

Emergency Preparedness BSA: Emergency Preparedness Award

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is pleased to partner with the Boy Scouts of America to increase the level of citizen preparedness across the country. DHS has asked the Boy Scouts of America to build upon the foundation of the Ready campaign and to help citizens across the country prepare for emergencies of all kinds.



Emergency management, emergency preparedness, and disaster services are common throughout the United States—we take care of each other. By whatever name, these activities encompass mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery related to any kind of disaster, whether natural, technological, or national security. *Emergency preparedness* means being prepared for all kinds of emergencies, able to respond in time of crisis to save lives and property, and to help a community—or even a nation—return to normal life after a disaster occurs.

It is a challenge to be prepared for emergencies in our world of man-made and natural phenomena. The Emergency Preparedness BSA program is planned to inspire the desire and foster the skills to meet this challenge in our youth and adult members so that they can participate effectively in this crucial service to their families, communities, and nation.

The emergencies of today's world demand more than ever that our young people and adults be trained as individuals and as units to meet emergency situations. The importance of this training is not new to the Boy Scouts of America, as Scouting has always taught youth to be prepared for all types of emergencies. Since Scouting began in the United States, Scouts have responded to the needs of their communities and nation in time of crisis.

From its beginning, the Scouting movement has taught youth to do their best, to do their duty to God and country, to help others, and to prepare themselves physically, mentally, and morally to meet these goals. The basic aims of Scouting include teaching youth to take care of themselves, to be helpful to others, and to develop courage, self-reliance, and the will to be ready to serve in an emergency.

In addition to the millions of youth and adults who are active members of the Boy Scouts of America, millions of former members were trained in Scouting skills that prepare them for meeting emergencies. They are a built-in source of help to meet the challenge of readiness for any emergency situation. As Scouting units across the country begin planning an emphasis on emergency preparedness, this foundation of former members can be a resource for support—a trained group to help assure a response that will benefit the homes and communities of our nation.

When an emergency occurs, it affects every youth and adult member of BSA in the immediate area, creating the responsibility to respond first, as an individual; second, as a member of a family; and third, as a member of a Scouting unit serving the neighborhood and community. Because of these multiple levels of responsibility, the Emergency Preparedness BSA plan includes training for individual, family, and unit preparedness. Special training in all three areas is a prerequisite for BSA members conducting any type of emergency service in their communities.

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Individual Preparedness

The primary emphasis of this initial step in the program is to train members to be mentally and emotionally prepared to act promptly and to develop in them the ability to take care of themselves. Teaching young people to know and be able to use practical survival skills when needed is an important part of individual preparedness.

Family Preparedness

Since family groups will be involved in most emergency situations, this part of the plan includes basic instructions to help every Scouting family prepare for emergencies. Families will work together to learn basic emergency skills and how to react when faced with fires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, explosions, warning signals, fallout protection, terrorism attacks, and other emergency situations.

Community Preparedness

The program fosters the desire to help others and teaches members how to serve their communities in age-appropriate ways. By taking the age-appropriate First Aid for Children course (Tiger Cubs) and *Basic Aid Training* (Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts), these boys help ease the burden on the family and community resources. Through all Scouting ranks and for adult members, the responsibilities and skills for community service increase with the members' maturity.

Emergency Preparedness Plan

1. Planning ahead is the first step to a calmer and more assured disaster response. Determine what kinds of natural and man-made disasters and emergencies could occur in your community. Make a list of them, then discuss each one and what you should do as a group in each situation. For each type of emergency, establish responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team. Because some family members might not be at home at the time of an emergency, designate alternates in case someone is absent.
2. Be sure everyone in the family can recognize the different sounds made by smoke, heat, and motion detectors, burglar alarms, fire alarms, and community sirens and warning signals, and know what to do when they hear them.
3. Discuss what to do if evacuation from your house is necessary. Be sure everyone in the family knows that in that case, they must not hesitate, but must get out as soon as possible and after they are outside someone should call for help. Agree on an outdoor meeting place for the family, such as a particular neighbor's front porch.
4. Be sure everyone in the family knows how to call 911 (if your community has that service) and other local emergency numbers; and how to call on different kinds of phones, such as cell phones. Gather and post other emergency numbers, such as poison control, the family doctor, a neighbor and an out-of-town person who are your family's emergency contacts, a parent's work number and cell number, etc. Post all emergency numbers near every telephone in the house and make copies for everyone to carry with them.
5. Because emergency responders will need an address or directions on where to send help, be sure all family members know how to describe where they can be found. Post your address near each telephone in the house. When dealing with the stress of an emergency, even adult family members could fail to recall details correctly.
6. Plan an out-of-town evacuation route and an out-of-town meeting point, in the event all family members aren't together at the same time to evacuate. The meeting point might be the home of a family member in another city or a hotel or landmark known to all family members.

