

## Youth Protection and Adult Supervision

### **Q: May an adult male lead an all-girl unit?**

Yes, an adult male can lead an all-girl unit, just as we already have adult females leading all-boy programs. Youth protection requirements still apply to both male and female participants.

Effective, October 1, 2018, 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 over 21 in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader over 21 must be present for any activity involving female youth. Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age- and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided.

Eligible volunteers need to be:

- 1) 21 and over
- 2) Registered as a volunteer with the BSA
- 3) Have gone through a background check, and
- 4) Be up to date on Youth Protection training

*This is a change from our previous policy where one leader could be 21 years of age or older with a second leader who could be 18 years of age or older.*

### **Q: Are there going to be changes in the requirements for adult leadership?**

As always, we will maintain our continuous improvement model to ensure the safety of all youth.

Effective, October 1, 2018, 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 over 21 in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader over 21 must be present for any activity involving female youth. Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age- and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided.

Eligible volunteers would need to be:

- 5) 21 and over
- 6) Registered as volunteers with the BSA
- 7) Have gone through a background check, and
- 8) Be up to date on Youth Protection training

*This is a change from our previous policy where one volunteer could be 21 years of age or older with a second volunteer who could be 18 years of age or older.*

Examples of approved leadership

Boy dens, troops, crews, or ships

Volunteers may be all male, all female, or a combination of male and female, but at least two volunteers must be 21 years of age or over.

### Girl dens, troops, crews, or ships

Volunteers may be all female or a combination of male and female, but at least two volunteers must be 21 years of age or over and at least one must be female.

### Family packs

Volunteers may be all female or a combination of male and female, but at least two volunteers must be 21 years of age or over and at least one must be female.

### Overnight activities

A change from the previous policy where only one of the adults was required to be registered, we are now requiring two 21 years old or over leaders for all activities, including overnights; if girls are present, at least one of the volunteers must be female (to be a volunteer, you must be registered).

### Additional leadership

As one example of additional leadership, camp standards require not only the minimum adult leadership, but also require certain ratios (e.g., aquatics (PS-201-1) and COPE (SQ-409-3)).

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.

### **Q: What facility changes will need to happen at our camps?**

The Boy Scouts of America has been serving young women for decades, so many camps already accommodate women. Each council will evaluate their facilities and make any needed changes.

### **Q: What is the policy for restroom and showering facilities?**

Separate shower and latrine facilities should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. If separate facilities are not available, separate times should be scheduled and posted. This is not a change.

### **Q: What are the policies for sleeping accommodations?**

Separate accommodations for adult males and females and youth males and females are required.

- Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth.
- Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.
- In Cub Scouting, parents and guardians may share a tent with their family.
- In all other programs, youth and adults tent separately.
- Spouses may share tents.

**Q: What training will be taken by camp staff?**

Camp director and camp staff training includes “Understanding and Preventing Youth-on-Youth Abuse,” which addresses key issues that apply to all youth: bullying, harassment, inappropriate behavior, privacy, and other important subjects.

**Q: What will happen at Day Camp if we only have a few girls, and they are not the same rank?**

Maintaining the all-boy den and all-girl den is an overall Cub Scouting program requirement that extends into all activities; however, Day Camps can offer joint activities that are available to multiple dens.