

YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING

FOR VOLUNTEER LEADERS AND PARENTS



Facilitator's Guide

The Boy Scouts of America deeply appreciates your leadership in facilitating this session of "Youth Protection Training for Volunteer Leaders and Parents." This training is an important part of helping to protect our members from child abuse. This Facilitator's Guide provides step-by-step instructions to help you prepare for and present this training session. We encourage you to review these materials and become thoroughly familiar with them. Most of the training is delivered through the information on the DVD. In addition to the information from the video, you must learn the specific reporting procedures used in your BSA local council and add them to the handout materials for the participants in your training sessions.

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Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Make arrangements for a meeting place, and schedule the training.
2. Promote the training in your council newsletter, in announcements at roundtables, or by personal contact. There is a sample flier that can be duplicated and passed out at roundtables or other Scouting gatherings.
3. Obtain the following training materials from your council or district:
“Youth Protection Training for Volunteer Leaders and Parents” DVD (Be sure to obtain the current version.)

Facilitator’s Guide, www.scouting.org/training/youthprotection.aspx

The Youth Protection Quiz, which can be downloaded and printed from

[www.http://scouting.org/training/youthprotection.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/training/youthprotection.aspx) or duplicated from this handout

Copies of the promotional flier

Your council’s child abuse reporting procedures and contact information

4. Review the materials carefully and view the video.
5. Duplicate the handout materials, one set for each participant.
6. Review the local council’s child abuse reporting procedures and become very familiar with them. The reporting procedures should be available through your council website in the Youth Protection Online Training segment of the site.
7. Conduct the training session.
8. Follow your council’s procedures for recording attendance and reporting training participation.

Introduction to Training

Welcome to this session of “Youth Protection Training for Volunteer Leaders and Parents.” This training is an important component of the Boy Scouts of America’s strategy to protect youth from sexual abuse and other forms of mistreatment. Child abuse is a serious problem in American society. There are more than 3 million reported cases of child abuse each year, including a half-million reported cases of child sexual abuse. As the nation’s largest youth-serving organization, the Boy Scouts of America has a significant opportunity to impact this societal problem. Our first priority is to take steps to protect our members when they are participating in the Scouting program. This education may also make an impact on abuse in the community by increasing the awareness of our leaders, youth members, and their families. This training emphasizes BSA youth protection policies to be used by all Scouting members and units. These policies protect the youth in the program, as well as our adult volunteers. During the video presentation, there will be two discussion periods that require participants to identify and apply the proper policies.

Training Session

The video we are about to view is the result of listening to suggestions made by BSA volunteers. The objectives for this training are to:

Help protect our youth members by rigorous use and enforcement of the Youth Protection Policies.

Inform our leaders of the BSA's Youth Protection Policies.

Maximize the protection of children by promoting prompt reporting of suspected abuse and violations of Youth Protection Policies.

Familiarize key leaders with BSA's Youth Protection resources and their intended use in unit programs.

While viewing the video, there will be two scenarios for discussion. After the video, we will discuss the child abuse reporting procedures. Let's watch the video. *(Start the video, "Youth Protection Training for Volunteer Leaders and Parents.")*

First Scenario

Pause the program when prompted on screen to do so. Restart the video when the discussion of the first scenario finishes.

This scenario depicts an adult leader who appears to be asking a youth to accompany him alone into the woods. Another adult leader points out that one-on-one situations are not allowed. The same adult is seen a few minutes later attempting the same thing with another youth.

Discussion Points

Why are one-on-one situations not allowed in the Scouting program?

Sexual abuse is much more likely to occur when the child is isolated with an offender. Additionally, even if no abuse takes place in such a setting, it increases the acceptance and "comfort" of the youth in being alone with an adult, which could be an attempt by the adult to "groom" the youth. The no one-on-one policy serves to protect our youth and adult members.

What should be done when a volunteer violates the policies after having them explained?

