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# The Boy Scouts of America Updated Youth Protection Training Overview

2018

“The Boy Scouts of America cannot and will not sit idle  
in the war against child abusers.”



Mike Surbaugh *Chief Scout Executive*

# Updated Youth Protection



The BSA is introducing the next generation of youth protection for our organization. It represents an evolution in our approach and is more than just new training modules.

# The BSA's Commitment to Youth Protection



Youth protection is our primary responsibility. It requires sustained vigilance from staff, volunteers and youth members.

We work every day to protect children through mandatory youth protection policies and procedures at every level of our organization.

Our youth protection measures include extensive background checks and required youth protection training for our adult leaders.

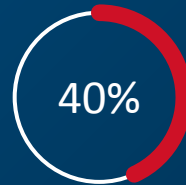
# Achieving the Mission in a Challenging Environment



1 out of 4 girls and 1 out of 6 boys will experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18



of sexual abuse is committed by family members or others known to the child and parents



Of children have been victims of two or more forms of violence

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for young people between 10 and 24

# Best Practices in Youth Protection



As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we constantly evaluate and reinvest resources where needed to strengthen our policies.

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We regularly consult with survivors, experts from law enforcement, child safety, psychology, and other relevant fields.

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Experts have determined our youth protection policies are ahead of or in line with society's knowledge of abuse and best practices for prevention.

# Youth Protection Standards



We strive to prevent child abuse through comprehensive policies and procedures including:

Ongoing youth protection education for all volunteers, parents, and youth members

A formal selection and screening process for adult leaders and staff that includes criminal background and other checks

Requiring two or more adult leaders be present with youth at all times during Scouting activities

A Volunteer Screening Database system to prevent the registration of individuals who do not meet the BSA's standards due to known or suspected abuse or misconduct inside or outside the organization

# Youth Protection Policy Updates



Our updated youth protection policies include:

- 1 Any person looking to become a registered leader in Scouting must complete the BSA's youth protection training before registering.
- 2 Youth protection training is mandatory for any volunteer who participates in an outing lasting longer than 72 hours.
- 3 Units may not re-charter unless and until all adult leaders are trained in the BSA's youth protection.



# Updated Youth Protection Training



In February 2018 we are rolling out our updated youth protection training for staff, leaders, and parents. The training will include a three-module course that all leaders will be required to complete.

- BSA's Youth Protection Policies and Procedures
- Sexual Abuse
- Bullying

Additional youth protection modules will become available throughout the year to provide leaders information on recognizing and preventing other types of child abuse.

Training is available online 24/7 at:  
[www.scouting.org/youthprotection](http://www.scouting.org/youthprotection)

# Support for Survivors



Nothing is more important than the safety of our youth members.

Even one instance of child abuse is unacceptable, and we are outraged there have been times when our best efforts to protect youth were not enough and Scouts were abused.

We sincerely apologize to victims and their families, and we are committed to providing ongoing support for them, including counseling.

Support is available to anyone currently or previously involved in Scouting through our dedicated 24-hour Scouts First Helpline and email contact address.

# Who to Contact



## Youth Protection Training and

### Policy Questions

Michael V. Johnson

972-580-2359

michaelv.johnson@scouting.org

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## Report Suspected Inappropriate

### Activity

1-844-SCOUTS1

1-844-726-8871

scouts1st@scouting.org

## Youth Protection Training/

### My Scouting

Call National Member Care

972-580-2489

## Support and

### Counseling

1-844-SCOUTS1

1-844-726-8871

scouts1st@scouting.org

## Media

### Inquiries

PR@Scouting.org

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# Safe Environment: Beyond Youth Protection



Youth protection requires sustained vigilance and is not limited to annual training.

- Additional Youth Protection content is available on ScoutingWire and our social channels, all intended to keep safety top-of-mind for leaders and parents.
- In addition to content, the BSA also recommends that every meeting in Scouting include a 'Safety Moment.' These safety moments may include information, tips, guidelines and best practices for staying safe in Scouting and every day. A full listing of Safety Moments can be found at [www.scouting.org/healthandsafety](http://www.scouting.org/healthandsafety)

# Take the Lead in Your Community



Beyond completing the required, updated youth protection training:

- Become a subject matter expert: Attend a Youth Protection webinar.
- Become an advocate for youth protection training in your service area.
- Ensure every volunteer in your area of responsibility is trained.
- Implement 'Safety Moments' at every meeting (unit, district, council, area and region).
- Offer courses on the updated Youth Protection Training at commissioner colleges, University of Scouting and other training events.
- Talk to other organizations and community leaders about the steps Scouting is taking to protect youth.

# Final Thoughts



Keeping our youth safe will require sustained vigilance from each and every one of us. By working together and never letting up, we can continue to serve America's youth in the safest possible way.

**Thank you for your continued support of Scouting**