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7. Practice evacuating your home twice a year. Drive your planned evacuation route and plot alternate routes on a map in case the chosen roads are impassable or grid-locked.
8. Practice earthquake, tornado, and fire drills at home, work, and school periodically.
9. Be sure all family adults and older children know that in case of emergency, it is their responsibility to keep the family together, to remain calm, and explain to younger family members what has happened and what is likely to happen next.

Emergency Preparedness Kit

What you have on hand when a disaster happens could make a big difference. Plan to store enough supplies for everyone in your household for at least three days.

- **Water.** Have at least one gallon per person per day.
- **Food.** Pack non-perishable, high-protein items, including energy bars, ready-to-eat soup, peanut butter, etc. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking, and little or no water.
- **Flashlight.** Include extra batteries.
- **First aid kit.** Include a reference guide.
- **Medications.** Don't forget both prescription and non-prescription items.
- **Battery-operated Weather radio.** Include extra batteries.
- **Tools.** Gather a wrench to turn off gas if necessary, a manual can opener, screwdriver, hammer, pliers, knife, duct tape, plastic sheeting, and garbage bags and ties.
- **Clothing.** Provide a change of clothes for everyone, including sturdy shoes and gloves.
- **Personal Items.** Remember eyeglasses or contact lenses and solution; copies of important papers, including identification cards, insurance policies, birth certificates, passports, etc.; and comfort items such as toys and books.
- **Sanitary supplies.** You'll want toilet paper, towelettes, feminine supplies, personal hygiene items, bleach, etc.
- **Money. Have cash.** (ATMs and credit cards won't work if the power is out.)
- **Contact information.** Include a current list of family phone numbers and e-mail addresses, including someone out of the area who may be easier to reach by e-mail if local phone lines are overloaded.
- **Pet supplies.** Include food, water, leash, litter box or plastic bags, tags, medications, and vaccination information.
- **Map.** Consider marking an evacuation route on it from your local area

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Emergency Preparedness Award Requirements

When a member has fulfilled the requirements, a completed application is submitted to the council. Upon approval, an Emergency Preparedness pin is awarded. The pin may be worn on civilian clothing or on the uniform, centered on the left pocket flap. The award may be earned more than once; for instance, as a young person advances through the ranks and is capable of more complex preparedness activities, but only one pin may be worn.

- Download the [application form](#) or see the last page of this document

All emergency activities carried out by Scouting units must be appropriate for the ages and abilities of the young people involved. Units should participate only under the supervision of their own leaders, and plans for unit help must be coordinated with community agencies responsible for disaster preparedness.

Tiger Cub Requirements

1. Complete Tiger Cub Achievement 3—Keeping Myself Healthy and Safe. This achievement covers a family fire plan and drill and what to do if separated from the family.
2. Complete Tiger Cub Elective 27—Emergency! This elective helps a Tiger Cub be ready for emergencies and dangerous situations and has him discuss a family emergency plan with his family.
3. With your parent or guardian's help, complete one of these three activities.
 - Take the American Red Cross *First Aid for Children Today* (FACT) course.
 - Join a safe kids program such as McGruff Child Identification, Internet Safety, or Safety at Home.
 - Show and tell your family household what you have learned about preparing for emergencies.

Wolf Cub Scout Requirements

1. Complete Wolf Cub Scout Achievement 9*—Be Safe at Home and on the Street. This is a check of your home to keep it safe.
2. Complete Wolf Cub Scout Elective 16*—Family Alert. This elective is about designing a plan for your home and family in case an emergency takes place.
3. With your parent or guardian's help, complete one of the following activities that you have not already completed for this award as a Tiger Cub:
 - Take American Red Cross *Basic Aid Training* (BAT) to learn emergency skills and care for choking, wounds, nose bleeds, falls, and animal bites. This course includes responses for fire safety, poisoning, water accidents, substance abuse, and more.
 - Make a presentation to your family on what you have learned about preparing for emergencies.
 - Join a Safe Kids program such as McGruff Child Identification program. Put on a training program for your family or den on stranger awareness, Internet safety, or safety at home.

