

Tour Permits

Tour Permits have become recognized by national parks, military institutions, and other organizations as proof that a unit activity has been well planned and organized and is under capable and qualified leadership. These organizations may require the tour permit for entry.

If a unit plans a trip within 500 miles of the home base, it is important that the unit obtain a **Local Tour Permit**. A **National Tour Permit** is required for trips in excess of 500 miles from home or outside the continental United States. Most short, in-town den trips of a few hours do not require a tour permit; however, it is recommended that dens obtain permission slips from parents.

Great Southwest Council Policy:

Local Tour Permits are required for any outing, including any council/district activity, that:

- Includes any form of aquatic activity, ***or***
- Includes any form of climbing/rappelling activity, ***or***
- Is more than 50 miles from the unit's regular meeting place, ***or***
- Is overnight

Units are encouraged to file local tour permits for any other activity that they determine has a higher than normal risk, includes unique program aspects, or for any other activity they want to make sure is a sanctioned program.

How Soon To File

Local Tour Permits must be filed with the Council Service Center **two weeks** in advance of scheduled activity for proper clearance, and a faxed copy or original is acceptable. National Tour Permits must be submitted at least **one month** before your tour. Because the council must forward it to the regional service center for further approval, a faxed copy is *not* acceptable.

Program Considerations

Where swimming or boating is included in the program, **Safe Swim Defense** and/or **Safety Afloat** standards are to be followed. At least one person must be trained in CPR from any recognized agency for Safety Afloat.

If climbing/rappelling is included, the **Climb On Safely** must be followed. At least one person must be trained in CPR from any recognized agency for Climb On Safely. Additionally, Climb On Safely recommends American Red Cross's standard first aid and When Help Is Delayed or equivalent course. If your tour includes a backcountry trip, be sure to know **BSA Wilderness Use Policy**, and **Trek Safely** is recommended.

If you are conducting your own long-term camp of five nights or more, be sure to furnish a copy of the program and menus.

The tour leader should have read and have a copy of the **Guide to Safe Scouting**.

Insurance

All vehicles must be covered by a public liability and property damage liability insurance policy.

The amount of this coverage must meet or exceed the insurance requirement of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. (It is recommended, however, that coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000 or \$100,000 combined single limit.) Any vehicle carrying 10 or more passengers is *required* to have limits of \$100,000/\$500,000/\$100,000 or \$500,000 combined single limit. In the case of rented vehicles the requirement of coverage limits can be met by combining the limits of personal coverage carried by the driver with coverage carried by the owner of the rented vehicle. All vehicles used to travel outside the United States must carry a public liability and property damage liability insurance policy that complies with or exceeds the requirements of that country.