

# Prohibited Activities

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss07/>

The Scouting program incorporates common activities such as swimming, climbing, cycling, archery, & snowboarding that, depending on the details, may include both real and perceived risks to participants. Those risks are managed by BSA policies, procedures, and guidelines that set limits and incorporate specific features such as safety equipment or qualified supervision. Guidance is provided by, but not limited to, the [Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities](#), [Safe Swim Defense](#), [Safety Afloat](#), [Climb on Safely](#), [Belay On](#), & the BSA [shooting sports](#) program. Activity components outside of BSA program guidelines are prohibited as follows:

1. Nonadherence to the [Scouter Code of Conduct](#)
2. Any activity that is not aligned with the current [Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities](#)
7. Shooting or throwing sports outside of BSA program literature and guidance. Examples of prohibited activities (with exceptions in italics) include:
  - a. Anvil shooting, flintlocks, exploding targets, and devices regulated by the National Firearms Act
  - b. Blow guns, boomerangs, and ballistae
  - c. Homemade firearms and air cannons, potato cannons, and tennis ball cannons
  - d. Throwing of shovels, torpedoes, spikes, stars, shotput, logs, hammers, & cabers
  - e. Inappropriate ammunition such as pumpkins, hard slingshot ammo, and tracers
  - f. Cannons
  - g. Crossbows (*except at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve*)
  - h. Reloading ammunition, and using reloaded ammunition (*except at Philmont Scout Ranch*)
  - i. Spears, including atlatls, pole spears, and spear guns (*except at Philmont Scout Ranch*)
8. Open or concealed carry or use of firearms at any Scouting activity, *with the following exceptions*:
  - a. *Law enforcement officers who are required to carry firearms within their jurisdiction*
  - b. *Use as part of an official [Range and Target activity](#)*

Some activities considered by youth and leaders are not compatible with the Scouting program. Some have unacceptable risks that have been confirmed by serious or even fatal consequences. Others are not compatible with the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The activities listed below are strictly prohibited as part of any Scouting program.

The list is not comprehensive, but it serves as a definitive list of prohibited activities and it offers a broad sense of what is not allowed as a Scouting activity. Scouting leaders should refer to this list when deciding on activities, and they should reflect vigorously on how any activity outside our published program would resonate with the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the following activities (with exceptions in italics):

21. Activities where participants shoot or throw objects at each other, such as rock-throwing, paintball, laser or archery tag, sock fights, or dodgeball
22. Hunting