Even if no abuse occurs, leaders and other volunteers in Scouting must obey the rules. When they demonstrate an unwillingness to follow the rules, they must be expelled from the activity and reported to the person in charge of the activity and local Scout executive as soon as possible. The Scout executive will determine any follow-up action—up to and including revocation of membership in the BSA.

Is the strict enforcement of the Youth Protection Policies really necessary?

Yes, in order for youth protection to be meaningful, we must eliminate opportunities for abuse to be perpetrated. The BSA's Youth Protection Policies help limit the opportunities for abuse to occur.

Second Scenario

Pause the program when prompted on screen to do so. Restart the video when the discussion of the second scenario finishes.

In this scenario, we see a young man with a cell phone approaching a latrine. A short time later, the same young man is seen running out of the latrine looking at the view screen on his phone.

What happened?

Clearly the young man used the camera in his cell phone to invade the privacy of others in the latrine. This is a violation of the Youth Protection Policy regarding the use of digital devices in taking photos or videos where privacy is expected, and immediate intervention is called for.

What should the intervention be?

The first step is to confiscate the cell phone. Because of the ease of posting pictures on the Internet, confiscation should take place immediately; however, the pictures should not be deleted from the digital device. Concurrently, the adult leader must attempt to find out if the pictures have already been posted—if so, they should be deleted from the Internet. Deletion is no guarantee that all online copies will be destroyed.

Such an occurrence should be a learning opportunity for the young offender. The unit should also engage the parents of the youths involved. Most times that young people engage in this kind of behavior, they mean it as a harmless prank. Helping them appreciate the pain and embarrassment that such pictures can cause to the subjects of the pictures is part of the lesson to be taught.

Some young people act out of maliciousness or other motivations. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that young people using cell phones, webcams, or other digital imaging devices produce nearly ten percent of the child pornography on the Internet.

What responses can the unit make to this kind of situation?

Depending upon the circumstances, the unit leadership has a range of responses available, from reprimanding the youth all the way to terminating his membership in the unit. This situation should be reported immediately to the person in charge of the activity and the Scout executive as soon as possible.

Reporting Procedures

After viewing the video portion of the training, there should be a discussion of the reporting procedures. The following points should be covered during this portion of the training:

Any suspicion or belief that any child is or has been physically, emotionally or sexually abused, exploited or exposed to any form of violence, threat, pornography or obscene material should be reported to local authorities **and** to the Scouting executive.

The reporting procedures are available through your council website in the Youth Protection Online Training segment of the site and/or from your council office.

The procedures for reporting child abuse during times the service center is closed particularly if they are not the same as during regular business hours.

The name and contact information for the person in the council responsible for receiving reports of child abuse. (It should be either the Scout executive or a professional staff member the Scout executive designates.)

Regardless of whether the child is in the Scouting program, the report should be made to the appropriate authorities.

Violations of youth protection policies must be reported to the council Scout Executive or to the professional staff member designated to receive these reports. This report must be made even if the violations may not constitute abuse.

Concluding the Training

When the video portion of the training has been completed, administer the printed Youth Protection quiz to participants. Review the correct answers with the group using the answer found at the back of this Facilitator's Guide. Address any questions from the participants. Record the names and information of all who attend and participate. Participants who successfully complete the session are certified as Youth Protection-trained.

Youth Protection Training Quiz

Please select the best answers to the following questions. Note that some questions may have more than one correct answer, but one particular answer in those cases is better than the other correct answers.

