

Scouts BSA at Camp FAQ

Question: Can Scouts BSA girl troops be combined with Scouts BSA boy troops into a “camp unit”? A “camp unit” is the combination of multiple separate chartered troops into one “unit” who comes to camp, combining Scouts and leadership into one unit.

Answer: No. Program integrity requires single gender units. For details on unit leadership requirements, review the [Barriers to Abuse](#).

Question: Does a camp need to supply two deep leadership (21+ and female leaders) at every camp program area?

Answer: Summer camp is the event / program and is an extension of the unit’s program. As such, each unit must come to camp with adequate and appropriate leadership as outlined in the [Barriers to Abuse](#). While the age and composition or two-deep leadership was updated, this is not a change; you will continue to follow all NCAP standards, including either providing or requiring units to provide appropriate leadership for activities such as outposts, excursions, treks, or hikes that might take place during programing, including remote program areas.

Question: Are there guidelines for swimwear?

Answer: [Appropriate attire is required for all activities](#).

BSA’s National Aquatics Subcommittee recommends:

Swimsuits should be comfortable, functional and modest. For males, swim trunks or board shorts are appropriate. Modest tankinis or one-piece swimsuits for females. Inappropriate swimwear includes swim briefs or swim bottoms short enough to allow exposure and bikinis.

Question: Can we create a provisional troop for Scouts BSA girl and boy campers?

Answer: No, a single provisional troop for both boys and girls is not allowed because program integrity requires single gender units. Female provisional campers would be in a provisional Scouts BSA girl troop, and boy provisional campers would be in a provisional Scouts BSA boy troop.

Question: Can linked Scouts BSA girl and boy troops share a campsite?

Answer: Yes, if your camp layout and amenities meet all the requirements of the [Barriers to Abuse](#), including privacy and separate accommodations.

Question: Can a parent bring their daughter to camp with their son’s troop?

Answer: No. Program integrity requires single gender units. If the daughter is a member of a Scouts BSA girl troop, she may attend as a provisional camper and take part in a provisional Scouts BSA girl troop, if available.

Question: Can any Scouts BSA member attend camp on their own?

Answer: Yes, as part of a provisional unit at camp.

Question: Can councils hold separate weeks for female Scouts BSA troops and male Scouts BSA troops, or must they incorporate them into each week?

Answer: This is a local council operational decision; however, one of the goals of family Scouting is to ease the burden of parents with multiple children in the program. It is recommended that camps offer all weeks of camps to all troops wherever possible to ensure we meet the needs of our Scouting families and offer an equitable program.

Question: Can councils designate separate camping sites, or must all sites be available?

Answer: This is a local council operational decision. However, our shared continuous goal has always been to ensure a successful and equitable camp experience for each camper. As you make campsites assignments, you should consider:

- Does this site accommodate linked troops who want to camp together?
- Are new troops at campsites far away from the rest of the camp, which can be challenging for new campers?
- Does this campsite meet the Barriers to Abuse?

Question: How do we allow new Scouts BSA troops access to camp sites and weeks when a lot of councils give the troops the ability to sign up for next year's camp while at this year's camp?

Answer: This is a local council operational decision, but whatever the decision, ensure that all new Scouts BSA troops and Scouts BSA troops that are forming are informed of the process and timeline for camp registration. This is the same practice we've had for new troops for decades. A camp's registration process, programs and facilities should be equitable for all units. We encourage you to attend the session at the 2019 National Annual Meeting and/or the Outdoor Conference in September, where some best practices will be shared.

Additional General Recommendations:

- It is recommended that council camping committees, council camping professionals, and camp directors review the Scouts BSA Camping Livestream available online [here](#).
- It is recommended that camp directors instruct the "Welcoming New Scouts to Camp" camp staff training module during their staff training week. This will be available *after* May 15, 2019 [here](#).
- It is recommended that all leaders and camping professionals review the online version of the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) for current policies and information. This is typically reviewed during a pre-camp meeting for leaders/parents as required by NCAP standard PD-108.
- It is recommended that camps offer the "[Understanding and Preventing Youth on Youth Incidents for Unit Leaders and Staff](#)" during the camp week as part of the adult trainings they instruct at camp. As a reminder, this training is required for call camp staff per [NCAP](#) standard SQ-402.
- As a reminder, per NCAP standard AO-807, the Council Scout Executive after hours contact number must be posted at camp.

Additional Resources:

- [YPT Bullying Materials](#) (including posters)
- [Incident Reporting](#)
- [Scouts First Helpline #](#) 844-SCOUTS1 (844-726-8871)

Questions? Contact:

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