

# Safety Tips



It starts with Scouts.

April 2015

## Footwear and not Sockwear

This Scouting year, a number of youth members not wearing indoor footwear have been hurt during Scouting activities. Of particular concern is youth engaging in activities at meeting halls wearing only socks.

Some youth members have hit their heads because of slips occurring in sock feet; we've also seen a fractured wrist and concussion — which is also known as a mild traumatic brain injury.

Winter and early spring is a time youth often come to Scouting events wearing winter boots. This means they should always be prepared with appropriate indoor footwear. Be sure to

check with your meeting hall around appropriate footwear, as some gyms/halls only allow white soled sneakers, for example.

Make sure that parents and youth are aware that proper foot wear is required! Shoes are part of the right safety equipment — just like a helmet and pads when playing hockey.

Have a Scouter greet youth members when they enter the meeting hall. If they do not have proper footwear, suggest parents go home and retrieve some. If this is not possible, have the youth dry their boots/footwear and carefully engage in the activity. Sock feet provide opportunities for slips and falls and bare feet can provide opportunities for foot injuries.

Scouters tip for success — when youth are changing into indoor footwear, make sure laces are tied!

