



Be Safe, Have Fun

Somebody once asked Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, what exactly Scouts should “be prepared” for. “Why, for any old thing,” B-P replied. Safety is a way you can be prepared for any old thing that comes your way.

Safety is more than a set of rules. It’s an attitude that makes you aware of potential problems so that you can prevent them. A police officer notices something suspicious about a car. A Scoutmaster sees that a pot of boiling water is close to tipping over. A Scout realizes that their family doesn’t have an escape plan at home. Those little acts can help prevent major catastrophes—all because someone was prepared.

This month’s meetings and main event will introduce you to several aspects of safety. You’ll learn about safety in the home, on outings, and in public. You’ll make the places safer where you spend time. And you’ll connect with professionals who help make your community a safer place to live.

Objectives

This month’s activities should:

- Teach Scouts that the pledge to “help other people at all times” requires skill as well as goodwill.
- Instill a good grasp of the fundamentals of public safety.
- Introduce Scouts to public safety professionals.
- Increase self-confidence in Scouts so they will be able to act rationally in emergencies.
- Teach the ability to evaluate a situation for safety.

RELATED ADVANCEMENT AND AWARDS

- Tenderfoot requirements 1b and 4d
- Second Class requirements 1a, 5a, 6a, and 6b
- First Class requirements 1a, 6a, 6b, and 6e
- Crime Prevention, Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety, First Aid, Public Health, Safety, Search and Rescue, Signs, Signals, and Codes, Traffic Safety, and Wilderness Survival merit badges
- Ranger: Emergency Preparedness core requirement



Leadership Planning

As a leadership team, you may want to discuss the following items during your planning meetings when choosing safety as your program feature.

1. How do we currently plan for safety in our activities?
2. Do our current safety procedures cover all of our activities?
3. What will our main event be?
4. Where will we do our main event?
5. How is public safety handled in our community?
6. What agencies are concerned with public safety?
7. Are there ways for us to help?
8. How do businesses and organizations handle safety?
9. Which safety-related merit badges could we focus on this month?
10. To meet our needs, what should we change in the sample meeting plans?

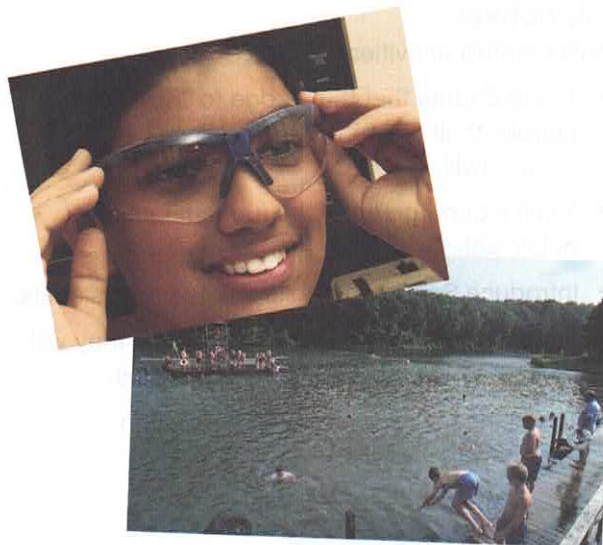
PARENTS CAN HELP WITH THE SAFETY PROGRAM FEATURE BY:

1. Assisting in instruction
2. Providing transportation for the main event
3. Connecting us with safety agencies
4. Assisting in organizing a neighborhood watch
5. Maintaining current Youth Protection certification, which is required of all adults providing transportation for or participating in outings

YOU AND YOUR ACTIONS

You will find many unsafe conditions in your daily life. However, most of them become hazards only as a result of your actions when you take unnecessary risks. What might cause you to act in an unsafe way?

