



## **Safety and Hazards**

The safety of trip participants is obviously a high priority on all Troop 8 trips. It is for this reason that the trip leaders and adults often insist on pre-trip preparation, consistent equipment outfitting, and demonstrated skill before allowing a scout or adult to participate in some program activities.

Youth and adult leaders are trained in first aid, and have years of experience in wilderness travel with young people. We carry medical kits appropriate to the activity. Troop 8 stays abreast of current practices in wilderness education safety, and we strive to develop in each boy the judgment and skill to be a competent and safe outdoorsman and group member.

Because boys learn through measured doses of independence and experience, on many trips there will be periods of time when boys in small groups or in patrols led by senior youth will travel and engage in activities independent of direct adult supervision.

Despite the best preparation, outdoor activity involves hazards that cannot be entirely controlled or eliminated. Automobile transportation, weather, and environmental hazards can pose a risk even to the most experienced outdoor leader. Activities ranging from simple day hikes to water sports can, due to individual errors judgment or the unpredictable forces of nature, become dangerous and potentially life-threatening. Troop 8 outdoor activities often take place in isolated locations. The remoteness of the areas in which we travel can create complex emergency situations that have no simple solutions. It is not uncommon to be many hours from medical help.

It is important you understand that there are risks. Some less reputable adventure programs may say that they can guarantee your son's safety. Troop 8 does not. The risk of injury, even serious injury or death, is unavoidable in the outdoor environment in which we teach and in the transportation we use to get there. By allowing your son to participate in troop activities, you acknowledge that you are cognizant of and willing to accept these risks in exchange for the opportunities and benefits of participation.