



## Safety Tips



<http://www.scouts.ca/ca/safety-tips>

**Section:** Any

**Safety Requirements:**

Dependent on location, time of year and local requirements

**Participants:** Any

**Location:** Any

**Time Scheduled:** 5-10 minutes, any time – best before an activity when the youth are concentrating

**Topic:** Make specific to the location, adventure, time of year or recent incident

### What is a Toolbox Talk?

Taking “Five Minutes” at the beginning of an adventure activity provides one of the most effective opportunities for planting a character-building thought in the young Scout’s mind and memory.

# Safety on your Adventure

**STEP 0:** Split the group into patrols such that it increases the probability of all youth having the ability to participate, increases efficiency and further reinforces team learning and partnership with a dedicated mentor (assigned Scouter)

**STEP 1:** Lighthearted **warm-up**. Perhaps ask someone to share a joke or a fun thing that’s happened recently.

**STEP 2:** Review the **activity**: Hike, canoeing, snowshoe, park clean-up, swimming. Ask: *“What activity have we got planned for today (this morning / evening etc...)?”*

**STEP 3:** Discuss the **specific risks** involved with the activity planned. Ask: *“What risks are involved?”*

**STEP 4:** Discuss **specific actions / tasks or roles / responsibilities** required for the activity e.g. lead hiker, first-aider, lifeguard, sweeper, emergency lead etc. Ask: *“What are the key tasks involved?”*  
*“What steps / actions are we going to take?”*  
*Are there specific roles required?*

**STEP 5:** Discuss **specific skills** if appropriate for the activity e.g. cross-country skiing, winter hiking, climbing, etc. Ask: *“Have we got the skills – who does – how are we going to leverage them?”*

**STEP 6:** Review the **Emergency Response Plan (ERP)**. Location of first aiders / kits, satellite phone, ambulance, emergency numbers. ASK: *“What do we do if something goes wrong (go over the ERP if required)”*  
*“Who do we call if there’s an emergency?”*  
*“What do we do if the other patrol is in trouble.”*

**STEP 7:** Ask the youth / Scouters to share **previous experiences**. Ask: *“Anybody got an experience where they’ve been hurt or nearly hurt doing an activity like this before? What did you learn?”*

**STEP 8:** Close with **final remarks** and questions. Ask: *“Anyone have questions, or final remarks?”*

**STEP 9: Conduct the activity.**