- Taking chances ("We were just fooling around.")
- Being unprepared ("I didn't think we'd need flashlights and batteries.")
- Fatigue ("We were going to rest when we got there.")
- Overconfidence ("I was sure I could swim a mile.")
- Haste ("I didn't have time to find my goggles before using that electric sander.")
- Fear ("I was so scared, I couldn't move.")
- Excitement ("I was in a rush, so I forgot to buckle up.")
- Ignoring the rules or signs ("I didn't think the buddy system was all that important for swimming.")
- Not using common sense ("I didn't realize I had to know how to swim to use a canoe.")
- The lure of the forbidden ("I didn't know the gun was loaded.")
- Not taking responsibility ("No one ever told me that could happen.")





Accident Facts and Statistics

Do you feel safer riding in a car or flying in a plane? If you picked riding in a car, think again. Recent statistics show that passengers were 40 times more likely to die in a car crash than in a plane crash. This fact shows the importance of safety every time you ride in a car. Facts and statistics reveal potential risks and the importance of certain safety practices.

On average, there are 12 accidental deaths and about 1,000 disabling injuries every hour of every day. (A disabling injury is one that results in lost time in the victim's place of employment or that leaves the victim too injured to return to work.) About half of these deaths occur in motor vehicle accidents. More than a third of the injuries occur in the home.

Safety experts classify accidents in four broad categories: motor vehicle, work, home, and public. The public category includes accidents involving sports and recreation, swimming, and hunting. This category also includes air, water, and land transportation (such as planes, boats, and trains). It excludes motor vehicles and accidents in public buildings.



HAAP Media Ltd., courtesy



Attention, All Drivers

Drivers today face all kinds of distractions, from listening to music, sipping a soda, and mobile phones, to GPS devices and conversations with fellow passengers. All of these interfere and compete with a driver's attention and ability to respond to changing situations that could lead to an accident. Be safe by staying focused and concentrating on driving whenever you are behind the wheel. Be respectful of the driver when you are the passenger.

Mobile phones are a particularly widespread problem. Many states have now outlawed the use of a mobile phone and texting while driving. Even if your state or local area has no such law, make it a habit now to refrain from using your phone while driving, whether for talking or texting. It's one habit you will never regret.



Here are statistics given by the National Safety Council for 2013. Notice the differences in the numbers of deaths among the various causes.

DEATHS IN 2013 DUE TO EXTERNAL CAUSES*

Cause	No. of Deaths
Motor vehicles	35,500
Poisoning	38,800
Falls	30,300
Choking	4,800
Drowning	3,700
Fires, flames, smoke	2,400
Mechanical suffocation	1,800



*Source: National Safety Council. This table is simplified for clarity. Complete information is available at www.nsc.org.

Firearms Safety Awareness

If your family is among the 47 percent of households in the United States that keeps firearms in the home, help make sure all guns are kept secured, inaccessible to those who should not use them—especially young children and your friends who visit. Any ammunition also should be securely and separately stored. If you encounter a firearm, do not touch it. Report it to a responsible adult or law enforcement agent.

Prevent Poisoning

Many accidental deaths are due to poisoning. According to Safe Kids Worldwide, 9 out of 10 poisonings happen at home. Especially if you have younger siblings, Safe Kids Worldwide offers these precautions.

- Store all household products out of children's sight (eye level) and reach (low cabinets and shelves).
- Keep poisonous items in locked cabinets. This includes pods for the laundry and dishwasher that are often kept within easy reach for quick access.
- Store all medications—including vitamins and other supplements—out of children's reach and sight.



- Post the toll-free number for the Poison Control Center near phones and on your refrigerator. Put the number in your home and mobile phones. That number is 800-222-1222.
- If your house was built before 1978, there is a possibility lead paint was used. Ask your parent. Never attempt to remove lead-based paint; this is a job only a professional can do.

POISON CONTROL CENTER

Toll-Free 800-222-1222



SAFETY GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Safety Skits

Equipment: None, although some props may improve interaction

How to play: Split the group into teams and have each team develop a skit that outlines a safety principle. The skits can depict the right way or the wrong way to act in a given situation as long as the safety principle is clearly demonstrated. Teams should be encouraged to use as much creativity as possible.

