

THE  
**POWER**  
OF ONE



# 2025 NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

PRESENTED BY  
 **UpperCrust**  
AT YOUR SERVICE.



**Scouting**  **America**™



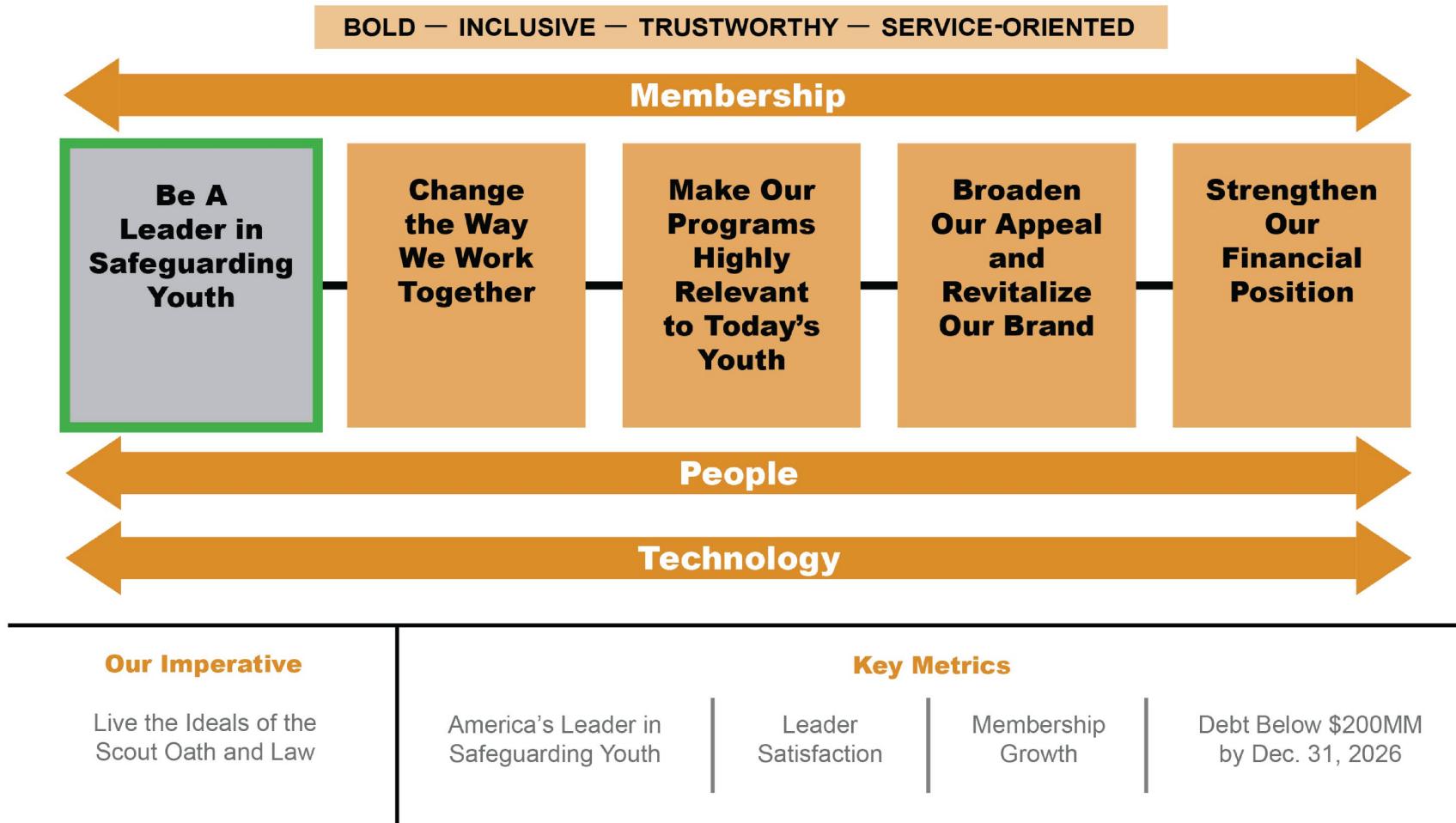


# GLEN POUNDER

SVP, Chief Safeguarding Officer



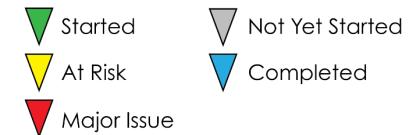
# OUR GOAL: TO PREPARE AMERICA'S YOUTH FOR LIVES OF IMPACT AND PURPOSE.





