



# Youth Protection Position Statement

**Youth protection can only be achieved through the shared involvement of everyone in Scouting.**

## Your Responsibility

1. Stop the policy violation or abuse.
2. Protect the youth.
3. Separate alleged victim from alleged perpetrator.
4. Summon needed assistance (911, EMS, additional leaders, etc.).
5. Notify parents.
6. Notify the appropriate Scouting professional.

## Scouting's Barriers to Abuse

- Reporting child abuse is mandatory.
- A minimum of two-deep leadership is required on all outings.
- One-on-one contact is prohibited between adults and Scouts.
- The policy of two-deep leadership and no one-on-one contact between adults and youth members includes digital communication.
- Separate accommodations are required for adults and Scouts.
- The buddy system should be used at all times.
- Privacy of youth is respected.
- Inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, or digital devices is prohibited.
- No secret organizations are allowed.
- No hazing is allowed.
- No bullying is allowed.
- Youth leadership is monitored by adult leaders.
- Discipline must be constructive.
- Appropriate attire is required for all activities.
- Members are responsible for acting according to the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- Units are responsible for enforcing Youth Protection policies.

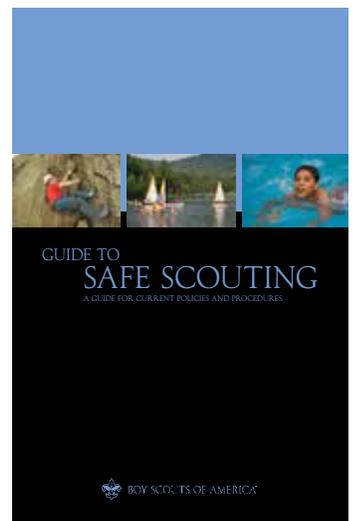


## Online Resources

*Guide to Safe Scouting:* <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>

Youth Protection website: <http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>

State-by-state mandatory reporting laws: [https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws\\_policies/state/](https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state/)



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## Purpose

This kit's purpose is to provide guidance on documenting and reporting potential violations of criminal or civil abuse statutes, violations of BSA policies, and/or other behavior-related incidents.

## Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Policy

*All persons involved in Scouting must report to local authorities any good-faith suspicion or belief that any child is or has been physically or sexually abused; physically or emotionally neglected; exposed to any form of violence or threat; or exposed to any form of sexual exploitation including the possession, manufacture, or distribution of child pornography, online solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material. This duty cannot be delegated to any other person.*

*Immediately notify the Scout executive of this report, or of any violation of the BSA's Youth Protection policies, so he or she may take appropriate action for the safety of our Scouts, make appropriate notifications, and follow up with investigating agencies.*

## Incident Reporting

All persons in Scouting are responsible for enforcing the Boy Scouts of America's policies and are responsible for immediately stopping abuse and/or policy violations, ensuring the safety of youth, contacting emergency services (911), and obtaining assistance as needed.

### What Is an Incident?

Loosely defined, an incident is any occurrence of abusive or inappropriate behavior where a report to, or action by, authorities, the council, unit, or parents is indicated.

### Why Report an Incident?

Incident report information is not only valuable in documenting what happened, but also to ensure proper procedural safeguards are followed.

### Report-Writing Tips

It is imperative that you fill out incident reports as thoroughly and accurately as possible. Being thorough helps bring clarity to the situation and eliminates the

need for information gathering via follow-up calls and/or emails. Pertinent photographs, witness statements, and/or screenshots add value to the report. The following examples illustrate a Good/Better/Best approach to Youth Protection incident reporting. Remember to include only pertinent facts about the incident, and refrain from assigning blame, adding personal opinions, and making recommendations.

**Good:** At summer camp, a Scout leader violated the "No one-on-one" policy and acted in an inappropriate manner with a Scout.

**Better:** In August at Camp Chowak, Scoutmaster Ben Armstrong went into Scout Tom and Scout Billy's tent after being told not to. The next morning, Tom and Billy wanted to go home.

**Best:** Last night at Camp Chowak, I, Scoutmaster Jim Terrell, was awakened at 2 a.m. by Scout Johnny Roth, who stated that assistant Scoutmaster Ben Armstrong was in a Scout's tent. I went to the tent and told assistant Scoutmaster Armstrong to exit the tent and to stand alone by his vehicle. I spoke with Scouts Tom Blanchard and Billy Bonn, who stated that assistant Scoutmaster Armstrong wanted to play "Truth or Dare" with them and attempted to touch their privates. I told the assistant Scoutmaster to leave the premises. I then called the police, the parents of both Scouts, and the Scout executive's hotline number, and I am now making this report.

### How Do I Report an Incident?

There are several ways to report an incident.

If there has been abuse or concern for the safety of a child:

- Call 911 to make a report.
- Contact your local Scout executive.



If the incident is a violation of youth protection policy or other concern:

- Contact your local Scout executive.
- Contact the Member Care Contact Center at 972-580-2489.

See **Scouting's Barriers to Abuse** on the other side of this handout to review BSA policies.



SKU 620562



7 30176 30425 0

680-677 2015 Printing