Safety Trivia Game

Equipment: A Jeopardy-style game board with category names and cards of varying values; a flyswatter for each team; a projector and screen (optional). On the back of each card should be a safety-related question drawn from the previous week's meeting or from one of the safety-related merit badges you are working on.

How to play: Split the group into teams and give each team captain a flyswatter. The captains sit around a table within arm's length of each other. On your signal, the captains "swat in" by hitting a designated spot on the table with their flyswatters. The team whose flyswatter is on the bottom controls the board and chooses a category and point value. If the team can answer the chosen question correctly, it earns the points shown on the card and chooses another question. If not, the other teams swat in and try to answer. Play continues until time is called or all questions have been answered.

Variation: To increase fun and learning potential, throw in a few bonus questions that lead to the host showing a picture or video and giving all teams a chance to answer by writing responses on paper.

Safety Charades

Equipment: None, although some props may improve interaction

How to play: Split the group into teams and have each team develop a scenario that outlines a safety principle. Have the other teams try to figure out what principle is being demonstrated or violated in the scenario.

Fire! Drill

Equipment: Paper and pencil to sketch out an escape plan

How to play: As a group, create a fire drill plan for your meeting place. Sketch a floor plan; include and label all the nearby rooms, doors, and windows, as well as what is under the outside windows. Include notes on things like flower boxes attached to windows, roof overhangs, and bushes. Decide on the primary exits (doors, hallways) that would normally be used. Draw a solid line from the meeting room to the nearest and most direct outside door. Next, draw a dotted line for the secondary exit—the nearest opening that goes directly to the outside. This might be a window. If it's a window high above the ground, you will need to plan to use an escape ladder or find a way to climb out safely onto a roof and then down to the ground, or wait for firefighters to rescue you. Next, decide on a meeting place outside, away from the structure and near the road but not in it. It can be a landmark, like a tree. Choose a calling place from which the fire department can safely be called, such as a neighbor's phone. Even though many people now carry a mobile phone wherever they go, in an emergency you will not have time to grab it.

It's now time to practice your escape plan! Pretend your group is having a meeting. Have someone set off the "alarm" (use your mobile phone if you have one) or yell, "Fire!" These are the signals for everyone to get moving. Get down on your hands and knees and crawl as if there were smoke or fire. Have drills using both the primary and secondary exits. After the drills, evaluate the plan. Find out whether anyone had problems using the secondary exits, if everyone arrived at the meeting spot, and if the calling place was available. If any part of the plan did not work well, test and implement other methods until everything goes smoothly.

Variation: Surprise participants by having an unannounced fire drill at a future meeting.



E.D.G.E. Ideas

Explain how it is done—Tell them.

Demonstrate the steps—Show them.

Guide learners as they practice—Watch them do it.

Enable them to succeed on their own—Have them practice/teach it.

EXPLAIN

- Explain what safety is.
- Introduce the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.
- Explain the buddy system.
- Discuss internet safety and BSA Youth Protection online.
- Invite someone from your chartered organization to explain BSA safety policies and procedures.

GUIDE

- Have Scouts discuss areas of the home where accidents can occur.
- Have Scouts research safety topics online.
- Quiz Scouts on public safety topics.
- Guide a discussion on ways to protect yourself from crime.
- Help Scouts research careers in safety.

DEMONSTRATE

- Set up scenarios of unsafe practices around the home.
- Have a show-and-tell with a police car, fire truck, or ambulance.
- Arrange a behind-the-scenes tour of a public safety agency.
- Show internet videos on topics like escaping from a burning building.
- Invite a police or fire Explorer to demonstrate some of the skills he or she has learned.

ENABLE

- Have Scouts set up safety displays at a mall or shopping center.
- Have Scouts act out safety situations.
- Encourage Scouts to conduct safety surveys of their homes or your meeting place.
- Find roles that Scouts can play in enhancing public safety, such as painting house numbers on curbs or making sure fire hydrants are visible.

