



**American
Red Cross**



The American Red Cross and the Boy Scouts of America National AP Agreement

Summary of the Agreement

In a special ceremony at Red Cross national headquarters on February 11, 2003, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) signed a national training agreement to become an authorized provider of Red Cross health and safety programs. This agreement is the culmination of more than two years of efforts aimed at working collaboratively to provide lifesaving training for BSA youth members and adult leaders nationwide.

As part of the agreement, the Red Cross will work with the Boy Scouts of America to develop a “train the trainer” program at both the instructor and instructor trainer levels. This will help more than 300 BSA councils across the country develop and train their own instructors, ensuring their ability to meet training obligations for both adult volunteers and youth members in the following areas:

- Lifeguarding;
- First aid, CPR and AED training;
- Emergency Response;
- CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer;
- Wilderness First Aid;
- Bloodborne Pathogens Training: Preventing Disease Transmission; and
- Babysitter’s Training.

National headquarters has been utilizing the national account network and working with health and safety state lead units and state service councils to coordinate the administration of the Boy Scouts of America Agreement. American Red Cross chapters have been identified to work with each of the Boy Scout Councils and serve as administrative chapters of this agreement. [Click here](#) to view the list of BSA councils and their corresponding Red Cross chapters which will be administrating the agreement. The list is sorted by state and then city of the Red Cross chapter.



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If you have not already enrolled in the National Account Network, your chapter may not fully reap the benefits of the nationwide training agreement and you may lose a valuable opportunity to increase health and safety reach and revenue at your chapter. To join the National Account Network, visit CrossNet at <https://corpweb.redcross.org/hss/nan/>. If you choose not to enroll in the National Account Network, the training of Boy Scout youth and adult volunteers in your jurisdiction may be conducted without notice to you by another chapter.

If you have any questions regarding the implementation of the national agreement or the National Account Network, please contact your health and safety services lead or; Tom Balling at ballingt@usa.redcross.org or (703) 206-6807; or John Hendrickson at hendricksj@usa.redcross.org or (703) 206-7433; or the Chapter Business Development and Sales Support Unit at (703) 206-7688.

How does the Boy Scout Agreement work?

- As part of the agreement, the BSA becomes an authorized provider on a nationwide basis and develops a “train the trainer” program at both the instructor and instructor trainer levels. This will help each of BSA’s councils develop and maintain the capacity to train their own instructors and ensure their ability to meet their training obligations for both adult volunteers and youth members.
- Each of the councils has been matched with a corresponding Red Cross chapter that will manage the local relationship and centralize the administration of the contract for the BSA Council. The administrating chapters will manage the national AP agreement with BSA on behalf of the other chapters in that council area. Boy Scout Council areas vary in size and may include only one or multiple chapters.
- It will be the responsibility of the administrative chapter to work with the council to establish standard procedures for scheduling classes, reserving equipment, obtaining course materials and billing. Once these procedures are established, the administrating chapter will communicate these to the other chapters in the council jurisdiction that are part of the National Account Network (NAN) and in accordance with the NAN Guidelines <https://corpweb.redcross.org/comm/hss/fy03/conn/chs188.htm>. This may be done in the form of an email, fax or letter.
- There are no provisions in the national agreement for conducting and pricing instructor and IT training. The BSA council can work with their administrative chapter or the local servicing chapter to coordinate and establish pricing for instructor training.

Steps Servicing Chapters Should Take to Prepare to Work with the BSA

The following are some steps and suggestions for preparing to work with Boy Scout youth and adult volunteers in your chapter’s jurisdiction:

- 1) **Initial Contact** – Contact the administrative chapter that corresponds to the BSA Council that governs your local area. Advise them of any training your chapter is currently doing with Boy Scout youth and volunteer leaders in your area.
- 2) **Identify Existing Instructors and Instructor Trainers** – Provide information regarding existing instructors and/or instructor trainers who are already associated with BSA to your administrating chapter.
- 3) **Help Recruit New Instructors and Instructor Trainers** – If the council does not have any instructor trainers in your chapter’s jurisdiction, servicing chapters may be asked by the administrative chapters to identify potential candidates and to train these individuals as quickly as possible.

Red Cross Relevance

Red Cross first aid training is specified for leaders and Scouts under various circumstances, including when leading youth on outings and for certain merit badges and other awards. The leaders and Scouts receive their training either from the local Red Cross or from BSA Council staff and volunteers serving as Red Cross instructors for these courses.

