

Cub Scout Cold Weather Camping Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Cub Scout camping experiences are fun, safe, and age-appropriate during cold weather conditions. The following guidelines will help Packs determine when it is safe to camp during the colder months for the youth in their unit. If you should have any questions on this policy, please feel free to reach out to your District Camping Chair or the Council Camping Committee.

1. SAFE Checklist Application

When planning any cold-weather event, use the [SAFE Checklist](#) with special attention to:



A — Assessment

- Ask: “*Will our Cub Scouts and their families be able to have a fun and safe camping experience?*”
- If it’s too cold to meet this goal, adjust the activity.
- Confirm the unit has the **training, resources, and experience** to camp safely in current conditions.
- If conditions are too cold for an overnight stay, consider **alternative formats** (e.g., day camp with indoor/outdoor balance).

E — Equipment & Environment

- Verify the **camp location** is still suitable for the season (restrooms, water source, and facilities operational).
- Ensure all participants have **appropriate cold-weather gear** and understand how to use it.
- Prepare to modify or cancel activities if **weather conditions change** unexpectedly.

2. Safety & Comfort Guidelines

- Always plan for **extra layers, dry clothing, and proper sleeping gear** rated for expected temperatures.
- Provide **warming areas** such as heated shelters or indoor facilities.
- Avoid extreme conditions that could risk **frostbite, hypothermia, or reduced enjoyment**.
- Leaders must continuously monitor **Scout comfort and safety** during the event.

3. Activity Adjustment Options

If weather conditions are borderline:

- Shorten outdoor activities.
- Increase **indoor program time**.
- Move to a **day-only format** or reschedule.

Cub Scout camping is about **building excitement for the outdoors**. If conditions risk safety or enjoyment, adjust the plan — the experience should always be **fun, safe, and memorable**.

Reminder: Scouting America requires that Cub Scout packs or dens have at least one BALOO-trained* leader with them on their camping adventures, even when camping with a troop or a district or council event. Each pack should aim to have a minimum of two BALOO-trained adults. Upcoming courses can be found at delmarvacouncil.org/training/. (*Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation)