



Program Appropriate Supervision - Overview & Policy

Overview:

The Boy Scouts of America has several programs which allow participation for individuals past 18 years of age and up to 21 years of age, which are defined as an adult for Youth Protection purposes but may be serving in program roles in either a leadership position or as a program participant shared with traditional youth. Individuals under the age of 21 who can participate in the program may be referenced as a “program participant (18-21)” or “program eligible (up to 21)”, where individuals over the age of 21 may be referenced as “not-program eligible.” Programs include, but are not limited to, the Order of the Arrow, National Youth Leadership Training, Venturing Officers Association, Sea Scouting, Exploring and camp staff.

Youth Protection policies for Patriots’ Path Council programs are consistent with those of any Scouting event with youth members present as specified in the Guide to Safe Scouting. For Youth Protection purposes, youth members are defined as those under 18 years of age, while anyone 18 years or older is treated as an adult.

“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 21 years of age or over in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth. Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age- and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided.” – Guide to Safe Scouting (GTSS)

“One-on-one contact between adult leaders and youth members is prohibited both inside and outside of Scouting. In situations requiring a personal conference, the meeting is to be conducted with the knowledge and in view of other adults and/or youth. Private online communications (texting, phone calls, chat, IM, etc.) must include another registered leader or parent. Communication by way of social media (Facebook, Snapchat, etc.) must include another registered leader or parent.” – Guide to Safe Scouting (GTSS)

Policy:

In addition to what is required by the BSA, it is the policy of the Patriots’ Path Council that all participants under the age of 21 have appropriate program specific supervision in all forms of communications. As such, any individual under the age of 21 must include two over-21 registered adults within the program, including advisors who represent all genders involved.