

## **Child Protective Services Law Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **New FAQs 7/14/15**

1. Do Tiger Adult Partners need to have clearances?
  - a. Clearances are not required of Tiger Adult Partners as they are participating in the BSA program as parents. Clearances ARE required for Tiger Den Leaders.
2. Do Venturers who are 18+ need the clearances?
  - a. Clearances are not required for 18-20 year old Venturers or Explorers, as they are not volunteers but program participants (even if these youth are providing leadership to youth under 18 years of age).
3. Do special needs Scouts need to have clearances?
  - a. Clearances are not required for special needs Scouts as they are program participants.
4. Do volunteers need to comply prior to attending Resica Falls or Musser Scout Reservations?
  - a. Volunteers will need to comply in preparation for the 2016 season.
5. How long are clearances valid?
  - a. PSP Criminal History and DHS Child Abuse clearances are valid for 60 months. FBI fingerprints are required once.
6. Do I need to submit original documents of the clearances?
  - a. Organizations are permitted to accept non-original copies of the required documents from volunteers.
7. Do I need clearances to serve on a Board of Review?
  - a. Clearances are not required for community volunteers serving on Boards of Review.
8. Do drivers need clearances?
  - a. If a parent asks another parent (parent to parent) to drive their son or daughter to an event or camp then clearances are not required.
  - b. If however a carpool is organized or drivers are recruited by the unit's leaders, then clearances are required.
9. Do parents helping with fundraisers (Show and Sell and/or store front sales) need clearances?
  - a. If the parent will be or could be responsible for a child other than their own son or daughter then clearances are required.
10. Do adults who stay occasionally at a meeting to help out need clearances?
  - a. Clearances are not required unless their participation becomes a weekly occurrence.
11. Do parents attending meetings or events with the son or daughter need clearances?
  - a. At meetings or events where parents are attending with their sons - clearances are not required of parents as volunteers.
  - b. At meetings or events where every Scout must participate with their parent(s), clearances are not required of parents as volunteers.
  - c. At events where Scouts are participating without their parent(s), clearances are required of parents as volunteers, as they may be acting in lieu of a parent and will have routine interaction and direct contact with youth.

### **Previous FAQs**

1. How does our unit leadership know who has completed the clearances?
  - a. Future – to be integrated into National database and accessible similar to training in Scoutnet and my.Scouting

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- b. Current – district reports will be available to the district leadership and shared with unit leaders. It will be an excel list of who has completed and will need to be compared with the unit roster of adults.
- 2. Do we need to submit clearances for each of our volunteer positions?
  - a. As long as each of your positions is connected to the same membership ID, no.
- 3. Should our unit collect and maintain copies of the clearances?
  - a. No. The council has a central database that will maintain these copies. Your chartered organization may choose to collect copies.
- 4. How do unregistered volunteers submit their clearances?
  - a. Through the online portal just like registered volunteers.
- 5. What offenses can make a volunteer ineligible?
  - a. PA Law – a complete list of offenses is available in the Volunteer Disclosure Statement.
  - b. Boy Scouts of America – the Criminal Background Check performed by our National office looks at different criteria that may affect eligibility. For example – a recent DUI may limit the volunteer from driving youth.
- 6. Who should keep the original clearances?
  - a. The original clearances should be kept by the individual they represent as they can be used for other volunteer organizations. The council will maintain digital copies.
- 7. Are my clearances good for more than just the Boy Scouts of America?
  - a. Yes. They can be used for any volunteer organization in Pennsylvania.
- 8. Our out of state unit is attending camp in Pennsylvania. Do our leaders need clearances?
  - a. No. Out of state units must comply with the laws of their home state. Pennsylvania allows a 30 day exception to the law for out of state guest volunteers.