

# SWC Safety Moment – March 2019

*By DCC Hans Uhr*



## **“ International Travel”**

### **Hi Everyone**

“Discover the World” Many have already started the process of planning to attend an international event or have already signed up for a World Jamboree, Rover Moot, Trip to KISC or other international Scout activities. May you travel with a large group, small unit or by yourself. However if you make this an official Scouting Trip, than you have to follow Scout Canada’s international traveling procedures. If you travel to a Jamboree or event organized by Scouts Canada, then

some of the paperwork is taken care of by the organizer. Paperwork needs to be processed, from permits, passports, insurance, medical protection, etc. All this takes time, so plan well ahead. Attached are a few charts and other information to give you a better idea how much is involved.

Except for participants in World Scout Jamboree and Moot contingents, travel permits are required for all travel outside Canada, regardless of the duration of the trip or distance travelled.

Our Standards

*International Travel Permit*

1. A separate International Travel Application is required for each trip outside Canada.
2. Group Commissioners may approve international travel of up to three nights and up to 500 kilometers from home.
3. Before approving international travel, the Group Commissioner will ensure:
  - a. Contracts and agreements are signed according to Scouts Canada procedures
  - b. All waivers, hold harmless, and indemnification agreements are dealt with according to the Third Party Waivers, Hold Harmless and Indemnification, Agreements Procedure
  - c. A risk management plan is submitted along with an emergency plan
  - d. All Scouters, parents/guardians, and other adult resource people are screened according to Scouts Canada procedures

4. In addition, the Group Commissioner will ensure each participant has:
- a. A valid passport or equivalent document<sup>[1]</sup>. The Government of Canada advises that passports need to be valid for up to six months after the scheduled date of return to Canada
  - b. Travel medical insurance
  - c. Trip cancellation and interruption insurance if the adventure involves commercial or charter travel by air, sea, or ground
  - d. Parent/Guardian Consent Form, signed by both parents, for each person under 18 years of age. The Scouter in charge will take these forms on the adventure
  - e. Completed a Physical Fitness Form
5. Group Commissioners shall submit International Travel Applications, for trips more than three nights or 500 km from home, to [internationaltravel@scouts.ca](mailto:internationaltravel@scouts.ca), for approval.
6. All International Travel Applications must be submitted at least six weeks in advance.

*International Letters of Introduction*

7. An International Letter of Introduction may be obtained for individuals travelling outside of Canada. Such letters are issued by Council offices on a standard form from the World Organization of the Scout Movement. The only purpose of the International Letter of Introduction is to identify the carrier as a registered member of Scouts Canada. The letter conveys no special privileges.

# **“ New First Aid Requirements”**

As you may know there are some changes to Scouts Canada's Policies and Procedures. First Aid policy has changed and will have a direct impact on your scouting events. This new policy is more inline with other large organizations.

May you panic and ask yourself where do you get all the first aiders from!

First; check if the First Aid Training information in MyScouts is up-to-date or entered.

Second; check with your area and council. They will support you with additional information and offer First Aid training courses as needed.

Please find the major changes below:

1. There shall be at least two qualified first aiders at every activity where there are fewer than 50 participants. They shall have first aid equipment appropriate for the activity.
2. There shall be at least three qualified first aiders where there are 50-99 participants and one additional qualified first aider for every additional 50 participants.
3. There shall be two designated first aiders holding at least a current emergency first aid certification at activities at the normal meeting place.
4. For activities not at the normal meeting place:

- a. That are less than 30 minutes from medical care, at least two first aiders holding current emergency first aid certification are required
  - b. That are less than two hours from medical care, at least two designated first aiders holding a current standard first aid certification are required
  - c. That are more than two hours from medical care, there shall be at least two designated first aiders holding a current wilderness first aid certification as a minimum
  - d. That are more than four hours from medical care, there shall be at least two designated first aiders holding at least a current advanced wilderness first aid certification as a minimum
5. Where Scouts, Venturer Scouts, and Rover Scouts are participating in activities without Scouters, the same standards for first aiders apply.
  6. Names of the individuals designated as first aiders will be listed in the emergency response plan.
  7. Scouts Canada recognizes first aid training that is recognized by provincial health and safety authorities.

**Thank you and stay safe**

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# “Safety Tips”

“Top bunks should not be used without adequate safety rails or roll-off protection. When booking a camp or sleep-over where bunk beds are being used, ask about the safety measures the camp has taken to mitigate the risk. Bunk beds should never be used as play equipment.”

“Like all tools, safety must be considered when using a hot-glue gun and discussed with the youth prior to the activity. Burns from using a hot-glue gun are common, either from mishandling the equipment or from distraction. Although the burns are typically minor, they can be completely mitigated by the use of protective gloves and long sleeves. It is also important to have a stand or aluminum cup to rest the glue-gun in when it is not being used. Always remember to unplug the glue gun when you are finished using”

“Know your meeting area! The vast majority of injuries that are reported take place in the regular meeting hall. Your regular meeting area represents the space in which the majority of your Scouting will take place and has the most exposure to a potential injury. Use the Meeting Space Risk Assessment checklist to help

identify risks and prevent incidents. Doing a meeting safety inspection, before each meeting starts is a great way to involve the youth as well.”

“Head injuries are always a special concern. When asked if the youth was wearing a helmet, her father, who is also a Scouter replied. “We ensure all our youth are wearing proper winter activity rated helmets for our sledding adventures. It was definitely money well spent on my part as I can only imagine the severity of the incident would have been multiplied if she had not been wearing her helmet. We will definitely be reminding the youth of the proper/safe manner to sled for any future events”. Scouts Canada’s new Safety Equipment Standards require a helmet for all activities where there is potential for a serious head injury, including tobogganing or sledding.”

# **SWC - Statistics**

**As of 26. March 2019**

<b>Active Scouters</b>	<b>1489</b>
<b>Pending Scouter</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1553</b>

**If you wish to have more information about the status of your area or group please let me know. If you need any support to make your pending members active, please let us know. Keep in your mind that pending scouters can't be on the floor.**

## **Attachments**

- **Week 26, 27, 28, 29 Safety Report**
- **Chart International Traveling**
- **Chart International Tour Permit**
- **SWC Volunteer Readiness Report (MyScouts)**
- **Readines Report National 26. March 2019**
- **SWC PRC / VSS Expiry**

**If you have any questions, concerns or of you would like to address a curtain topic, please let me know Thank you everyone.**