

Notice

Date: March 27, 2006

To: General Authorities and the following leaders in the United States: 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

In a letter dated February 23, 2006, the First Presidency counseled parents, leaders, and teachers to care for and protect the children and youth of the Church. The following safety guidelines are provided as a reminder to priesthood and auxiliary leaders when planning activities for children and youth:

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 appropriate releases and permits for all overnight activities and travel out of the area, including Activity Plan forms (33809) and Parental or Guardian Permission and Medical Release forms (33810). Boy Scouts of America Local or National Tour Permit Applications are required for all Scouting trips and camps.
3. Instruct participants in safety practices unique to the activity before the activity begins.
4. Plan, organize, and prepare for any emergencies that may occur, including how to contact law enforcement and emergency services.
5. Always use the buddy system when hiking, camping, and participating in any aquatics activities.
6. Ensure that at least two adult supervisors are present at an activity. For overnight outings with young women, also provide two or more Melchizedek Priesthood brethren.
7. When feasible, use commercial transportation that is licensed and protected by liability insurance.
8. When Church groups travel in private passenger vehicles, each vehicle should be in safe operating condition, and each person in the vehicle should use a seat belt. Each driver should be a licensed, responsible adult.
9. Younger children, including those whose parents are the leaders, are discouraged from accompanying their parents on youth activities.

For more information, see the safety guidelines that are included in the *Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2*, 271–80; the *Guide to Safe Scouting* (available at www.scouting.org through the Site Map); and the *Young Women Camp Manual*. Safety training is also available to Scouting leaders through the local Boy Scouts of America roundtables and other BSA-sponsored meetings.

This notice is being distributed in English and Spanish in the United States. If leaders need it in other languages, they may contact the Area Presidency who can forward requests to Project Coordination at Church headquarters (ext. 22933).

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