MAIN EVENT SUMMARIES

● ESSENTIAL	■ CHALLENGING	◆ ADVANCED
Day Activity	Day or Overnight Activity	Overnight Activity
Safety fair—Create a safety display at a mall or shopping center. Show a floor plan of the building, point out exits, and discuss evacuation procedures. Display safety and crime prevention information.	Behind-the-scenes safety weekend—Tour one or more public safety agencies, attend an emergency response festival, or participate in a citizen-training program offered by a public safety agency. Add a night or two of camping to round out the weekend.	Go big safety weekend—Plan a trip to a major sporting event or community festival. Arrange for a behind-the-scenes look at how safety is handled for a large event. If possible, find ways that Scouts can serve as part of the safety team.



SAFETY

Meeting Plan: Safety in the Unit and the Home



Week 1 Date _____

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	RUN BY	TIME*
Preopening 15 minutes before meeting	Set up scenarios demonstrating common unsafe practices around the home (such as electric cords strung across a hallway, a rake lying on the ground with its tines up, and a ladder propped precariously against a wall). As Scouts arrive, have them evaluate and correct the problems they see.		6:45 p.m.
Opening Ceremony 10 minutes	Flag presentation Oath and Law Uniform inspection		7 p.m.
Group Instruction 15 minutes	Have different youth instructors give five-minute overviews on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of safety • How safety is currently handled in your unit • Where Scouts can get more information on unit safety (especially the <i>Guide to Safe Scouting</i>) 		7:10 p.m.
Skills Instruction 30 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the buddy system. • Discuss common areas of the home where accidents can occur and their prevention. 		7:25 p.m.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the skills above. • Identify potential hazards for an overnight outing. • Discuss transportation safety for outings. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the skills above. • Identify potential hazards for trips that leave the country and how those hazards can be reduced. 		
Breakout Groups 10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Younger Scouts work on basic Scout skills related to safety. • Older Scouts work on a safety-related merit badge. • Review the last main event and discuss what would have made it better. 		7:55 p.m.
Game 20 minutes	Play Safety Skits (described earlier).		8:05 p.m.
Closing 5 minutes	Announcements Leader's minute Closing		8:25 p.m.
Total 90 minutes of meeting			
After the Meeting 15 minutes	Leadership team reviews plans for the next meeting and for the main event.		

*All times are suggested.






SAFETY

Meeting Plan: Areas for Public Safety



Week 2 Date _____

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	RUN BY	TIME*
Preopening 15 minutes before meeting	Arrange for a fire truck or patrol car to come to the meeting place. Ask a firefighter or police officer to explain safety procedures for home or car.		6:45 p.m.
Opening Ceremony 10 minutes	Flag presentation Oath and Law		7 p.m.
Group Instruction 20 minutes	Have a guest expert discuss the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The importance of public safety in the community and nation• How public safety is handled through the coordination of individuals and agencies		7:10 p.m.
Skills Instruction 15 minutes	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the role of citizens, including youth, in crime prevention.• Discuss internet safety and youth protection online, including email and social media.		7:30 p.m.
	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the above skills, and identify potential risks involved in outings to public events.• Discuss how to protect yourself from crime at home, at school, in your community, and while traveling.		
	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the above skills.• Study the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's advisory system and the appropriate actions to take for each threat level.		
Breakout Groups 15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue advancement work from last week.• Begin meal planning and create a duty roster for the main event.		7:45 p.m.
Game 25 minutes	Play Safety Trivia Game (described earlier).		8 p.m.
Closing 5 minutes	Announcements Leader's minute Closing		8:25 p.m.
Total 90 minutes of meeting			
After the Meeting 15 minutes	Leadership team reviews plans for the next meeting and for the main event.		

*All times are suggested.



