

# **How Scouts Canada Scout Groups Can Cross the Canada-USA Border and Satisfy Scouts Canada and Scouting America (formerly BSA) Requirements to Spend a Weekend at a Michigan Crossroads Council (MCC) Camporee or in a Campsite or a Cabin at an MCC Camp**

July 15, 2024, revision - Prepared by Michigan Crossroads Council International Committee

The Michigan Crossroads Council Scouting America, which serves Michigan's lower peninsula, encourages contingents from Scouts Canada Scout Troops and Venturer Scout Companies to spend a weekend at an MCC camporee or in a campsite or a cabin at an MCC Camp.

First visit <https://michiganscouting.org/camping/canadian-scouts/> to explore the different weekend opportunities that are available in the Michigan Crossroads Council. Once your Scout Group has made your decision, use this document to learn how to cross the Canada-USA border and satisfy Scouts Canada and Scouting America requirements for your trip.

## **1. CROSSING THE CANADA - USA BORDER**

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative is an agreement between the Canadian government and the United States government that established rules for crossing the border between the two countries by land or sea. The U.S. Government's Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative webpage at <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/western-hemisphere-travel-initiative> has two important answers to the question

### **“What types of documents are accepted for entry into the United States via land and sea?”**

The answer below can be used by members of a Scouts Canada contingent who are under the age of 19 and are Canadian citizens because they were born in Canada

“U.S. and Canadian citizen children under the age of 16 (or under 19, if traveling with a school, religious group, or other youth group) need only present a birth certificate or other proof of citizenship. The birth certificate can be original, photocopy, or certified copy.” (A Scout contingent qualifies as an “other youth group.”)

The answer below can be used by all other members of a Scouts Canada contingent

“Canadian citizens can present a valid passport, Enhanced Driver's License, or Trusted Traveler Program card (NEXUS, SENTRI or FAST)”

Each contingent member's documentation, including the SCOUTS CANADA PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM for each youth participant which is explained on page 2, should be in the vehicle they are riding in when crossing the border. Anyone planning to use their birth certificate as a substitute for a passport should bring a photo ID with them so they can show that they are the person named on the birth certificate. All the border crossing documents should be locked in one of your vehicles any time on your trip that the vehicles are parked. The same border-crossing procedure is followed when returning to Canada.

## **2. SATISFYING SCOUTS CANADA RULES FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL.**

The form a Scouts Canada Scout Group must complete and have approved for International Travel that is “up to 3 nights” and up to 500 kilometers (311 miles) from home is the ADVENTURE APPLICATION FORM at [https://scoutsca.s3.amazonaws.com/2023/02/adventure-application-form\\_.pdf](https://scoutsca.s3.amazonaws.com/2023/02/adventure-application-form_.pdf) This is the form that Scouts Canada Scout Groups must complete and have approved to participate in an MCC camporee or spend a weekend at an MCC camp. It satisfies Scouts Canada requirements and a BSA requirement.

The instructions at the top of the form are: "This application is to be approved by your Group Commissioner on behalf of any Section planning to undertake any Camping, International Travel or Outdoor Activity. Upon approval, a signed copy is submitted via email to your [aaf-archives@scouts.ca](mailto:aaf-archives@scouts.ca) with: route, timetable, destination, list of participants, description of the adventure, map and directions. More information on the Adventure Standards is available at: [Scouts.ca/bpp/policy-29/](http://Scouts.ca/bpp/policy-29/)"

The **International Travel Approval** section of the form is inside the red rectangle on the right side of the form. It states:

For all trips < 3 nights and <500 km from home. (For any trips over 3 nights and 500 km please refer to International Travel Standard.)

The International Travel Approval should have the following documents attached to it for approval by your Group Commissioner:

- Proof of travel medical insurance
- Passports, birth certificates or Canadian Citizenship Cards (as appropriate)
- Summary of the planned trip
- Complete travel itinerary (flights, trains, busses, ferries and cars)
- Risk Management plan

The main body of the form begins with spaces for Group, Council, and Adventure Date(s).

