not present.

Requiring registration, background checks, and Youth Protection Training (YPT) for adults on Boy Scout extended activities adds another dimension of protection. Additional requirements, such as mandatory YPT for any adult participating in a unit activity, shortening the activity period requirement from three nights, and extending the registration requirement to additional programs, are under consideration for future action. Recognizing the affect these requirements have on parents and programs, this first step is being taken in advance of YPT2 to underscore how important youth protection measures are to safe Scouting.

We fully recognize the affect these requirements will have on parents and programs and offer the following clarification:

- This change applies to Boy Scout program only at this time
- The new requirement applies to any adult accompanying a *Boy Scout group* on a *single* Scouting activity where they are present for *three or more nights* (not necessarily consecutive)
- These adults must be registered as leaders, **including the completion of a criminal background check and Youth Protection Training before the activity** (Criminal Background Checks or CBCs cannot be expedited)

Why is this happening:

- This is meant to enhance the “safe space” for overnight Boy Scout activities.
- While incidents are rare, this will serve as an added layer of protection for our highest risk activities.

The future:

- Results and feedback will be monitored.
- Also under consideration are:
 - Mandatory YPT for any participating adult
 - Extended registration requirements to other programs
 - Shortening the activity period from three nights