

Policy for Compliance with PA Background Checks
As Required by PA Act 153 of 2014 and Amended by PA Act 15 of 2015
For Volunteers
As of July 30, 2015

Criteria to consider

The clearances required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania apply to adults (18 years of age or older) who apply for an unpaid position as a volunteer with responsibilities including:

- Acting in lieu of or on behalf of a parent
- Providing care, supervision, guidance or control of children with regular and repeated contact with children that is integral to their volunteer responsibilities

Timeline for compliance

All current volunteers, those who meet any of the above criteria prior to August 25, 2015, have until July 1, 2016 to complete and submit the required clearances.

All new volunteers, those who meet any of the above criteria starting August 25, 2015, must complete and submit the required clearances prior to commencing their responsibilities.

Required Clearances

All volunteers who meet any of the above criteria must apply for and submit the following:

- Report of criminal history from the Pennsylvania State Police
- Child Abuse History Clearance from the Department of Human Services
Each of these clearances must be renewed every five years.
- A fingerprint based federal criminal history (FBI) submitted through the Pennsylvania State Police or its authorized agent if the volunteer has lived outside the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the last 10 years.
This is only required once since establishing/reestablishing residency in Pennsylvania

Volunteers who are not required to obtain the FBI Clearance because they have been a continuous resident of Pennsylvania for the past 10 years must sign and submit *CCCBSA Disclosure Form for Volunteers* affirming that they are not disqualified from service based upon a conviction of an offense under §6344.

Pennsylvania Units

All registered direct contact leaders (Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Venture Crew Advisor, Explorer Post Advisor, Skipper & Mate, Tiger Den Leader, Den Leader, Webelos Leader and the Assistants to each of these positions) and anyone fulfilling any of those responsibilities must complete and submit the required clearances.

Other adults, both registered and not registered who meet any of the criteria on page 1 must also complete and submit the required clearances.

Registered leaders who do not meet any of the criteria on page 1 must submit a *Waiver of State Mandated Background Checks* and a *Disclosure Statement for Volunteers not subject to PA Mandated Background Checks*

Out-of-State Units

The 30-Day Provisional period allows out of state volunteers to serve in Pennsylvania for no more than 30 days in a calendar year. This allows for multiple weekend camping trips as well as summer camp as long as they do not total more than 30 days.

Leaders in our Maryland units will need to submit the *Waiver-Maryland Volunteers* as well as the *Disclosure Statement for Volunteers not subject to PA Mandated Background Checks*

Merit Badge Counselors

All Merit Badge Counselors meet the criteria on page 1 of “supervision and control of children” and therefore must complete and submit the required background checks

Council and District Level Volunteers

The same criteria on page 1 apply to council and district level volunteers. Those staffing activities, training courses, camping programs, and service projects where youth are involved must complete and submit the required clearances.

Other council and district volunteers who meet any of the criteria on page 1 must also complete and submit the required clearances.

Council and district volunteers who do not meet any of the criteria on page 1 must submit a *Waiver of PA Mandated Background Checks* and a *Disclosure Statement for Volunteers not subject to PA Mandated Background Checks*

Final Notes

Tiger parents, unless they are the Tiger Den Leader or have accepted another leadership role in the pack, have not “applied for an unpaid position as a volunteer” and are therefore not required to obtain the Background Checks

Venturers from 18 to 20 years of age are program participants. While they are adults, they have not applied for an unpaid position as a volunteer. They are therefore not required to obtain the background checks.

Scouts with special needs who are 18 years of age or older are program participants and have not “applied for an unpaid position as a volunteer” and are therefore are not required to obtain the Background Checks

At least one member of each Board of Review must also complete and submit the required clearances.

Volunteer clearances can be used for multiple volunteer positions in multiple organizations. They cannot be use for employment

The law applies to volunteer positions, not BSA registrations. A non-registered adult who meets any of the criteria above must also complete and submit the required clearances.

Chartered Organizations and individual units are allowed to add requirements to those set by the council.