1. What happens to those who are reported as having violated a BSA Youth Protection policy?
 - A. Local Scout executive takes appropriate action
 - B. No action unless parent complains
 - C. Reviewed by the Scoutmaster
 - D. A or B, depending on the violation

2. Two-deep leadership requires both adults to be 21 years of age or older.
 - A. True
 - B. False

3. Which of the following is true about two-deep leadership?
 - A. One adult must be a registered leader
 - B. At least one registered leader and another adult are required on all Scouting trips and outings.
 - C. One of the leaders must be a parent of a participant
 - D. A and B

4. If parents give permission, the unit may conduct outings without adhering to the two-deep leadership policy.
 - A. True
 - B. False

5. It is okay for an adult leader to take a Scout on a walk alone while at camp?
 - A. True
 - B. False

6. Merit badge counselors are exempt from the no one-on-one policy since they have undergone criminal background checks.
 - A. True
 - B. False

7. Under what circumstances may the respect of privacy policy be suspended?
 - A. When youth are homesick
 - B. If youth ask specifically to speak to you alone
 - C. If the health or safety of a youth is compromised
 - D. All of the above

8. What should you do if you observe a youth taking inappropriate photos that could violate another's privacy?
 - A. Stop the behavior immediately.
 - B. Report the incident to the person in charge of the activity and the local Scout executive as soon as possible.
 - C. Confiscate the device and give it to the person in charge of the activity.
 - D. All of the above.

9. Scouts are permitted to sleep in the Scoutmaster's tent when camping, as long as more than one Scout sleeps in that tent.
 - A. True
 - B. False

10. Skinny-dipping is a violation of the Appropriate Attire policy.
 - A. True
 - B. False

11. The Boy Scouts of America does not allow any secret organizations as part of its program.
 - A. True
 - B. False

12. All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.
 - A. True
 - B. False

13. Corporal punishment is permitted in the Scouting program under extreme circumstances.
 - A. True
 - B. False

14. What BSA Youth Protection policies create barriers against child molesters being able to groom their victims?
 - A. No one-on-one contact
 - B. Two-deep leadership
 - C. Criminal background checks
 - D. A and B

15. Light hazing in Scouting is permitted with full adult leader supervision.
- A. True
 - B. False
16. Which of the following may be signs a Scout has been bullied?
- A. Cuts and bruises
 - B. Nervousness around another particular Scout
 - C. Frequent absences
 - D. All of the above
17. Adult leaders in Scouting and parents have an obligation to recognize and address bullying issues in Scouting.
- A. True
 - B. False
18. What can you do as an adult leader or parent to create an anti-bullying culture?
- A. Stop any bullying behavior immediately
 - B. Tell the bully his actions are unacceptable and must stop
 - C. Always model kind behavior
 - D. All of the above
19. Adult leaders and parents should address “cyber bullying” with the same urgency as physical bullying.
- A. True
 - B. False
20. Youth leaders should administer constructive discipline—adhering to Scouting principles—when adult leaders are not present.
- A. True
 - B. False
21. What should concern you about this picture?
- A. Violates two-deep leadership
 - B. Violates no one-on-one contact
 - C. Might indicate grooming
 - D. All of the above



22. The membership of any adult or youth in the BSA may be revoked for violating which of the following membership responsibilities?
- A. No physical violence, hazing, bullying or theft
 - B. No verbal insults
 - C. No drugs or alcohol
 - D. Any of the above
23. The chartered organization must approve the registration of every adult leader in all units chartered by the organization.
- A. True
 - B. False
24. If you witness a violation of a Youth Protection policy, what should you do?
- A. Report the violation to the person on site in charge of the activity and to the local Scout executive immediately.
 - B. Report the violation to the local police.
 - C. Wait 24 hours and see if the situation changes.
 - D. A and B
25. You must accept a youth's report of abuse at face value.
- A. True
 - B. False
26. What should you do when you either suspect abuse or there is an indication of abuse?
- A. Report your information to appropriate local authorities.
 - B. Report your information to the person in charge of the activity and to the local Scout executive immediately.
 - C. Sleep on the information for a couple of nights.
 - D. A and B

Youth Protection Training Quiz Answer Key

Correct answers in **bold**.

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NOTICE!

Youth Protection begins with you

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Where:

When:

Who: All registered leaders and interested parents





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