

The Boy Scouts of America are always looking out for the safety and security of our young people and occasionally, they make changes to make sure we are following best practices in the Youth Protection Program. That said, there is a change **effective September 1, 2023** that we want you to be sure to be aware of. We suggest units start implementing these new rules immediately.

This is from the current Guide to Safe Scouting:

Adult Supervision

Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including meetings. There must be a registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth. Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age- and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided.

All adults accompanying a Scouting unit who are present at the activity for 72 total hours or more must be registered as leaders. The 72 hours need not be consecutive. **This will be removed with the new policy....**

[(Effective September 1, 2023)] Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including all meetings. There must be a registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth or female adult program participants.

Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided.

All adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouting activity must be currently registered in an adult fee required position as listed or as an adult program participant. Limited exception below for Cub Scout overnight Programs.

Registration as a Merit Badge Counselor does not meet this requirement.

Cub Scout Programs – Overnight Exception: Cub Scout parents or legal guardians taking part in an overnight Cub Scout program with **their own child or legal ward are not required to register as leaders.** All adults must review the **“How to Protect your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent’s Guide”** that can be found in the front of each Cub Scout Handbook. **In addition, the parent or legal guardian must be accompanied by a registered leader at any time they are with youth members other than their own child/ward. All other overnight adults must be currently registered in an adult fee required position.**

So, what does this mean for those in our council?

Here are some examples:

Webelos Woods:

I am the parent or legal ward of a youth participant and want to campout but are **not** registered in the BSA. **Yes, you can attend the event and campout with your child BUT if you are going to be with other youth**

members other than YOUR child, you must either be registered or be accompanied by a registered adult leader.

Cub Scout Family Campout:

I am the parent or legal ward of a youth participant and want to campout but are not registered in the BSA. Yes, you can attend the event and campout with your child **BUT if you are going to be with other youth members other than YOUR child, you must either be registered or be accompanied by a registered adult leader.** Most Packs attend this event and will provide the leadership required.

Spookoree Event/Campout:

I am the parent or legal ward of a youth participant and want to campout but are not registered in the BSA. Yes, you can attend the event and campout with your child **BUT if you are going to be with other youth members other than YOUR child, you must either be registered or be accompanied by a registered adult leader.**

More Scenarios:

- **A Cub Scout pack is having their unit campout. A grandpa wants to bring his grandson to the pack campout because the Scout's parents will be out of town. Does grandpa have to register?**

Yes. The Cub Scout exception is limited to a parent or legal guardian. A grandparent or other family member who is not the legal guardian could attend overnight but must register. Reminder, the Scout and grandpa cannot share the same tent. See definition of legal guardian.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/faq/custody3>

- **The Order of the Arrow (OA) is hosting a fellowship weekend. Do the OA volunteers have to register with the BSA?**

Yes. All adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouting activity must be currently registered in an adult fee required position as listed or as an adult program participant.

- **A Scouts BSA parent is one of the drivers for a campout. They do not volunteer for the troop other than driving. Do they have to register?**

Yes, if the parent plans to stay overnight, they must register with the troop in one of the approved positions. If they are driving to the event and not staying overnight, they do not have to register.

- **An Arrow of Light den is camping with a troop for their Scouting Adventure pin. Do all the adults need to be registered?**

Parents who are attending with their Arrow of Light Scout do not have to register and will camp alongside their den. Reminder the den must still have registered two-deep leadership.

All adults camping with the troop must be registered.