SAFETY

Meeting Plan: Safety Planning



Week 3 Date _____

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	RUN BY	TIME*
Preopening 15 minutes before meeting	As Scouts arrive, have them work together to create lists of essential, important, and optional safety items that should be in every home. Write the lists on a dry erase board.		6:45 p.m.
Opening Ceremony 10 minutes	Flag presentation Oath and Law		7 p.m.
Group Instruction 15 minutes	Give instruction on the importance of safety planning, including ways a Scout can be prepared in the home.		7:10 p.m.
Skills Instruction 20 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the importance of illness prevention and health.• Discuss the five most common work-related injuries and their prevention.		7:25 p.m.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the above skills.• Teach the unit's event/trip safety parameters and planning process.• Talk with a police officer or city leader about how to develop a neighborhood watch program for your neighborhood.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the above skills.• Discuss the logistics involved in providing safety for hotels, large public gatherings, and sporting events.		
Breakout Groups 15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue advancement work from last week.• Finalize meal planning for the main event.		7:55 p.m.
Game 25 minutes	Play Safety Charades (described earlier).		8 p.m.
Closing 5 minutes	Announcements Leader's minute Closing		8:25 p.m.
Total 90 minutes of meeting			
After the Meeting 15 minutes	Leadership team reviews plans for the next meeting and for the main event.		

*All times are suggested.



SAFETY

Meeting Plan: Public Safety Agencies



Week 4 Date _____

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	RUN BY	TIME*
Preopening 15 minutes before meeting	Do one of these activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As Scouts arrive, show one of the instructional videos from www.ready.gov or another safety website. Have Scouts make a safety bulletin board by cutting out newspaper articles or printing out online articles dealing with public safety. 		6:45 p.m.
Opening Ceremony 10 minutes	Flag presentation Oath and Law		7 p.m.
Group Instruction 20 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a guest speaker discuss public safety from the perspective of his or her agency. The focus could be on fire, police, water systems, transportation, or another area. If possible, hold the meeting at that agency or arrange for a tour at a later date. 		7:10 p.m.
Skills Instruction 20 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss at least three career opportunities in the field of safety. Go over the education, training, and experience required for these professions. Discuss the role of police agencies in preventing crime (as opposed to investigating crime). 		7:30 p.m.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the above skills. Pick a local company or agency that is dedicated to public safety. Do an in-depth analysis of how it contributes to public safety and what challenges it faces. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the above skills. Identify high-risk areas in national or local security (such as ports, airports, and high-rise buildings). Discuss the potential threats as well as the protocols in place to protect those facilities. 		
Breakout Groups 10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize plans for the main event. Give each group an assignment for the combined activity and have them prepare for their role. 		7:50 p.m.
Activity 25 minutes	Hold a fire or tornado drill in your meeting place. If other groups are also meeting in the facility, try to coordinate the drill with them.		8 p.m.
Closing 5 minutes	Announcements Leader's minute Closing		8:25 p.m.
Total 90 minutes of meeting			
After the Meeting 15 minutes	Leadership team reviews plans for the next meeting and for the main event.		

*All times are suggested.



SAFETY

Main Event: Safety Fair



Date _____

Logistics

Location: _____

Departure time: _____

Return time: _____

Duration of activity: 4 to 6 hours

Budget: Completed _____ Approved _____

Camping: Duty roster _____ Menu _____

Transportation: Group _____ Self _____

Essential Essential (Tier I)

Create a safety display at a mall or shopping center. Show a floor plan of the building, point out exits, and discuss evacuation procedures. Display safety and crime prevention information.

Equipment List

- Unit flag and American flag
- Display boards
- Literature to hand out
- Floor plan for building
- Lunch (decide on individual or group)
- Water
- Scout Basic Essentials (Review the list and take what you need.)

Activity

- Contact a local mall or shopping center and get permission to set up a display.
- Collect literature from police and fire departments to distribute.
- Obtain a floor plan of the building and find out about evacuation procedures.
- Plan demonstrations or activities that will attract attention.
- Create a schedule for staffing the display throughout the designated time period.
- Put up posters at entrances to promote the display.

Safety

- Follow the rules of the mall or shopping center. Cellphones are a good idea as appropriate, and have a first-aid kit. Use the buddy system.
- Two-deep adult leadership is required for all activities.