The next line has spaces for the numbers of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers, and Non-members who will be participating in the trip. For Scout Groups planning to spend one or more nights at an MCC camporee or camp, the numbers of Beavers, Cubs, and Non-members must be zero.

Next on the form are spaces for the Names and Scouts Canada Membership numbers of "Scouters attending" with the option to "attach list if necessary." For a camporee, the list of "Scouters attending" should include Scouters and Rovers who are serving on the camporee staff.

Next on the form are spaces for Names of "Parent/Volunteer helpers attending" with the statement "Every Parent/Volunteer helper attending has signed the Code of Conduct and completed the Safe from Harm training. Police Record Check completed if applicable." Scouting America requires that anyone 18 or older "must be registered with their NSO to participate in any overnight activity," so there can be no names in this section.

Near the bottom of the first page of the form is a place to check "Scouts Canada's Parent/Guardian Consent Form is in hand for each youth attending (for Category 3 activities)" with a link to the SCOUTS CANADA PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM at <https://scoutsca.s3.amazonaws.com/2019/01/parent-guardian-consent-form.pdf> The consent form includes a FOR OUT-OF-COUNTRY TRAVEL section on the second page. This is an important document to have in case of illness or injury and when crossing the U.S.-Canada border.

The second page of the form contains a space for the signature of the **Scouter in Charge** and a space for Group Commissioner Approval with spaces to check "All participants are active members," "All appropriate boxes are checked off," and Two-Scouter Rule respected."

The third page of the form has space to list youth attending with names and their membership numbers.

### 3. Satisfying Scouting America (Formerly BSA) Requirements

a. All youth and adults from other countries participating in Scouting America events must be members of a World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) - affiliated National Scout Organization (NSO). Scouts Canada is a WOSM-affiliated NSO. This requirement is often satisfied by an "International Letter of Introduction." To satisfy this requirement for a weekend event, the MCC will accept a printed or digital copy of your approved ADVENTURE APPLICATION FORM at check-in.

b. Scouting America confirmed in May 2023 "The BSA will continue to require that any international member, 18 and older, attending any activity with a council, district or unit show proof of current BSA Youth Protection Training. The FAQ after that statement included "The BSA Training is not restricted to BSA members. Anyone can take the training and print a certificate of completion. Training link here:

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/> " Scouting America Youth Protection Training is free and takes about 2 hours to complete. The certificate of completion is valid for 2 years. To satisfy this requirement, a Scouts Canada contingent must show at check-in a printed or digital copy of a current BSA Youth Protection Certificate for every contingent member 18 or older.

c. Scouting America requires that everyone participating in a Scouting America activity have the appropriate completed Annual Health and Medical Record Form.

For youth and adult members of a Scouts Canada contingent spending a weekend at a Michigan Crossroads Council camporee or in a campsite or a cabin at a Michigan Crossroads Council camp, the appropriate Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record Form is the 3 page form at

[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001\\_AB.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf) All 3 pages should be completed and stapled together for each member of the Scouts Canada contingent.

There is a section of Part B1 that asks for

Health/Accident Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a photocopy of both sides of the insurance card.

If you do not have medical insurance, enter "none" above.

To complete this section, use information from the "Proof of travel medical insurance" that has been attached to your International Travel Approval and add an explanation of how to use this insurance in the USA.

One of your contingent leaders will keep the contingent's Health and Medical Record Forms with them during the trip.

If you have any questions, send an email to [international@michiganscouting.org](mailto:international@michiganscouting.org)

#### Additional Resources

MCC International Scouting home page - <https://michiganscouting.org/international-scouting/>

MCC International Scouting Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/MCCInternationalScouting>

MCC Welcome Scouts Canada - <https://michiganscouting.org/camping/canadian-scouts/>