

Messenger of Safety

Requirements & Frequently Asked Questions

Revised September 2026

About Messenger of Safety

Messenger of Safety (MoS) is a Middle Tennessee Council award for registered adult leaders. It started as a council effort to build a stronger safety culture — making incident reporting less intimidating, easier to do, and something every leader feels comfortable with. Earning the patch and knot recognizes leaders who help carry that message to their unit, district, or the council as a whole.

Requirements to Earn the Patch



☐ **Complete Incident Reporting Training** (1 hour)

What is it?

Incident Reporting Training teaches leaders the five-step incident reporting process, the three categories of reportable incidents (Near Miss, General Liability, and Membership Infraction), when incidents should be reported, and the tools available to submit reports and support follow-up actions.

How do I do it?

Sessions are offered virtually several times throughout the year. Contact Cody Christensen at cody.christensen@scouting.org to schedule one.

☐ **Complete the Program Safety Learning Plan** (3 hours)

What is it?

Program Safety is a collection of six (6) online courses introducing safety principles and operational requirements for aquatics, boating, climbing, weather, driving, and range and target activities.

How do I do it?

Log in at training.scouting.org and search the catalog for “Program Safety.”

☐ **Complete the Scouting Safely v2 Course** (30 minutes)

What is it?

This course identifies key resources in Scouting Safely, including insurance coverage, incidents that need to be reported, and resources to manage risks and hazards during Scouting activities.

How do I do it?

Log in at training.scouting.org and search the catalog for “Scouting Safely.”

☐ **Lead a Safety Moment at a Unit Event** (15 minutes)

What is it?

A Safety Moment is a short, focused talk that prepares a group for an upcoming activity, reinforces safety measures, or reviews how to report an incident correctly — topics range from medication safety to weather awareness. At the patch level, deliver one to your own unit.

How do I do it?

Choose a topic from the national Safety Moments library at scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments and lead it at a unit event. (Note the date, location, and description of the event when submitting the completion form online.)

☐ **Become a Merit Badge Counselor of a Safety Merit Badge** (15 minutes)**What is it?**

Be approved as a counselor for one (1) of these badges: Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety, First Aid, Lifesaving, Safety, or Traffic Safety. (You are not required to actually teach the badge.)

How do I do it?

Follow the Council's Merit Badge Counselor process at mtcscouting.org/meritbadgescounselor. (Note which of the listed badges you're approved for when submitting the completion form online.)

☐ **Recruit a Person to Become a Messenger of Safety** (15 minutes)**How do I do it?**

Ask a registered adult leader to commit to becoming a MoS. (Submit their name when submitting the completion form online. Note: the recruit is not required to earn the patch.)

Requirements to Earn the Knot

☐ **Earn the Messenger of Safety Patch**☐ **Facilitate Incident Reporting Training** (2 hours)**How do I do it?**

First complete Incident Reporting Training yourself. Then contact Cody Christensen at cody.christensen@scouting.org to schedule a session you'll facilitate for others. Cody will provide the full facilitation kit — slide deck, facilitator's guide, participant handouts, and an evaluation form — so you're ready to lead the session.

☐ **Complete Short-Term Camp Administrator (STCA) Training** (8 hours; \$75)**What is it?**

This National Camping School certification prepares you to serve as a Short-Term Camp Administrator and help ensure a short-term camp (1-3 nights) complies with applicable NCAP standards. Certification lasts two years and costs \$75 the first time, or \$65 to renew.

How do I do it?

Register for a National Camping School STCA course (see the current schedule at scouting.org/outdoor-programs/camping/short-term-camp), or contact Tate Myers, the Council's NCAP Coordinator, at tate.myers@gmail.com, or Alex Covert at acovertscouting@gmail.com, about locally hosted options.

☐ **Assess Two (2) or More Camps/Events/Activities** (2 hours each; 4 hours total, plus drive time)**What is it?**

Participate in the assessment of two (2) or more Scouting camps, events, or activities by applying the principles learned in Short-Term Camp Administrator (STCA) training. Assessments help determine whether an event is prepared to operate safely and in compliance with applicable NCAP standards by reviewing site suitability, required approvals and documentation, health and sanitation provisions, program safety, and overall operational readiness.

How do I do it?

Contact Tate Myers, the Council's NCAP Coordinator, at tate.myers@gmail.com, or Alex Covert at acovertscouting@gmail.com. (Note the dates, locations, and description of the events when submitting the completion form online.)

