

# Council Supplemental Risk Advisory Template

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This template is offered as a guide for developing a supplemental risk advisory tailored to your camp and/or high-adventure experience. Used properly, this template will prepare participants for a fantastic, life-changing experience. Instruct participants to share the risk advisory with their health-care providers during pre-participation physicals. To facilitate this, include the risk advisory in your camp leaders guides.

The council health supervisor should lead the development of your advisory, with input from camp directors, camp health officers, program specialists, and your council enterprise risk committee. We find it is best to limit the length of the supplemental risk advisory to a single page (one side or front and back) so as not to overwhelm medical providers.

**Contact information—Provide a phone number and website where a participant or medical professional can get more information or ask a question. For example, whom would a medical care provider call with concerns about a patient’s risk factors?**

## General Information

Provide basic information for all of your council’s camp or high-adventure programs, including activities that may place participants in some physical stress (altitude, humidity, walking distances, temperature extremes, insects, etc.).

Some information specific to your location to consider.

- **Climate**—List seasonal variations, average humidity, heat indexes, wind chill, severe weather, extreme temperature swings, etc.
- **Terrain**—Include elevation changes, average amount of area covered per day, indigenous plants or animals including those that may pose dangers, etc.
- **Activities**—List activities that participants may choose. Include a brief description if needed. This list will help the participant and medical professional understand the program and help them determine and discuss any restrictions that may be required.
- **Preparation**—Include specific physical requirements, such as carrying weight of equipment, amount of hiking per day, amount of weight allowed in backpack, etc. List specific types of equipment and clothing, if required. For example, Northern Tier requires everyone to wear a life jacket while on the water. Any required or recommended training for leaders and youth should also be stated, such as basic and wilderness first aid, CPR, Safety Afloat, etc.
- **Location**—Include information about the location of the camp and the distance to and availability of medical care (EMS, hospitals, etc.). Scouts participating in remote regions—long distances from EMS or hospital care—may be at greater risk.
- **Medical conditions**—List and provide a brief explanation of any medical issue, condition, or illness that may cause concern while participating in your council’s high-adventure or camping program in order to help both the participant and the medical provider determine the ability to attend. Also, a general statement may be necessary regarding medical care in a remote setting. Some examples of medical concerns include (this is not a complete list):
  - Cardiovascular disease
  - Stroke
  - Hypertension
  - Diabetes mellitus
  - Asthma
  - Obesity
  - Seizures
  - Allergies or anaphylaxis
  - Musculoskeletal injuries or surgery
  - Psychological or emotional difficulties
  - Need for medical equipment (CPAP, nebulizers)

**Medication**—Consider including procedures for administration of prescription and nonprescription medication so participants are prepared for activities. Keep in mind standards, policies, and laws for your location and state.

**Immunizations**—Include information to help participants prepare for their adventures and protect themselves and others. Consider including any state or local immunization requirements that may differ from BSA requirements.

**Limitations**—List any other limitations for your camp that are necessary. Examples include weight limits (minimum or maximum), absence of accommodations for physically challenged participants, inability to assist with dietary requirements, etc., that are specific to your program or location.

**Medical Approval Process**—If you require participants to receive on-site medical approval prior to beginning activities, you may wish to state that information on your risk advisory. At a minimum, your statement should include the National Camp Standards' basic screening requirements.

## Summary

Developing a council supplemental risk advisory will educate your participants and their health-care providers. It will help participants be better prepared to attend your high-adventure camp and engage in activities.

The four BSA high-adventure bases have developed supplemental risk advisories for their programs, and their forms can serve as examples as you develop your own. They can be downloaded at [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/).