



# COUNCIL PROGRAM ACTIVITY COMMITTEES

The following narratives describe the duties and responsibilities of the Program Activity Committees for Climbing/COPE, Aquatics, Shooting Sports and Cub Camping.

## COUNCIL CLIMBING/COPE COMMITTEE

If the council has or is planning to build or operate a COPE course with either low or high elements or operate a climbing program that uses either natural rock or artificial surfaces, a Climbing/COPE committee oversees the construction, maintenance, operation, training, and staffing for the programs. A National Camping School–trained COPE director or a National Camping School–trained climbing director must chair the council Climbing/COPE committee. In councils with large COPE and climbing programs, they may select to have a subcommittee to oversee the COPE program and a different subcommittee to oversee the climbing program. The two subcommittees will operate under the supervision of the council Climbing/COPE chair.

The Climbing/COPE committee has overall responsibility for the local council's Climbing/COPE activities in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing, and Exploring. Within the local council organization, the Climbing/COPE committee typically reports to the vice president of outdoor program but may be assigned to a different council officer depending on the local council organization chart. The Climbing/COPE committee may be a separate committee or a subcommittee within another program committee (e.g. Camping committee).

Members of the Climbing/COPE committee are typically Scouters who have been trained as COPE and/or Climbing Level I or Level II Instructors, or Directors. People who have received training from professional challenge course and/or climbing organizations may also be good additions to the committee. Others with expertise in budgeting, management, maintenance, or construction and are interested in becoming involved in the Scouting program may have useful skills that make them valuable members.

The committee should include specialists for the type of climbing & COPE activities prevalent in the local council (e.g. low challenge course, high challenge course, canopy tours, zip lines, giant swings, climbing towers, and natural rock climbing). Some committee members should either be members of or liaisons to other council committees that touch the Climbing/COPE committee's areas of responsibility, including training, advancement, health and safety, camping, properties, risk management, etc.

Summer camp Climbing/COPE directors should be ex-officio members of the committee during the term of their employment and afterward encouraged to become full-time, year-round volunteer members.

The Climbing/COPE committee's main responsibilities include the following year-round activities tailored to the local council's Climbing/COPE activities and opportunities:

**Training**—Work with the council training committee to provide Climbing/COPE training for adults and youth. Encourage and support youth participation as Instructors in Training.

-  Climb On Safely, Canyoneering Safely, and Cave Safely-Cave Softly orientation
-  Level I instructor training
-  Level II instructor training
-  Development of Climbing/COPE activities for district & council events
-  Climbing/COPE training for camp staff:
  -  Climbing/COPE skills
  -  Effective teaching of Climbing/COPE skills
  -  Climbing/COPE safety, including emergency procedures
  -  Basic climbing techniques
  -  Basic facilitation

**Program**—Provide and promote a broad array of basic and high-adventure challenge course and climbing activities to support all parts of the Scouting program.

-  Promote COPE and climbing for all Scouts and especially for Cub Scouts by providing opportunities to participate in council & district programs
-  Adventure opportunities incorporating COPE and/or climbing into activities and trips
-  Promotion of Climbing/COPE high adventure—Council high adventure programs, Philmont Scout Ranch, Summit Bechtel Reserve
-  Enhanced Climbing/COPE activities during day camp and resident camp sessions for both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts
-  Special Climbing/COPE camp sessions for Boy Scouts and Venturers with emphasis on activities not available during regular summer camp sessions
-  Winter programs with ice climbing or cold-weather challenge course activities for older Boy Scouts and Venturers
-  Coordination with other councils to promote programs, staff training, and other resources
-  Coordination with other organizations (e.g., American Mountain Guides Association, Professional Climbing Guides Institute, Professional Climbing Instructor Association, American Canyoneering Association, National Speleological Society, Association for Challenge Course Technology Professional Vendor Members, Local University Challenge Course Programs, local climbing clubs, etc.) for joint programs or use of facilities

**Advancement**—Provide advancement leadership development opportunities for youth.

-  Climbing Merit Badge
-  Ranger Award Elective: COPE
-  Special awards and certificates for participation in COPE and/or climbing programs
-  Leadership development activities for unit leadership corps

**Safety**—Actively assess safe operation of council- and district-led Climbing/COPE activities, including summer camp, and promote climbing, canyoneering, and caving safety at the unit level.