* Achievement and elective *numbers* could change; the achievement or elective *title* determines what the requirement is.

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Bear Cub Scout Requirements

1. Complete Bear Cub Scout Achievement 11*—Be Ready. The focus of this achievement is the best way to handle emergencies.
2. Make a small display or give a presentation for your family or den on what you have learned about preparing for emergencies.
3. With your parent or guardian's help, complete one of the following activities that you have not already completed for this award as a Tiger Cub or Wolf Cub Scout:
 - o Take American Red Cross *Basic Aid Training* (BAT) to learn emergency skills and care for choking, wounds, nose bleeds, falls, and animal bites. This course includes responses for fire safety, poisoning, water accidents, substance abuse, and more..
 - o Put together a family emergency kit for use in the home.
 - o Organize a safe kids program such as McGruff Child Identification program. Put on a training program for your family or den on stranger awareness, Internet safety, or safety at home.

* Achievement and elective *numbers* could change; the achievement or elective *title* determines what the requirement is.

Webelos Scout Requirements

1. Earn the Readyman activity badge from the community badge group.
2. Build a family emergency kit, with an adult family member participating in the project.
3. With your parent or guardian's help, complete one of the following that you have not already completed for this award as a Tiger Cub or Wolf or Bear Cub Scout:
 - o Take a first aid course conducted by your local American Red Cross chapter.
 - o Give a presentation to your den on preparing for emergencies.
 - o Organize a training program for your Webelos den on stranger awareness, Internet safety, or safety at home.

Boy Scout and Varsity Scout Requirements

1. Participate in creating an emergency plan for your home and for your troop or team's Scouting activities. Be sure you know the details of both emergency plans.
2. Earn the First Aid or the Emergency Preparedness merit badge.
3. With your troop or team, including its adult leaders, participate in emergency preparedness training conducted by community emergency preparedness agencies.

Venturer Requirements

1. Complete all of the Emergency Preparedness core requirement number 4 (page 17, *Ranger Guidebook*).
2. Do one of the following:
 - o Complete the First Aid core requirement (page 16, *Ranger Guidebook* This may be fulfilled either by completing the standard American Red Cross first aid course When Help Is Delayed or by completing the American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Course.
 - o With your crew, including its adult leaders, participate in emergency preparedness training coordinated by community emergency preparedness agencies.

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Unit Volunteer Scouter Requirements

This award is available to all registered Scouters who serve a unit, including all leaders and committee members.

Do any three of the following:

- Develop an emergency preparedness program plan and kit for your home and be sure all family members know the plan.
- Participate actively in preparing an emergency plan of action for your Scouting unit meeting place. (This includes all locations where you might have a meeting.)
- Put together a unit emergency kit to be kept at your unit meeting location. (This includes all locations where you might have a meeting.)
- Take a basic first aid/CPR course, or participate as an active volunteer in a community agency responsible for disaster preparedness.

Council/District Volunteer Scouter Requirements

Do any three of the following:

- Develop an emergency preparedness program plan and kit for your home and be sure all family members know the plan.
- Take a basic first aid/CPR course.
- Participate as an active volunteer in a community agency responsible for emergency disaster preparedness.
- Participate actively in developing an emergency preparedness program for a council or district activity. Example: a camporee, Scouting show, fun day, etc.

Program Items

All Emergency Preparedness BSA items are available to local councils as Supply items, though the National Distribution Center.

- **Emergency Preparedness BSA pin, No. 00540** (civilian wear/uniform, centered on left pocket flap). Awarded when requirements are met. Only one pin may be worn.
- **Emergency Preparedness BSA information pocket card, No. 32185**
- **Emergency Preparedness BSA support recognition certificate (8" x 10"), No. 32186**

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Resources

- <http://www.ready.gov>
- Local chapter of the American Red Cross (emergency procedures and training)
- Other local disaster relief agencies
- Local law enforcement agencies (McGruff and other safe kids programs)
- For youth requirements and electives, see the program book for that rank or part of the Scouting program.

These materials may be ordered from your local or state office of emergency management or from FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency). Include the full title, publication or item number, quantity, and your name, address, and zip code.