☐ **Lead a Safety Review for Three (3) Unit or District Events** (1 hour each; 3 hours total)**What is it?**

Serve as a safety advocate by helping event leaders review their plans before an event using Scouting America's SAFE checklist (Supervision, Assessment, Fitness and Skill, and Equipment and Environment). The review helps ensure safety considerations are incorporated into the planning of the activity. This differs from an NCAP assessment, which measures compliance with established standards. A safety review focuses on helping leaders plan a safe event.

How do I do it?

Contact a unit leader, district committee member, or event coordinator before a unit campout, trek, long-term camp, camporee, training event, or other Scouting activity and walk through the SAFE checklist with them. (Note the date, event name, location, and your role when submitting the completion form online.)

☐ **Lead a Safety Moment at a District or Council Event** (15 minutes)**What is it?**

The same Safety Moment concept as the patch requirement, delivered at a district or council event instead of a unit event — putting your safety voice in front of a wider audience of leaders.

How do I do it?

Choose a topic from the national Safety Moments library at scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments and lead it at a district or council event. (Note the date, location, and description of the event when submitting the completion form online.)

☐ **Recruit Two Additional Persons to Become Messengers of Safety** (30 minutes)**How do I do it?**

Ask registered adult leaders to commit to becoming MoS. (Submit their names when submitting the completion form online. Note: the recruits are not required to earn the patch.)

☐ **Be Certified in One (1) of the Following Trainings**

- CPR & AED (approximately 3 hours; cost varies by provider)
- Wilderness First Aid (approximately 16 hours; \$100; see MTC course schedule)
- Stop the Bleed (approximately 1 hour; cost varies by provider)

How do I do it?

Check online for courses and register. (Submit your current certification when submitting the completion form online.)

Complete Two (2) of the Following:☐ **Teach a Safety-Related Scout Merit Badge or a Cub Adventure to Two (2) or More Scouts** (3 hours)**What is it?**

As a registered counselor, teach a safety-related merit badge (see list under Patch requirements) or a safety-related Cub Scout Adventure to two (2) or more Scouts. (The Scouts do not have to complete the requirements.)

How do I do it?

Contact units or your district's volunteer leadership to schedule a meeting with Scouts. (Submit the Scouts' unit number(s) when submitting the completion form online.)

☐ **Staff a Booth or Give a Presentation Promoting Safety at a District/Council or Community Event** (1-3 hours)**How do I do it?**

Contact your district's volunteer leadership or District Executive to find an opportunity. (Note the date, location, and description of the event when submitting the completion form online.)

☐ **Submit an Article or Video Promoting Safety to a Unit, District, Council, School, or Community Social Media Page** (1-3 hours)

Create the content, then submit it to a unit, district leadership, council staff, or social media platform. (It is not required that the article or video be posted, only that it be offered. Include a copy when submitting the completion form online.)

General Q&A

Program Basics

When did MoS start?

MoS was developed in the fall of 2024, introduced that November, and officially launched on January 1, 2025.

Is MoS an official council award?

Yes. Middle Tennessee Council coordinated with the National office, which is aware of MoS and gave the council the okay to offer it as a local award, including the patch and knot emblem. It's not part of the national adult recognition knot system — the family of knots any council can award — it's specific to MTC.

Can Scouts become a MoS?

No. MoS is only for registered adult leaders, not youth.

Can Scouters outside the Council become a MoS?

Yes — Scouters registered with other councils can earn both the patch and knot. Since MoS is an MTC-specific award and not part of the national adult recognition knot system, check with your home council before wearing it on your uniform.

Earning & Wearing the Recognition

How do I inform MTC I have completed the patch or knot requirements?

Once you've completed the requirements, submit them through the online form on the MoS webpage.

Where do I wear the patch?

Wear it on the right chest, above the pocket — opposite the Universal Scout patch.

How do I get the patches?

Patches are available for pickup at the MTC office.

Can I buy additional patches and knots?

Yes. Once you've earned the patch or knot, additional ones are available for \$5 each.

Program Design

Why is the patch and knot mostly yellow and black?

As prominent "safety" colors, yellow and black are a reminder of the wearer's commitment to a culture of safety.

What do the black-on-black letters on the patch mean?

MTC is Middle Tennessee Council and SA is Scouting America. MTC and SA are "ghosted," meaning the thread color of the letters matches the background.

Is there a device for the knot?

No, but please submit requirement suggestions to Cody Christensen at cody.christensen@scouting.org.

Questions & Feedback

Where do I submit questions or suggestions regarding the MoS program?

Contact Cody Christensen at cody.christensen@scouting.org.