

Notice

Date: February 16, 2007

To: General Authorities and the following leaders in the United States and Canada: Area Seventies; Stake, Mission, and District Presidents; Bishops and Branch Presidents

From: Priesthood Department (1-801-240-2134)

Subject: Safety Guidelines for Activities

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

The purpose of this notice is to remind stake presidencies, bishoprics, activities committee chairmen, and Young Men, Young Women, and Primary leaders of the ongoing need to use good judgment and follow safe practices during activities.

Stake presidencies and bishoprics should discuss the following safety guidelines with Primary, Young Men, Young Women, and young single adult leaders and ensure that the leaders understand them.

1. Plan activities that are safe and have minimal risk of injury and illness. Observe safety precautions at all times during the activities. Activities should be appropriate for the participants' ages and maturity.
2. Obtain the approval of appropriate priesthood leaders when traveling in Church-sponsored groups, including Scout groups. Plan activities that do not require long-distance travel. When feasible, use commercial transportation that is licensed and is protected by liability insurance.
3. Ensure that each private passenger vehicle used for Church group travel is in safe operating condition and that each person in the vehicle uses a seat belt. Each driver should be a licensed, responsible adult.
4. Prepare for emergencies that may occur. Know in advance how to contact law enforcement and emergency services.
5. Before the activity begins, instruct participants in safety practices unique to the activity.
6. Obtain appropriate releases and permits for all travel and overnight activities, including Activity Plan forms (33809) and Parental or Guardian Permission and Medical Release forms (33810). In the United States, Boy Scouts of America Local or National Tour Permit Application forms are required for all Scouting trips and camps. In Canada, the Scouts Canada Camping and Outdoor Activity Application form is required for all Scouting trips and camps.

7. Ensure that at least two adult supervisors are present at an activity. For overnight outings involving young women, two or more Melchizedek Priesthood brethren should be present in addition to female adult leaders.
8. Use the buddy system for hiking, camping, and aquatics activities.
9. Parents, including those who are leaders, are not to take their younger children on Church-sponsored youth activities.
10. Notify the bishop and stake president promptly if an accident, illness, or injury occurs on Church property or during a Church-sponsored activity. Bishops and stake presidents should notify the Risk Management Division at Church headquarters if the accident involves serious injury (telephone 1-801-240-4049).

For more information, see the safety guidelines that are included in the *Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2: Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders* (1998), pages 271–80; the *Guide to Safe Scouting* (available at www.scouting.org); and the *Young Women Camp Manual*. Safety training is also available to Scouting leaders through local Scouting-sponsored meetings.