

# Activity Planning and Risk Assessment



As warmer weather is coming, many units will begin planning fun and exciting outdoor activities. For those activities that support the values of the Boy Scouts of America, there are several tools available for participants that will help them plan for a fun and safe tour, activity, or event. Good planning and preparedness prior to executing the activity is key to success.

As you use these tools, reflect on the words of Robert Baden-Powell: Be Prepared ... the meaning of the motto is that a Scout must prepare themselves by previous thinking and practicing how to act in an accident or emergency so that they are never taken by surprise. In order to do this, the BSA has provided three tools for leaders to ensure their outings are not only fun but also safe.

## **Program Hazard Analysis**

This tool is primarily used for program areas within camp properties, camps or high-adventure bases. It covers specific risks to the program areas. This tool has a defined way of assessing probability and severity of risks. This tool assesses risks initially, as if there are no protective measures in place, then looks at the risks again with protective measures.

Reference: [www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/680-009.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/680-009.pdf)

## **Safety PAUSE**

The Safety PAUSE process stresses the importance of a last-minute safety check in the field. By encouraging each youth or adult leader to pause and reflect on the tasks at hand just before beginning, you have an opportunity to take necessary precautions to prevent any present or potential hazards.

Reference: [www.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-046.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-046.pdf)

## **The SAFE Checklist**

Scouts and their parents expect all Boy Scouts of America activities to be conducted safely. To ensure the safety of participants, the Boy Scouts of America expects leaders to use the four points of SAFE when delivering the Scouting program.

Reference: [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safe/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safe/)