

# YOUTH PROTECTION

## of the Boy Scouts of America

Youth protection requires sustained vigilance. That is why the BSA has continued to develop and enhance its youth protection efforts as everyone continues to learn more about the dangers and challenges facing youth. The BSA has established a multi-tiered youth protection approach focused on volunteer screening, education and training for everyone in the program, and clear policies to protect youth.



## This is how it works:

### ADULT VOLUNTEERS

#### STEP 1 Chartered Organizations Reference Check

Chartered organizations provide local insight and ongoing supervision. The involvement of local chartered organizations (churches, schools, or civic groups) helps ensure that volunteers are known and trusted in the community.

#### STEP 2 Application

All adults who have been selected as potential leaders of youth by a chartered organization must provide references, past addresses, and other community affiliations, and affirm that they have had no criminal accusations made against them.

#### STEP 3 Criminal Background Check

The BSA requires criminal background checks on all Scout leaders. The background checks are administered by LexisNexis, a nationally respected third party that also provides this service to many local, state, and federal governments; educational institutions; and other nonprofits.

#### STEP 4 Ineligible Volunteer File Check

The BSA's Ineligible Volunteer Files serve as a barrier to entry, preventing those who are believed to be unfit to serve as Scout leaders from joining the organization. An individual may be determined to be unfit for leadership for any reason, regardless of whether the accusations have been proven and whether or not the alleged misconduct happened in Scouting. Applicants are checked against the file, and if an applicant has been determined to be ineligible, they are not permitted to join Scouting.

#### STEP 5 Adult Leader Youth Protection Training

All registered adult volunteers are required to complete the BSA's Youth Protection training every two years. The training is available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## THE BSA LAYERS OF PROTECTION

*(shown on following page)*

# THE BSA LAYERS OF PROTECTION

## YOUTH PROTECTION DIRECTOR

The BSA has a **full-time Youth Protection director**, a recognized expert on child abuse, dedicated to the continued strengthening of Scouting's Youth Protection training programs and policies.

## OPEN PROGRAM

All aspects of the Scouting program are **open to observation** by parents and leaders. Parents are encouraged to attend all Scouting activities.

## PRIVACY OF YOUTH AND ADULT MEMBERS

Privacy of **youth and adult members** is safeguarded by BSA policy. Adult leaders must respect the privacy of members and protect their own privacy, especially in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp. No youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his or her own parent or guardian.

## "TWO-DEEP" LEADERSHIP

Scouting has a strict **"two deep" leadership** policy, which requires at least two adults supervise all Scouting activities. One-on-one contact between adults and youth members is not permitted.

## MANDATORY REPORTING

Scouting policies **require prompt reporting** of any reasonable suspicions of inappropriate conduct with youth to a governmental agency.



## PARENTS AND SCOUTS

### STEP 1

#### Parental and Scout Youth Protection Education

Parents and youth are required to review the BSA's Youth Protection materials, available at the front of every handbook, as a joining requirement.

### STEP 2

#### Parental Policy Notification

Every application for youth membership advises parents about the basic principles of youth protection.

Every parent completing a youth membership form acknowledges awareness of the BSA's Youth Protection policies.

### STEP 3

#### Empowerment of Scouts

Scouts are required to complete Youth Protection training before entering the program and as a requirement for rank advancement.

The BSA teaches the "three R's" of youth protection, which convey an important message in a clear manner easily understood by youth members:

- **Recognize** situations that place them at risk, how child molesters operate, and that anyone could be a molester.
- **Resist** unwanted and inappropriate attention. Resistance will stop most attempts at molestation.
- **Report** attempted or actual molestation to a parent or other trusted adult. This prevents further abuse and helps protect other children. Understand that you will not be blamed for what occurred.

Review the complete Boy Scouts of America Youth Protection policy at [www.scouting.org/bsayouthprotection](http://www.scouting.org/bsayouthprotection).