-  Promotion of Climb On Safely, Canyoneering Safely, and Cave Safely Cave Softly at the district and unit levels
-  Review of council and district safety training and procedures for Climbing/COPE activities, including day and resident camps
-  Inspection of summer camp and other council and district Climbing/COPE facilities and equipment

**Attraction, Development, and Retention of Climbing/COPE Leadership**—A primary role of the committee is attracting, developing, and retaining qualified Climbing/COPE leadership for the training, program, advancement, and safety activities above. This includes summer camp and year-round council- and district-led Climbing/COPE activities and should include succession planning for key roles.

-  Develop and maintain enough qualified instructors, distributed throughout the council, to meet all local climbing/COPE training needs in a timely fashion.
-  Assist with sourcing qualified candidates for council Climbing/COPE program and safety leadership needs.
-  Assist with interviewing candidates to ensure necessary Climbing/COPE experience, training certificates, and Climbing/COPE leadership exist.
-  Establish a succession planning process identifying the next Climbing/COPE leaders for key roles.
-  Establish a program to train, develop, and retain younger Climbing/COPE staff members to become Climbing/COPE instructors in the future. This includes staff for summer camp and year-round council and district-led Climbing/COPE activities. The staff training process for summer camp staff ideally would begin in early spring each year to ensure that a well-trained Climbing/COPE staff exists prior to arrival at summer camp.

## COUNCIL AQUATICS COMMITTEE

The aquatics committee has overall responsibility for the local council's aquatics activities in Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Venturing, Sea Scouting, and Exploring. Within the local council organization, the aquatics committee reports to either the vice president of program or to the vice president of health and safety. Members of the aquatics committee should be either experienced Scouters with a background in aquatics or aquatics specialists interested in becoming involved in the Scouting program. The committee should include at least one individual with a current National Camping School Aquatics Instructor training. In addition to swimming and water-rescue specialists, the committee should include specialists for the type of aquatics activities prevalent in the local council, such as snorkeling, scuba, canoe tripping, sailing, whitewater, crew rowing, waterskiing, Sea Scouts, or others. Select committee members should either be members of or liaisons to other council committees that touch the aquatics committee's areas of responsibility, including training, advancement, health and safety, camping, etc. Summer camp aquatics directors should be ex-officio members of the committee during the term of their employment and afterward encouraged to become full-time, year-round volunteer members.

The aquatics committee's main responsibilities include the following year-round activities tailored to the local council's aquatic activities and opportunities:

**Training**—Work with the council training committee to provide aquatics training for adults and youth.

-  Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat
-  Basic swimming and boating skills training for unit leaders
-  Basic water-rescue skills training for unit leaders
-  Development of unit aquatics activities for unit leaders
-  Camp aquatics staff training in:
  -  Aquatics skills
  -  Effective teaching of aquatics skills
  -  Aquatics safety, including lifeguarding
  -  Basic canoeing
  -  Basic crew rowing
  -  Basic whitewater
  -  Non-swimmer instruction

**Advancement**—Provide advancement opportunities for youth.

-  Cub Scout electives and sports award for swimming
-  Webelos Aquanaut
-  Second Class and First-Class requirements
-  Swimming and Lifesaving merit badge clinics (non-summer camp)
-  Canoeing merit badge (non-summer camp)

**Safety**—Actively assess safe operation of council- and district-led aquatics activities, including summer camp, and promote aquatics safety at the unit level.

-  Promotion of Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat at the district and unit levels
-  Pre-camp swim classification testing
-  Review of council and district safety training and procedures for aquatics activities, including day and resident camps
-  Inspection of summer camp and other council and district aquatics activities facilities and equipment

**Program**—Provide and promote a broad array of basic and high-adventure swimming and boating activities to support all parts of the Scouting program.

-  Promote learn-to-swim programs for all Scouts and especially for Cub Scouts by providing opportunities and incentives to learn to swim.
-  Whitewater canoe, kayak, rafting trips
-  Snorkeling BSA
-  Kayaking BSA
-  Boardsailing BSA
-  Promotion of aquatics high adventure—Northern Tier, Sea Base, other
-  Scuba
-  Enhanced aquatics activities during day camp and resident camp sessions for both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts
-  Special aquatics camp sessions for Boy Scouts and Venturers with emphasis on activities not available during regular summer camp sessions
-  Winter swim programs with learn-to-swim and advancement opportunities for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers
-  Coordination with other councils to promote programs and resources
-  Implementation and promotion of the aquatics portions of the national Red Cross and Boy Scout agreements and key interface with the assigned Red Cross aquatics liaison in the designated local chapter of the Red Cross
-  Coordination with other agencies (e.g., YMCA, NAUI, PADI, American Canoe Association, etc.) for joint programs or use of facilities

**Attraction, Development, and Retention of Aquatics Leadership**—A primary role of the committee is attracting, developing, and retaining qualified aquatics leadership for the training, program, advancement, and safety activities above. This includes summer camp and year-round council- and district-led aquatics activities and should include succession planning for key roles.

