



Training Program and Adventure Requirements for Scouting Adult Volunteers

Philosophy Behind Adventure Trips:

- The trips are designed to help the boys grow in self-confidence by challenging them physically, mentally and spiritually. This done by taking them into areas where they have not been before and allowing them to practice all the Scout skills they have learned. This is also why there are specific requirements for Scouts to attend the adventure trips.
- The trips are designed for the boys to practice and develop their skills. The adults are not along to run the trips. The adults are to be the fall back in case the Scouts get into a situation that is potentially dangerous or to make sure that they do not participate in any actions that are banned by BSA. Finally, adults are to see that the Scouts follow all safety procedures.
- The rules and training are required by BSA to provide for a safe and fun experience for the Scouts. The rules have been developed by assessing the risk and then determining the best possible safety procedures.
- For parents and Scouts to get the most benefit out of the programs, we feel that they would benefit from going on a mini-adventure. We realize that many parents may have had extensive backpacking experience, but most of that experience is with them in charge. It is a different experience to allow the kids to make mistakes and be in charge when you know "the right way."

General Skills Required for all trips:

- First Aid – Mountaineering specific
- Guide to Safe Scouting
- Crew Decision Making - Who's in charge?
- Child Safety, including how to spot child abuse and how to prevent it.
- Ropes & Knots
- Stove Safety
- Fire Safety
- Tents & Emergency Shelters
- Camp Hygiene
- Maps, Compass, Orienteering
- Hazard Evaluation
- Emergency Evacuation - when and how
- Packing for trips
- Food buying
- Generally accepted practices in Troop 171
- BSA policies for driving and how to drive fifteen passenger vans

Summer Skills:

- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Swimming
- Water Rescue
- River Crossings
- Climbing

Winter Skills:

- Snow Caving
- Hypothermia, Frost Bite
- Snow Shoeing
- Cross Country Skiing
- Ice Ax, Crampon usage

Who is eligible:

- Parents of kids who are going on the trip
- Active Scoutmaster staff
- Must have attended at least 2 overnight camping trips with troop
- Must have completed the above skills that are relevant to the adventure trip
- Preference will be given to parents who are most involved
- Remember that parents will be limited. The concept is that this is an adventure for the boys. Ideally group configuration will be 2 or 3 adults for every 6 to 8 boys.
- Must have attended one summer camp in the last two years
- Must have completed the child protection video
- Must have completed safety afloat