FEMA Emergency Information
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Office of Emergency Information and Public Affairs
P.O. Box 2012
Jessup, MD 20794-2012

Fax: 202-646-4086
www.fema.gov

Don't Let Disaster Tear Your Family Apart, Poster 11. This full-color poster fosters awareness of the importance of preparing a family disaster plan and encourages readers to request further information.

Prepare a Family Disaster Plan, Poster 13. A full-color 24" x 36" poster that outlines a recommended four-step approach to creating a family disaster plan. Includes instructions on how to create a tabletop display.

An Organizer's Guide to Disaster Preparedness, Item No. K-18. This kit provides information and how-to guidelines for organizing a disaster preparedness program at the local level. (There is a limit; you may only order one copy.)

Disaster Preparedness Coloring Book, FEMA 243. This coloring book is designed for adults and children to work on together. Each coloring page is accompanied by key talking points and preparedness steps to guide a discussion with younger children.

Emergency Food and Water Supplies, FEMA L-210, ARC 5055. This publication explains how to store food and water supplies in the home. It includes recommendations on what to stock and how much, methods to purify water, ways to cook during a power outage, and suggestions for maintaining emergency supplies.

Family Disaster Plan, L-191, ARC 4466. This brochure provides guidelines to help develop a disaster plan. It suggest basic actions to take in preparation for any type of disaster, including ways to communicate if separated during a disaster, to get ready for an evacuation, and to practice safety in the home. The brochure is also available in Spanish.

Your Disaster Supplies Kit, L-189, ARC 4463. This is a checklist of emergency supplies that should be assembled and kept in disaster supplies kits, It is also available in Spanish.

Are You Ready? H-34. This illustrated handbook provides multi-hazard and disaster-specific guidelines.

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These materials are available through your local American Red Cross (ARC) chapter:

Are You Ready for a(n) ... ? The American Red Cross has produced a series of hazard-specific brochures designed to help people learn important safety tips and design a plan of action for each hazard. The brochures include:

- **Earthquake**, ARC 4455. Also available in Spanish.
- **Fire**, ARC 4456
- **Flood or Flash Flood**, ARC 4458. Also available in Spanish.
- **Hurricane**, ARC 4454. Also available in Spanish.
- **Terrorism--Preparing for the Unexpected**, ARC A1366
- **Tornado**, ARC 4457. Also available in Spanish.
- **Winter Storm**, ARC 4464. Also available in Spanish.

Boy Scouts of America materials are available at your local Scout shop, or may be ordered through your local council service center.

- **Camp Health and Safety**, 19-308B
- **Emergency Preparedness** merit badge pamphlet, 33368A
- **Guide to Safe Scouting**, 34416D (Also available at www.scouting.org.)
- **Health and Safety Guide**, 34415B
- **Ranger Handbook**, 33494

Emergency Preparedness BSA Application

Fill out the appropriate section.

Youth Application

Name of applicant _____

Check one: Tiger Cub Wolf Cub Scout Bear Cub Scout Webelos Scout
 Boy Scout Varsity Scout Venturer

Unit Number _____ Chartered organization _____

Council name _____

This applicant has satisfactorily completed requirements for the Emergency Preparedness BSA Award.

Unit leader's signature _____ Date _____

Print name _____ Unit leadership position _____

Unit Leader Application

Name of applicant _____

Unit position _____ Unit number _____

Chartered organization _____

Council name _____

This applicant has satisfactorily completed requirements for the Emergency Preparedness BSA Award.

Council/district Scouter's signature _____ Date _____

Print name _____ Scouting title _____

District/Council Volunteer Scouter Application

Name of applicant _____

District or council position _____

Council name _____

This applicant has satisfactorily completed requirements for the Emergency Preparedness BSA Award.

Council Scouter's signature _____ Date _____

Print name _____ Scouting title _____

Recognition and Approval

Youth and adult members completing the requirements receive a distinctive pin.

The leader signing approval for a youth or unit leader application submits the completed, approved application to the BSA local council service center.

District/council volunteer Scouters submit the completed application to the BSA local council service center for approval.

All instruction and participation associated with Emergency Preparedness BSA must be carried out in an environment free from all hazards and dangers. All BSA precautions and safety measures, as explained in the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and in other Scouting literature, apply.