

Rio Grande Council Camps

Texas Youth Camp Act Rules

On April 16, 2006 and May 16, 2010, the State of Texas passed new regulations that affect the Texas Youth Camps Safety and Health Act. These new regulations affect all licensed youth camps in the state of Texas, including Boy Scout summer camps and Cub Scout day camps. As a result, there is a change of policy for all leaders and adults attending any of the Rio Grande Council Camps during summer camp.

The following is a synopsis of the new laws in place that affect summer camp operation:

- 1) The camp management shall have on file a CURRENT record of any criminal conviction for all adult staff members and all adult volunteers working at the camp. (This includes adult leaders and parents attending camp with their Pack, Troop, or Crew as participants.)
- 2) Records of criminal convictions and sex offender status may be obtained by an ANNUAL criminal background check **and** by performing an ANNUAL background check using a Sex Offender Registration database for each staff member's permanent residence and educational residence.
- 3) Effective June 1, 2006, a youth camp licensee may not employ or accept the volunteer service of an individual for a position involving contact with campers at a youth camp unless youth camp has on file documentation that verifies the individual has successfully completed the training and examination program required by this subsection. (This includes adult leaders and parents attending camp with their Pack, Troop, or Crew as participants.)

As a result of these changes to the Texas Youth Camp Act, the following policies shall now be in affect for all adults coming as participants to Rio Grande Council Camps this summer, whether as an adult camper or adult staff member.

ADULT = ANYONE OVER THE AGE OF 18

- A. All adults coming to participate at Rio Grande Council Camps **MUST** be registered as an adult leader with the Boy Scouts of America. No exceptions.
- B. All adults must submit to a current criminal background check (conducted within the last year) to determine if any prior convictions preclude their involvement or participation at a licensed camp in the state of Texas.
- C. All adults coming to camp must submit to a background check through the Sex Offender Registration database.
- D. All adults must show completion of the BSA **ONLINE** Youth Protection Training by providing a copy of their training certificate, and it must be currently valid (taken within the last two years). The Online YPT is the only approved course acceptable for showing compliance to rule #3. All courses must be approved by the state, and this is the one that has been approved by the State for BSA Leaders. **(MUST BE COMPLETED BI-ANNUALLY!)**

As an aid in complying with these new rules, the Rio Grande Council has put together an application that **MUST** be completed by **EVERY** adult coming to camp this summer. The only exception to this rule is a person that comes to camp as a visitor, does not stay overnight, and stays no longer than half a day, and has no unsupervised contact with youth. Beyond that, ALL adults at camp (whether it is one day or all week) must complete this form and the steps indicated.

The Rio Grande Council will conduct all background checks using the same procedures already in place for adult applications submitted to our office. Information obtained from the check, and information on the form is treated with the strictest confidentiality and is safeguarded. The information will be used to meet the regulations of the Texas Youth Camp Act to determine if any adult is precluded from participation as outlined in section 265.12 of this act.

Please have all adult participants from your Troop fill out the following Application for Participation, and the Disclosure/Authorization form and submit them to the Camp Director at least 14 days prior to your arrival at camp.

Rio Grande Council Camps Adult Leader Application for Participation

This form must be filled out *completely* and legibly. This form is REQUIRED from all adults over the age of 18 that will attend camp. Please print and use blue or black ink.

First Name: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone #: _____ Birthdate: _____ Sex: _____
Driver License State: _____ DLN#: _____ SSN: _____

1. Are you registered with the Boy Scouts of America? Yes NO

If no, you must complete the registration process **before** attending camp. All participants must attach a copy of their registration card or an official BSA copy of the unit roster showing their name as a registered member of that unit.

2. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor? (You may answer NO if your conviction was ordered sealed, expunged or eradicated) Yes No

Conviction of a crime is not an automatic bar to participation. All circumstances will be considered, including what you were convicted of and how long ago. You must provide complete information about any conviction by attaching a separate statement.

3. Have you completed the BSA Online Youth Protection Training course within the last 24 months? Yes NO (*Must be completed bi-annually!*)

If NO, you MUST complete this course and attach a copy of the certification card provided upon successful completion of the training. Training may be completed at the BSA Online Learning Center: <http://olc.scouting.org> If you have already completed the course, please attach the copy of the card to this form.

4. Personal information provided at the top of the form will be used to conduct a search in the Sex Offender Registration database to meet this state requirement.