-  Develop and maintain enough qualified instructors, distributed throughout the council, to timely meet all local aquatics training needs.
-  Assist with sourcing qualified candidates for council aquatics program and safety leadership needs.
-  Assist with interviewing candidates to ensure necessary aquatics experience, training certificates, and aquatics leadership exist.
-  Establish a succession planning process identifying the next aquatics leaders for key roles.
-  Establish a program to train, develop, and retain younger aquatics staff members to become aquatics leaders in the future. This includes staff for summer camp and year-round council- and district-led aquatics activities. The staff training process for summer camp staff ideally would begin in the January to April time-period each year to ensure that a well-trained aquatics staff exists prior to arrival at summer camp.

## COUNCIL SHOOTING SPORTS COMMITTEE

It is strongly recommended that all Boy Scout councils have a shooting sports committee. The purpose of the committee is to manage and provide resources to the council, the camping committee, and the council camps for all activities involving shooting sports whether during summer camps or during year-round shooting opportunities. All shooting sports activities should be coordinated through the shooting sports committee to verify that a safe and responsible program is planned and conducted by properly trained and currently certified personnel.

The shooting sports committee oversees the construction, maintenance, operations, staffing, training, and promotion of the council's shooting sports program. It is recommended to staff the chair position with an NRA-certified training counselor. The chair can train other NRA instructors for all needed disciplines used in shooting sports.

**Chairman/Coordinator Responsibilities** - The committee shall be led by a shooting sports chairman/coordinator with a working understanding of summer camp and off-season programs, and the knowledge, skills, and attitude to organize and run safe ranges and shooting sports programs. The chairman is appointed by the council president or his or her designee. The committee shall report to the council vice president for program, the camping committee chair, the health and safety chair, or the council risk management committee chair as appropriate for the individual council organization.

-  An age of 21 years or older and National Camping School certification as a shooting sports director is recommended.
-  National Rifle Association certified instructor for one or more of the appropriate disciplines are recommended.
-  Current NRA range safety officer rating is recommended.
-  Certified Level 1 archery instructor is recommended.
-  Schedules meetings, preferably monthly, of the shooting sports committee and assigns individual committee member responsibilities. Keeps the council executive or his designee informed of committee actions.
-  Advises the summer camp shooting sports director in ensuring all shooting sports requirements in the national standards are being met.
-  Accompanies the area camp assessment team on the tour of the shooting sports facilities and answers any questions it has relating to compliance with the national standards.
-  Ensures adequate training sessions are conducted annually to certify BB gun and archery instructors for Cub Scout day camp, field day, or other council or district activities.
-  Assists the camp director in identifying and recruiting the shooting sports director for summer camp in the event of illness or emergency. Serves in this capacity as requested or appointed by the camp director.
-  Ensures compliance with all BSA/NRA shooting sports standards for Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venturing, and Sea Scout programs on and off council property.
-  Maintains a current inventory of all council shooting sports equipment and supplies and provides copies to all interested persons.
-  Compiles on a timely basis a list of equipment and supplies needed for summer camp and year-round operation and submits it to the council executive or his/ her designee for procurement.
-  Assists in developing and continuing review of range safety standard operating procedures.
-  Schedules range maintenance to ensure all shooting sports facilities and equipment meet BSA/NRA standards prior to all uses.
-  Identifies adult Scouters to help in year-round shooting sports programs and ensures they hold the appropriate current NRA certification.
-  Maintains a current list of individuals with NRA certifications and National Camping School training.
-  Recommends fee structures for year-round use of shooting sports facilities and equipment.
-  Serves as a resource for shooting sports merit badges, unit shooting sports activities, or other council or district shooting sports events.
-  Makes recommendations to the Scout executive or his/her designee on procurement of guns, archery equipment, and supplies.

