

ADULT CAMPER BACKGROUND CLEARANCE COMPLIANCE
Required by the PA Child Protective Service Law

BACKGROUND

In October 2014, Governor Corbett signed PA Act 153 of 2014 into law. This legislation was designed to increase the safety of children by requiring specific background checks and child abuse clearances for all individuals who are responsible for children. This law impacts all organizations who serve youth and also includes strengthened mandatory reporting requirements. Act 153 was amended effective July 1, 2015 by the passing of PA Act 15 of 2015.

The new background check requirements apply to anyone who may have responsibilities in which they:

1. Act in lieu of, or on behalf of a parent by providing care, supervision, guidance, or control of children, or...
2. Have regular, ongoing contact with children that is integral to their volunteer responsibilities.

It is the local council's responsibility to ensure that all individuals partaking in and or administering their programs meet these requirements and that the highest standards of safety are maintained concerning youth participants in our programs. While the BSA has and will continue to conduct its own background checks on all registered volunteers, those checks are conducted through a third party provider and do not meet the specific provisions of the Pennsylvania law.

In consideration of the local council's responsibility and considering that some summer camp attendees may not be fully registered members of the Boy Scouts of America while supervising children, the Laurel Highlands Council Camping Department is requiring all adult participants in any summer camp program provided by the council, regardless of BSA registration status, to:

1. Have current BSA Youth Protection Training valid through the entire camp attendance session.
2. Meet the requirements of the PA background clearance law. Clearances are valid for five (5) years.

Adults who are simply dropping Scouts off, picking Scouts up, or visiting for brief periods of time (such as attending a campfire, or an Order of the Arrow call out ceremony) do not have to meet these requirements.

Compliance and Verification

All Pennsylvania Residents.

All registered and unregistered adults who are residents of Pennsylvania must complete the required background checks following the directions available at <https://lhcscouting.org/resources/youth-protection>. Completion of clearances must take place prior to camp.

Verification

- Youth Protection Training – A copy of the adult's Youth Protection Training certificate must be attached to their BSA Medical Form and presented during check-in.

- Background Clearances – A copy of the adults PA State Police, PA Child Abuse, and either Volunteer Disclosure Statement or FBI Fingerprint check results must be attached to their BSA Medical Form and presented during check-in.

Non-PA Residents

Non-PA residents attending camp are exempt from the required PA background clearances provided they 1) will not be working with youth in PA more than 30 days in any calendar year, and 2) meet the background clearance requirements of their state of residence. Non-PA residents must complete a Non-PA Resident Background Clearance Disclosure Form.

Verification

- Youth Protection Training – A copy of the adult's Youth Protection Training certificate must be attached to their BSA Medical Form and presented during check-in.
- Non-PA Resident Background Clearance Disclosure Form – A copy of the adults Non-PA Resident Background Clearance Disclosure Form must be attached to their BSA Medical Form and presented during check-in.

Copies of clearances and Youth Protection Training certificates will be returned at the end of the camp session.

Copies of certificates must be attached to the adult's BSA Medical Form even if they have been previously submitted to the Laurel Highlands Council or the adult's home council if not LHC. This allows for quick, standardized verification during check-in.

Adults who arrive at camp and fail to attach proof of current Youth Protection Training or required background clearances to their BSA Medical Form and who cannot produce these documents by 8:00 p.m. on check-in day will be asked to leave. Being asked to leave for failure to produce these documents is not grounds for a refund.

All required forms can be obtained at <https://lhcscouting.org/camping/summer/>

Questions:

Contact the Laurel Highlands Council Camping Department at 412-325-7921.