



BSA SAFETY MOMENT

YOUTH PROTECTION

SUMMARY

Participation in any Scouting activity requires ensuring the safety of youth. Youth Protection depends upon the shared involvement of everyone in Scouting. Always work to keep programs safe and to build awareness of how to protect youth from abuse. Take some time to discover and review updated, revised, and new Youth Protection resources during Youth Protection Month in April and throughout the year.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- For the latest information, visit the BSA's **Youth Protection web page** at <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection>.
- **Scouting's Barriers to Abuse** are the BSA's Youth Protection policies and guidelines. Several new policies and guidelines were added and revised in March 2016. For example, two-deep leadership and no one-on-one contact now apply to digital communication.
- All adult leaders must review and are responsible for the **BSA's Scouter Code of Conduct**. The Code of Conduct includes promising to complete and remain current with Youth Protection training requirements. It also requires compliance with Youth Protection policies and guidelines, including mandatory reporting.
- The BSA resource "**How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide**" was updated in 2015. The guides are available in different versions for parents of Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and STEM Scouts; the Cub Scout and Boy Scout versions are provided in English and Spanish editions.
- In 2016, "**Chapter 13, Personal Safety Awareness**" was added to the 13th edition of the *Boy Scout Handbook*. Scouts as well as leaders are encouraged to review and discuss this chapter, which includes a review of types of abuse, the three R's of Youth Protection (Recognize, Respond, Report), bullying, and internet safety.

We all play a critical role in keeping youth safe. Remember ... **Youth Protection Begins with YOU.**

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Scouting's Barriers to Abuse—<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>
- Scouter Code of Conduct—<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/bsa-scouters-code-of-conduct/>
- How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide—<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/parents-guides/>
- Youth-on-Youth Training Materials—<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/> (scroll to bottom of page)