

Nights Away Update 10.9.26

As a current Nights Away Permit Holder and/or GLV, I am dropping you a line to highlight an important safety issue as well as a heads up on where we are with Nights Away both in district and nationally.

I am sending this to you as a Nights Away Permit Holder or GLV as an update on Nights Away Nationally and locally.

District Nights Away Activity YTD to the end of August 26 - we have held the following

69 separate NA events

A total of 3380 Nights Away for YP

A total of 1350 Nights Away for Adults

Many thanks to all the permit holders and other adults who have given their time to provide these nights away activities for young people in our district.

District Near Miss

At Chamboree, 3rd Macc ran a joint camp with a group from outside the county. I approved the NAN that covered everyone on camp - including the leaders from the other group. What I missed was that under the following section of POR

9a.2.3.5 Notification and approval of a nights away activity

The Leader in charge must make sure that notification (including all the information required in the Nights Away Notification Form (NAN) is submitted to the District or County Lead Volunteer or the relevant Chief Volunteer (or Nights Away Approver in each case), for each group of young people they are responsible for. If the activity involves young people from multiple Districts, the nights away approval process for each District must be followed.

This was picked up prior to the event and a second NAN submitted to the local DLV before Chamboree

Action: Where joint camps are run - please ensure a NAN is raised for submission to each DLV/NAN Approver in each district

National Update on Nights Away

A National Update on Nights Away was issued on 23.7.26 covering the following. Going forward, I will be considering these points when reviewing any RA's that are part of NAN's

Nights away give young people brilliant opportunities to try new experiences, build independence and new friendships. Your role in helping make these experiences safe, inclusive and enjoyable for everyone is always greatly appreciated.

We know many of you have already delivered some brilliant adventures this summer, but wanted to provide everyone with a timely reminder, especially those who are due to go away soon.

Being away from home can sometimes lead young people to test boundaries or behave differently. Overnight activities can also present additional safeguarding and inclusion considerations, so if you're going away this summer, please use the reminders below before you go away either in the UK or abroad. Taking time to plan ahead helps make sure every young person feels safe, respected, included and able to take part.

Please share these points with all adults supporting your event, including any members of your Section Team or helpers.

Have a code of conduct for young people

Set clear expectations with young people and their parents/carers before the event. Agree what good behaviour looks like, how concerns should be raised and what will happen if behaviour is poor or inappropriate.

Remind everyone that Scouts should be a place where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. Bullying, harassment and discriminatory language is never acceptable and should be challenged and dealt with promptly.

Discuss sleeping arrangements and personal privacy

Make sure young people, parents/carers and adults helping understand the sleeping arrangements before you go. People may have different needs or preferences, so it's important to plan. Discuss arrangements early, involve those affected where appropriate, and avoid making assumptions about what someone will need.

Our [trans and gender identity guidance](#) has also recently been updated with some practical advice to make sure all members feel safe and included on nights away activities where individual arrangements are needed. It also explains where to go for further advice if you're unsure.

A key message to share with all young people is to respect each other's private space and bodies. Nudity and inappropriate touching are not acceptable. For younger sections, [NSPCC PANTS resources](#) may help with age-appropriate conversations about privacy and boundaries. For older sections, [NSPCC advice on healthy relationships](#) may be useful.

Plan for young people and adults with additional or support needs

Everyone's needs are different, avoid making assumptions about the support someone may need. Where appropriate, speak with the young person, adult, parent or carer to understand any existing support plans or agree what support they'll need so that reasonable adjustments and support can be planned together.

Make sure adults know what is expected of them

*All adults staying overnight **must** have the required criminal record check in place. Adults attending during the day must also follow the Yellow Card and know what to do if they have a concern.*

Hold a safeguarding briefing with all adults

Before young people arrive, brief everyone attending in an adult volunteer/helper role. Cover safeguarding procedures, event-specific risks, supervision arrangements, reporting routes and expectations. This could form part of a wider safety briefing.

Discuss mobile phones

If young people can bring mobile phones, agree clear expectations for safe and appropriate use. Include this in your code of conduct and share the arrangements with young people, parents/carers and adults.

Support young people's wellbeing

Help every young person feel like they belong. Involve young people, parents/carers in planning, where appropriate. Simple arrangements, such as buddy systems or agreeing what young people should do if they feel worried or unsafe can help them feel more confident.

Communication with parents/carers

Work in partnership with parents/carers before the event, including sleeping arrangements, InTouch arrangements, expected behaviour from young people, mobile phone arrangements and who they should speak to if they have questions or concerns. A meeting before the event can be a helpful way to cover key points and give reassurance.

It may also be helpful to remind parents/carers of the Yellow Card and our safeguarding procedures. Where necessary, information may need to be shared with children's social care, the police or other statutory agencies to help keep a young person safe.

Being clear about expectations before the event can also help parents/carers talk confidently with their children about nights away, including respecting privacy, personal boundaries and what to do if they feel worried or unsafe.

Report any safeguarding concerns

The Yellow Card applies wherever in the world you take UK Scouts. If a safeguarding concern arises, report it promptly to the event leadership team and the UK Scouts Safeguarding Team. Reports to the UK Scouts Safeguarding Team must always be made within 24 hours.

If a young person is at immediate risk of significant harm, call 999, or the local emergency services if overseas, and ask for the police. Then contact the UK Scouts Safeguarding Team to let them know what action has been taken.

For more detailed advice, please see our [nights away and safeguarding guidance page](#), or [contact the Support Centre](#) if you need further support.

Thank you once again for everything you do to provide safe, inclusive and enjoyable nights away for young people.

As ever, if you have any questions or are looking for further support, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Nights Away Team



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