The system used for the criminal background check will also conduct a check in the sex offender database. Both searches will be conducted at one time in our office, so there is no need to attach searches done by the unit.

5. As of May 16, 2010, ALL adults participating in a licensed youth camp in the state of TX MUST have a criminal background check (conducted annually) in order to determine if any person may be precluded from participation in a state licensed camp based on the results of this check.

The National Office of the BSA has made arrangements for councils in the state of Texas to conduct these background checks for all participants of their summer camp programs. The Rio Grande Council will conduct these checks on all participants to ensure compliance with the Texas Youth Camp Act.

By signing and submitting this application, you are authorizing a criminal background check and a search in the Sex Offender Registration database of yourself. This check will be made from public record sources. You also confirm that the information provided and attached to this form is true and not falsified in any way.

You must also sign the Disclosure & Authorization Form Attached.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

DISCLOSURE/AUTHORIZATION FORM

NOTICE TO APPLICANT REGARDING BACKGROUND CHECK

In order to safeguard the youth in our care, the Boy Scouts of America will procure consumer reports on you in connection with your application to serve as a volunteer, and the Boy Scouts of America may procure additional consumer reports at any time during your service as a volunteer in order to evaluate your continued suitability for volunteer service. The Boy Scouts of America has contracted with LexisNexis, a consumer reporting agency, to provide the consumer reports. LexisNexis may be contacted by mail at LexisNexis, 1000 Alderman Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30005 or by telephone at 800-845-6004.

The consumer reports may contain information bearing on your character, general reputation, personal characteristics, and mode of living. The types of information that may be obtained include but are not limited to Social Security number verification, sex offender registry checks, criminal records checks, inmate records searches, and court records checks. The information contained in these consumer reports may be obtained by LexisNexis from public record sources. **The consumer reports will not include credit record checks or motor vehicle record checks.**

The nature and scope of the consumer reports are described above. Nonetheless, you are entitled to request a complete and accurate disclosure of the nature and scope of such reports by submitting a written request to LexisNexis at the address listed above. Additional notices for applicants in California, New York, Minnesota, and Oklahoma are provided.

APPLICANT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AUTHORIZATION

I have carefully read this notice and authorization form and I hereby authorize the Boy Scouts of America and LexisNexis to procure a consumer report, which as described above will include information relating to my criminal history as received from reporting agencies. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility for a volunteer position with the Boy Scouts of America. I also understand that as long as I remain a volunteer, additional consumer reports may be procured at any time. I understand that if the Boy Scouts of America chooses not to accept my application or to revoke my membership based on information contained in a consumer report, I will receive a summary of my rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act and contact information for the reporting agency, LexisNexis.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES TO CALIFORNIA, MINNESOTA, OKLAHOMA, AND NEW YORK APPLICANTS

California

Under California law, the consumer reports described above that the Boy Scouts of America will procure on you are defined as investigative consumer reports. These reports will be procured in connection with your application to serve as a volunteer, and additional reports may be procured at any time during your service as a volunteer in order to evaluate your continued suitability for volunteer service. The reports may include information on your character, general reputation, personal characteristics, and mode of living.

Under section 1786.22 of the California Civil Code, you may inspect the file maintained on you by LexisNexis, during normal business hours and with proper identification. You may also obtain a copy of this file, upon submitting proper identification and paying the costs of duplication, by appearing at LexisNexis offices in person, during normal business hours and on reasonable notice, or by certified mail upon making a written request. You may also receive a summary of the information contained in this file by telephone. LexisNexis will provide trained personnel to explain any information furnished to you and will provide a written explanation of any coded information. This written explanation will be provided whenever a file is provided to you for visual inspection. If you appear in person, you may be accompanied by one other person of your choosing, who must furnish reasonable identification.

For Applicants in California, Minnesota, and Oklahoma Only

You have the right to request a free copy of any report procured on you. If you wish to receive a free copy of any report procured on you, check the box below.

I request a free copy of any report procured on me.

New York

As explained above, a consumer report will be requested in connection with your application, and additional consumer reports may be requested during the course of your service with the Boy Scouts of America. You have the right, upon request, to be informed whether or not a consumer report was requested and, if a consumer report was requested, of the name and address of the consumer reporting agency that furnished the consumer report.

My signature below indicates that I have read, understand, and accept the accompanying disclosures and acknowledgments.

First name (No initials or nicknames) Please print.

Middle name

Last name

Suffix

Signature of applicant

Date

Unit No.