Courses that are currently listed in some level of youth or adult leader requirements include:

- First Aid for Children Today (new in Emergency Preparedness Award—see CrossNet at https://corpweb.redcross.org/hss/bsa_emergency_prep_prog.html for more information)
- Basic Aid Training
- Standard First Aid
- Adult CPR
- Sport Safety Training
- Wilderness First Aid Basics (preferred course for trek leadership and some Venturing requirements) <https://corpweb.redcross.org/hss/refcent/wfab.htm>
- When Help is Delayed <https://corpweb.redcross.org/hss/portmng/trnsvnia.htm>
- Emergency Response
- Lifeguard Training
- Instructor Courses (Venture Crew members are encouraged to become Red Cross Instructors to serve the community).

NOTE: Please be aware that both Wilderness First Aid Basic and When Help Is Delayed are available to chapters only through the Transylvania County Chapter, Brevard, NC. Go to the indicated CrossNet hyperlinks for more information. Wilderness First Aid Basics is the BSA preferred program for a number of purposes, especially within Venturing.

BSA is in the process of formally accepting Red Cross Lifeguard Training as meeting BSA core lifeguard training requirements. As proposed, BSA would maintain their own lifeguarding program that accommodates BSA specific needs, with Red Cross lifeguarding, including waterfront lifeguarding, serving as a prerequisite. BSA National Executive leadership has approved this adoption. Logistical elements and implementation have not yet been determined.

Many former Boy Scouts are active as adult “Scouters,” volunteering their time with local councils as well as with local Red Cross chapters. Still others are executives with major corporations who donate to BSA and the Red Cross. BSA has a mission and goals that fit well with those of the Red Cross that provide synergy and help the Red Cross meet its mission-related goals.

Major benefits to the Red Cross from the relationship include:

- Major market for youth and adults taking Red Cross training, producing significant reach and revenue and representing a potential of more than 250,000 people trained in Red Cross courses annually.
- Major current and potential source for instructors to teach Red Cross courses, not only within Scouting, but also to the community at large.
- Significant source of volunteers for the Red Cross, not only in Health and Safety Services, but also in Disaster Services and Biomedical Services.
- Significant potential source of Red Cross career staff – when the character-building, community-service experience within Scouting is combined with an association with Red Cross.
- Potential access through BSA to the nation’s major corporate and government leaders at both a local and national level.
- Meet training requirements for Scouts and Scouters, especially in first aid/CPR and Wilderness First Aid. BSA is now instituting a requirement that Scout leaders have both Red Cross Community First Aid and Safety and When Help Is Delayed or Wilderness First Aid training (> 80,000 within Boy Scouts).
- Increased numbers of youth and adult leaders trained in Red Cross programs as BSA commits to Red Cross health and safety for all their relevant programs.
- Increased revenues from program support fees and course material sales.
- Venturing youth age 17-21 and adult Scouting volunteers are potential volunteer instructors, providing Red Cross training not only within Scouting, but also to the community at large.

Benefits to BSA

- Because Red Cross updates its program materials more frequently, BSA materials will be more current and BSA will save money by not updating and reprinting their own course materials.
- BSA participants will receive both BSA and Red Cross certifications instead of just a BSA certification.

- BSA's own people can teach Red Cross courses, including instructor courses, assisting the local BSA council with needed training capacity development and maintenance.
- Have the ability to enhance the Venturing program by developing Venturers as instructors in vital health and safety skills.

What is the impact on a chapter that already has a relationship with a council for full-service training?

The decision to develop an in-house training program is customer driven. If the council wishes to continue to receive only full service training or in tandem with the national AP agreement, it may do so at the local level. Chapters may also consider offering uniform pricing for community courses while the council is developing its AP capacity. However, by developing the instructor and IT capacity within the council, the council should reach significantly more people with Red Cross training and may produce more bottom line or net revenue to the chapter than it currently receives. *There are no provisions, however, in the national agreement for instructor and IT training. Pricing for instructor courses will be determined at the Red Cross chapter and BSA Council level. Chapters should look at this as an investment in future growth, including collaboration in jointly meeting community needs. Therefore, chapters should strive to keep charges related to development to a minimum.*

What is the impact on a chapter that already has an authorized provider relationship with a council?

The national agreement and its associated fee structure overrides all local agreements. The Boy Scouts have requested this structure on a national level.

What is the potential reach down the road?

Once all BSA councils are on board with their chapters and BSA programs are adjusted, potential reach is to more than 3 million youth and more than 1.2 million adult scouting volunteers.