

Mid-America Council, Boy Scouts of America Adult Supervision Update

(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 as an adult volunteer or an adult program participant. Adult volunteers must register in the position(s) they are serving in. Registration as a merit badge counselor position does not meet this requirement. See FAQ for list of approved adult registration fee required positions. *Limited exception below for Cub Scout overnight Programs.*

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. *(End Effective September 1, 2023 Update).*

Q: When will this policy take effect?

A: This change will begin September 1, 2023 for all overnight activities. Units should begin conversations now with parents in order to be prepared for this change. Any overnight events held after September 1 will need to meet or exceed these requirements.

Q: Does this apply to all programs?

A: Yes, this applies to any overnight program for Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts, and Cub Scouts. Note the limited exception for Cub Scouts above.

Q: Does registration as a merit badge counselor count?

A: No. Adult volunteers must register in the unit position(s) they are serving in. A list of unit positions can be found [here](#). A merit badge counselor is not a unit position nor does their district/council role require overnight participation.

Q: How will this impact Camp Cedars and Camp Amikaro summer camps?

A: All leaders staying overnight must be registered in a unit position for Camp Cedars in 2024. For Camp Amikaro 2024, adults attending with their own child or legal ward need not register *unless* they will be responsible for other youth. All adults attending Camp Amikaro will still be required to take YPT regardless of if they are a registered adult leader or not. Each unit must have a minimum of two registered adult leaders over the age of 21 in attendance at Camp Amikaro and Camp Cedars.

Q: Can my Cub Scout’s grandparent, uncle, adult sibling, etc. take them on an overnight scouting event?

A: The Cub Scout Overnight Exception only applies to the Cub Scout’s parent or legal guardian. All other adults must register as an adult leader, complete YPT, and undergo a background check. This applies to all overnight activities including Cub Family Weekends.