

## ORANGE COUNTY COUNCIL – BSA

### TOUR PERMIT POLICY

#### Why A Tour Permit?

A Tour Permit is a planning checklist of those items that a conscientious leader would do or use to assure a safe trip. It validates that all drivers are of the proper age, have adequate insurance, and their vehicles are properly equipped. It reminds leaders of their need for special training or certification for certain activities. Multiple signatures serve as a safeguard so that no one can take Scouts with proper permission from the unit committee, and that all events have been “cross-checked”.

#### What is the Purpose?

- 1) Reinforce planning safety and the necessity for “two-deep” leadership.
- 2) Proves, in the event of claims or litigation, that the event is an official Scouting activity, and that the leaders have taken the basic reasonable and required steps to provide for a safe outing.
- 3) Can provide information necessary to locate the unit in the event an emergency occurs, and provides the Council a point of contact in such a situation.
- 4) May be required by a National Park, military installation, camp or other organization for admittance.
- 5) Provides the Scout Executive and his staff with information regarding unit activities and outings.

#### National Tour Permit or Local Tour Permit?

Any tour or trip over 500 miles, one-way, requires a **National Tour Permit**. All registered adult leaders involved must be Youth Protection Trained.

A **Local Tour Permit** is required when a unit outing or trip meets any of the following criteria:

- The event involves overnight camping \*
- The type of activity requires trained supervision (Cub camping – BALOO; climbing - *Climb On Safely*; boating\*\*, swimming, or other water sports – *Safe Swim Defense/Safety Afloat*).
- The event host or organizer requires one.
- An award or recognition stemming from the activity (i.e. High Adventure) requires it.
- Goes outside of the Council Area (Orange County)

***It is always acceptable to apply for a Tour Permit, even when not otherwise required, particularly if unusual activities, location or situations are involved***

**Note:** All events and activities, whether or not a Tour Permit is required, must be run under the provisions of “The Guide to Safe Scouting” which include requirements for Youth Protection Training, two-deep leadership, and age appropriate activities. Parent permission slips should be secured and the qualifications of all drivers should be checked.

\*Cub Scout “backyard camping” at the home of a Cub or at the Den/Pack meeting place is exempt, as is family camping at Council or District sponsored event where the scout attends with his parent(s). All Cub Scout camping, except as previously noted, may only take place at a Council approved camping facility, as part of a n overnight education program (Wild Animal Park, zoo, ship, etc.), or under special provisional approval as given by the Council Risk Management Committee.

\*\* If the boat involved is commercially operated under US Coast Guard documentation (fishing party boat, ferry, cruise ship, etc.) *Safe Swim Defense/Safety Afloat* is not required)