

SCOUTING SAFE ENVIRONMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Scout units need to follow the Diocese of Camden safe environment rules?

All Scout units that are chartered to a Catholic parish in the Diocese of Camden will comply with diocesan regulations. The adult scout leaders will be background checked by the diocese and the parish will cover this expense. Scout units that are not chartered to a Catholic parish but meet on parish, school or other Diocese of Camden property will have their adult leaders background checked at their own expense and will provide proof of clearance to the parish Safe Environment Coordinator.

What does it mean to be safe environment compliant?

Adults in regular contact with minors will pass a fingerprint criminal history background check by the Diocese of Camden and will attend CAP.

Are all adults in the Scout unit required to meet these requirements?

All adults in regular contact with minors (contact at least twice per calendar year) will be in safe environment compliance. In addition, all adults on any overnight trip will be safe environment compliant.

Do parents need to be fingerprinted, cleared and CAP trained to attend an overnight event?

Yes

Is CAP the Diocese of Camden version of Youth Protection and does BSA Youth Protection training count for CAP?

CAP is an acronym for Child Assault Prevention and is the safe environment program selected by the Diocese of Camden. CAP is a program run by the State of NJ (since 1985). This is the link to the NJCAP webpage: <http://www.njcap.org/> All adults in regular contact with minors must attend CAP. While the Diocese of Camden recognizes and respects the BSA Youth Protection training, CAP is the safe environment program that scout leaders will attend. BSA Youth Protection is a program run by BSA for BSA to instruct leaders on protecting youth. It is a membership requirement for Boy Scout adult leaders. This is a link that discusses BSA Youth Protection: <http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>

What about Venture Scouts? Some Venture scouting youth are over 18. Are they required to be in safe environment compliance?

The policy of the Diocese of Camden requires that employees and volunteers undergo and pass a criminal background check. It does not require “participants” to undergo a background check. If the 18-year-old Venture Scouts are participants, they do not need to be in safe environment compliance. If the Boy Scouts consider these 18-year-old Venture Scouts to be leaders and running activities, then they will need to pass a criminal history background check as soon as they turn 18 and will have to attend CAP.

Do merit badge counselors have to be background checked and cleared by the Diocese of Camden and also attend CAP?

If merit badge counselors are part of a troop or pack that is chartered to a Catholic parish in the Diocese of Camden, yes, they have to be in safe environment compliance according to diocesan policy. If merit badge counselors are not members of the troop or pack, they would need to be registered anyway with BSA (according to BSA policy) and have the proper training. In either case, BSA youth protection rules require that no scout is left alone with a merit badge counselor (or any adult leader other than their parent).

At a joint overnight event, with a unit that is not chartered to a Catholic parish in the Diocese of Camden, what are the requirements for the adults of that unit?

The non-Catholic parish unit will have their adult leaders background checked and cleared at their own expense and will provide proof of clearance to the parish Safe Environment Coordinator prior to the joint trip, e.g., completing a BSA adult application in time for the results to be processed by BSA and received before the overnight event takes place.

What are the requirements for a museum/zoo type overnight event (common sleeping areas with adults of other units with unknown youth protection status)?

Since this situation would place the youth at unknown and undue risk, no scout unit that is chartered to a Catholic parish in the Diocese of Camden will sponsor or participate as a unit in this type of trip. Information may be made available to parents for them to register and participate as individuals with their children at their own discretion.

Is Summer Camp or a Camporee a “joint overnight event?” Can a unit that is chartered to a Catholic parish participate?

The answer to the first question is “No, it is not considered a joint overnight event.” The answer to the second question is “Yes, a unit may participate.” At Summer Camp or a Camporee, units occupy their own site and have their own leadership. This type of event is permissible. The “joint overnight event” question

is referring to two units taking a trip as a single unit—shared leadership, sleeping accommodations (troops sharing a single site or cabin), food, activity, etc.