Notes



SAFETY

Main Event: Behind-the-Scenes Safety Weekend



Date _____

Logistics

Location: _____

Departure time: _____

Return time: _____

Duration of activity: Day or overnight activity

Budget: Completed _____ Approved _____

Camping: Duty roster _____ Menu _____

Transportation: Group _____ Self _____



Challenging Essential (Tier II)

Tour one or more public safety agencies, attend an emergency response festival, or participate in a citizen-training program offered by a public safety agency. Add a night or two of camping to round out the weekend.

Equipment List

- Pens and notebooks
- Cameras
- Camping gear as needed
- Meal plan
- Water
- Scout Basic Essentials (Review the list and take what you need.)

Activity

- Contact one or more public safety agencies to arrange tours or participation in citizen-training events. (Note that many police and fire departments have Exploring posts, which are part of the Boy Scouts of America and serve teens interested in public safety careers.)
- Research other opportunities to go behind the scenes in public safety.
- Set up a schedule that maximizes your time.
- Encourage Scouts to do research ahead of time and prepare questions to ask during tours or programs.
- If possible, add a camping component to the weekend and do activities like hiking or fishing.

Safety

- Follow the direction of the agency to avoid interfering with operations. Cellphones are a good idea as appropriate, and have a first-aid kit. Use the buddy system.
- Two-deep adult leadership is required for all activities.

Notes



SAFETY

Main Event: Go Big Safety Weekend



Date _____

Logistics

Location: _____

Departure time: _____

Return time: _____

Duration of activity: Weekend

Budget: Completed _____ Approved _____

Camping: Duty roster _____ Menu _____

Transportation: Group _____ Self _____



Advanced Essential (Tier III)

Plan a trip to a major sporting event or community festival. Arrange for a behind-the-scenes look at how safety is handled for a large event. If possible, find ways that Scouts can serve as part of the safety team.

Equipment List

- Camping gear
- Meal plan
- Water
- Scout Basic Essentials (Review the list and take what you need.)

Activity

- Research sporting events and festivals that will take place in the coming weeks.
- Contact the event organizers to find out who is responsible for safety.
- Arrange behind-the-scenes tours before or during the event. Find out if Scouts can participate in the safety effort.
- Find a campsite near where the event will occur.
- Set up a schedule that includes time for fun activities and for working on safety-related merit badges.

Safety

- Have a first-aid kit. Cellphones are a good idea as appropriate, and use the buddy system.
- Two-deep adult leadership is required for all activities.

Notes



RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

Books

Crime Prevention, Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety, First Aid, Public Health, Safety, Search and Rescue, Signs, Signals, and Codes, Traffic Safety, and Wilderness Survival merit badge pamphlets

Scouts BSA Handbook for Boys

Scouts BSA Handbook for Girls

Websites

American Red Cross

Website: www.redcross.org

Department of Homeland Security

Website: www.ready.gov

National Crime Prevention Council

Website: www.ncpc.org

National Safety Council

Website: www.nsc.org

U.S. Fire Administration

Website: www.usfa.fema.gov

Related Program Features

First Aid, Emergency Preparedness,
Wilderness Survival

Photo and Illustration Credits

Pages 13-1 (Shutterstock.com: *helmet*, ©Ljupco Smokovski, *pedestrian sign*, ©tawat thanumtieng; *buddy tags*, *carbon monoxide detector*, *fire extinguisher*, and *Road ID*, BSA file; *life jacket*, BSA file/Dan Bryant), 13-2 (*both*, BSA file), 13-3 (*car*, HAAP Media Ltd., courtesy; *no mobile phones sign*, Shutterstock.com/©stockernumber2), and 13-4 (Shutterstock.com: *seat belt*, ©Ahmet Dogan Ceylan; *medicine bottle*, ©iQoncept)

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to Matthew McGroarty, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2009–2010 national Venturing president, for his assistance with developing the Safety program feature.