## Committee Members

-  Assist the council shooting sports committee chairman in performing the duties of the shooting sports committee.
-  Committee members are nominated by the chairman and/ or other committee members and are approved by the council president or his/her designee.
-  NRA certified instructor in at least one of the NRA disciplines is recommended.
-  NRA range safety officer certification is recommended.
-  Shooting sports committee members may be appointed to the council committee at large.

**Fundraisers.** The committee, working with the council executive, should apply to the available grant programs to fulfill current and future shooting sport needs. Grant programs are available through the National Rifle Association, Winchester, Friends of the NRA local banquets, and local gun and sportsman clubs, to name a few. Keeping track of and having specific tasks for the funds makes it easier to receive and apply over the years.

## Cub Camping

The operations of the council Cub Camping committee shall address the outdoor adventure needs of the council cub scout family. Cub Scout camping has day camps, resident camps, Webelos den overnight campouts, family camps, and pack overnights. The committee is responsible for the oversight and management of these Cub Scout camping programs.

Members of the Cub Camping committee should be familiar with Cub Scout outdoor programs. The committee should include at least one individual with a current National Camping School - Camp Administration or Day Camp Administration training. The committee will meet and discuss the Cub Camping programs of the council and will administer recommendations and provide guidance to the Cub Camping programs.

The Cub Camping committee's main responsibilities include the following year-round activities tailored to the local council's Cub Scout activities and opportunities:

**Day Camps:** Day camp lasts for one day to five days. It's for Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos Scouts. Day camps are held during the day or early evening. Campers do not stay overnight.

**Resident Camps:** At resident camps, Cub Scouts camp overnight. Every year, the resident camp has a different theme and different adventures. Examples of themes are Sea Adventure, Space Adventure, Athletes, Knights, Circus Big Top, American Indian Heritage, Folklore, and the World Around Us.

**Webelos Den Overnight Campouts:** Webelos dens go on overnight campouts. Each Webelos Scout camps with his/her parent or guardian. The campers learn the basics of Boy Scout camping, under the direction of the Webelos den leader. Sometimes, leaders from a Boy Scout troop may join. Webelos dens may also have joint overnight campouts with a Boy Scout troop. Each Webelos Scout has a parent or guardian with him on these joint campouts, too.

**Council-Organized Family Camps:** Family camps are overnight camps for more than one Cub Scout pack. You may hear these events called "parent-pal weekends" or "adventure weekends." Each Cub Scout camps with a parent or guardian.

**Pack Overnights:** Packs on their own can hold overnight campouts for the families in the pack. Cub Scouts' brothers and sisters can go on these pack overnights. In most cases, each Scout will camp with a parent or guardian. Every young camper is responsible to a specific adult.

**Training**—Work with the council training committee and council camping resources to provide necessary training for adults and youth.

-  Outdoor basics of camping
-  Leave No Trace camping
-  Hiking & Backpacking
-  Appropriate Safety & First-Aid for Cub Camping activities

**Advancement**—Provide advancement opportunities for youth.

-  Cub Scout electives and sports awards
-  Webelos Advancement

**Program**—Provide and promote a broad array of basic and adventurous outdoor camping activities to support all parts of the Cub Scouting program.

-  Shelter & Tents
-  Fire Building & Outdoor Cooking
-  Safety & First-Aid, Personal hygiene in the outdoors
-  Nature
-  Teamwork
-  Enhanced camping activities during day camp and resident camp sessions
-  Winter camping programs with advancement opportunities
-  Coordination with other councils to promote programs and resources

**Attraction, Development, and Retention of Cub Camping Leadership**—A primary role of the committee is attracting, developing, and retaining qualified leadership for the training, program, and advancement activities above. This includes resident camp, day camp and year-round council- and district-led Cub Camping activities and should include succession planning for key roles.

Establish a program to train, develop, and retain younger staff members to become leaders in the future. This includes staff for day and resident camp and year-round council- and district-led Cub Camping activities. The staff training process for summer resident and day camp staff ideally would begin in the January to April time-period each year to ensure that a well-trained staff exists prior to arrival at camp. This trained staff becomes the staffing resource for other seasonal cub camping opportunities.

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None of these committees will benefit the council programs if volunteers are not willing to provide leadership and participation. The council needs quality volunteers whose first goal is to provide, improve and maintain vigorous outdoor programs for our membership. It is the hope of the council that you understand the commitment and challenges we all face as Scouting moves forward.

The council outdoor programs are the tool leaders like you utilize to provide method for the Scouting movement. Become a part of the future for the Texas Trails Council, serving those who grow in the Mission and Aims of Scouting.