



SAM HOUSTON AREA COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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To: Sam Houston Area Council Volunteers
Professional Staff Advisors

From: Jim Cooper, Chairman
Council Health & Safety Committee

SUBJECT: Non-prescription (over the counter) medications

The Council's Health and Safety Committee has reviewed the issues regarding the administration of non-prescription medications to youth while camping, whether at one of our council facilities or a typical weekend campout. As explained in the "Guide to Safe Scouting," the responsibility of taking medication is placed on the individual taking the medication or that person's parent or guardian. While the "Guide" is specific in referring to prescription medication, the BSA policy for non-prescription medication is the same.

This policy will require the adult leaders (or medical staff in the case of our day camps, summer, and winter camps) to review the health and medication forms provided by the camper for instructions regarding medications that may be administered to the youth. All medications that have been authorized by a parent/guardian must be listed on the standard Class I/II/III BSA medical form or on the Medication Form. In communications with the national BSA office, they have urged that these standard forms are used, and they strongly discourage attempts at creating new forms, such as a check off list.

If no over-the-counter medications are listed on the medical or medication form, then it will be necessary for the medical personnel or adult leader to attempt to contact the Scout's parent/guardian for permission to administer such medications (Tylenol, Pepto-Bismol, aspirin, etc.). If they are unable to reach a parent/guardian, then the camper will need further medical evaluation by a designated camp physician, medical clinic or hospital facility in order to provide any medications needed.

As a result of this requirement, unit leaders may benefit from additional instruction in helping their Scouts complete their medical forms and to include any non-prescription medications that will be permitted on an as needed basis. Following this procedure will satisfy Texas Department of Health requirements regarding the administration of medications to our Scouts.

Thank you for your support of this process and our endeavor for compliance with current regulations.



United Way