

Tent and Camping Policy



Outdoor Service Guides

Scouting for Everybody!

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Reviews and Approvals

This policy was drafted by the OSG Safety Committee (led by Chuck Ehrismann) with help from Geoffrey McGrath. It was reviewed and revised by Safety Committee members and members of the Board of Directors. Personnel writing and reviewing this policy included those with law enforcement and military experience, a prosecuting attorney, educators, a physician, a nurse, a former social worker, and a counselor/psychologist.

The policy was submitted for formal legal review by Susan Pesznecker on 7 August 2017. It was reviewed by attorney David Lawson (Davis Wright Tremaine LLP; Seattle, WA) on 9 August 2017 and was given his full approval.

The policy was reviewed and approved as-is by the OSG Board of Directors on 11 August 2017.

Update: October 26, 2017



1. Purpose

Generally speaking, the purpose of these guidelines and associated policy are to state what is explicitly permitted and/or explicitly forbidden, leaving everything else up to the customs, practice and preference of the scout, their patrol, the local scout leader(s), and the nearby scouting community.

- 1.1. To protect children from mistreatment and/or abuse by adults;
- 1.2. To avoid areas of legal jeopardy;
- 1.3. To redress social justice issues;
- 1.4. To protect vulnerable individuals from discrimination;
- 1.5. For the good order of traditional scouting.

2. Non Discrimination

Camping or tenting that segregates or relegates individuals based on gender identity or expression, religious choice, sexual orientation, race, ability, income level, or nationality is expressly forbidden in all units of Outdoor Service Guides.

3. Separation by Section is Required

- 3.1. Rovers shall tent with Rovers in the Rover camp, and may share a tent with any other adult, so long as all adults sharing the tent agree to the arrangement.
- 3.2. Pathfinders shall tent with Pathfinders in the Pathfinder camp, within “hailing distance” of select Rovers associated with the Pathfinders.
- 3.3. Timberwolves shall tent with Timberwolves:
 - 3.3.a. in the Timberwolf camp, or
 - 3.3.b. with their own parents/guardians in family camp.
- 3.4. Otter camping is family camping. Each Otter must have a parent or legal guardian present in camp throughout the camping experience.
 - 3.4.a. Otters shall tent with their own parents/guardians in family camp, or,
 - 3.4.b. Two or more Otters may tent together with no adults in the tent. The parents or guardians of both Otters must be on site and give permission for this arrangement but must not share a tent with youth.
- 3.5. Where youth scouts (non-siblings) are tenting together, they may only tent with scouts of the same gender identity or gender expression.
 - 3.5.a. The definition of one’s gender is up to that individual. Youth who identify as girls may tent with others who identify as girls or by themselves, as with youth who identify as boys. Those who identify as non-binary or agender may tent with others who identify as non-binary or agender, with the gender they most identify with, or by themselves.
- 3.6. No adult may tent with a youth unless they are that child’s parent or legal guardian:
 - 3.6.a. There is no waiver available for this policy, except;
 - 3.6.b. Specific accommodations for special needs may be requested by parents/guardians according to the camper’s documented medical or behavioral plan. In such cases, this must be discussed with and agreed on by the leaders of that activity, and a signed agreement may be requested by the leaders.
- 3.7. Family Camp refers to a set-up where scouts camp as families rather than being separated into sections (Otter, Timberwolf, Pathfinder).
- 3.8. Tenting of adult leaders during Family Camp involving OSG youth:
 - 3.8.a. Otter camping is always Family Camping (see 3.4) and is set up as Family Camp. Thus Otter leaders will camp with their families.
 - 3.8.b. Timberwolf leaders shall camp adjacent to and outside of Timberwolf camp, within earshot of the Timberwolf campers.
 - 3.8.c. Pathfinder leaders shall camp outside of Pathfinder camp, within earshot of the



Pathfinder campers.

3.8.d. Rovers who are not serving as youth leaders at a Family Camp event shall camp in Rover Camp or, if no Rover Camp is available, in family camp.

4. Other.

- 4.1. Tenting in scouting is traditionally by pairs (the “buddy system,” which is part of our youth protection standard), and should be the prevailing guideline in planning all camps, overnights, and camp events.
- 4.2. Empowerment. Specific tenting arrangements are to be determined by the campers with adherence to non-discrimination guideline.
- 4.3. Guidance. Youth leaders and/or adult leaders support good decision making.
- 4.4. Assignment. Tent assignments may be made by leadership (overriding 4.1 above. This should be done thoughtfully, and recognizing this tends to work counter to the goals of building capability and good judgment in youth.)
- 4.5. Privacy. It is always permitted to make special accommodations to meet individual privacy needs (for instance, single-tenting).
- 4.6. Special Needs. Special accommodations to meet special needs requested by parents/guardians are permitted (for instance, medical necessity, etc.).
- 4.7. Group Activity. Because camping is a group activity, boyfriend/girlfriend/relationship paired tenting is not permitted for the youth. There is no such restriction placed on the Rovers, nor on adults in the Family Camp.
- 4.8. Group tenting. (more than two peers in a tent) is appropriate for younger scouts but is less traditional for Pathfinder scouts. For Rover tenting rules, see 3.1.
- 4.9. Bunk House and Other Accommodations. Will be established following the same guidelines and intentions as discussed for tent camping, above.