# BE A LEADER IN SAFEGUARDING YOUTH

Preparing America's Youth for Lives of Impact and Purpose



## IMPERATIVES

Help lead the nation in safeguarding youth

2024

Update Survivors/Trust YP Conference

May

2025

Pathway to Eagle

Places of Remembrance

Movement-Wide Messages

2026

YP Conference

2027

Movement-Wide Messages

State-of-the-Art Safety Culture

Enhance our reputation and create strong partnerships

Improve and Strengthen Reporting

YPT Committee Meetings

Phoenix Recognition

MyFriendTooUSA Webinars

Youth Advisory Council

Reporting for Serious Incidents Membership

CBC Training

New SYT

Safety Conference

Explore Transparency Reporting

Safety Summit

Share Relevant Data

Launch New Youth Training

Invest in Prevention

Risk Register Dev.

Safeguarding Webinar

Safeguarding Webinar

LE Partnership

KnowToProtect

Partner w/orgs

Praesidium

Canada/UK Collab

Big 6 YSO C Meeting

Policy Review

Youth Safety Reminders Begin

Academic Study

Claim Review Process

Safeguarding Bulletins

Follow-up on Study

Overhaul/Update GTSS

Develop Reporting

Pocket Guide

Identify Barriers to Reporting

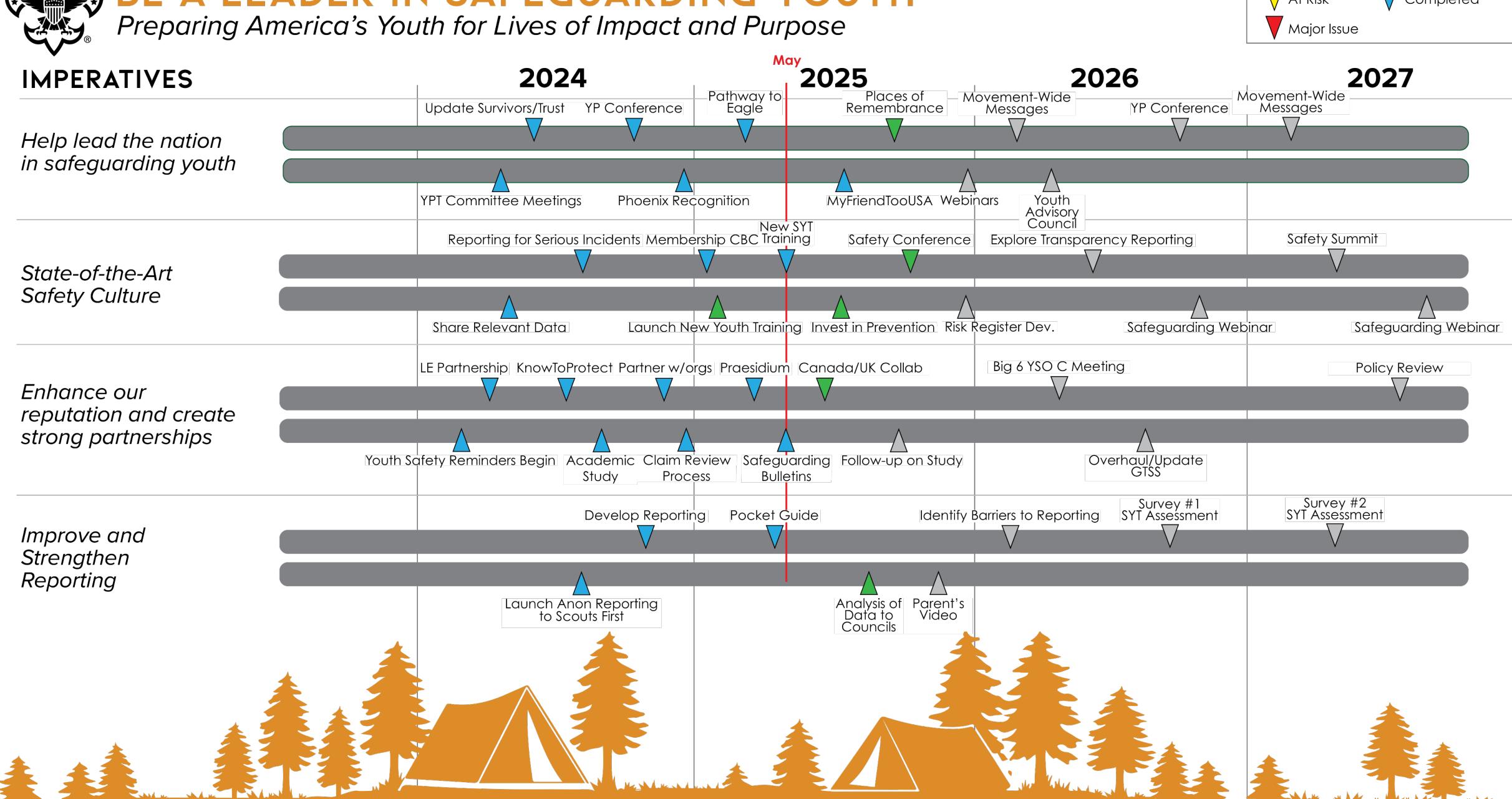
Survey #1 SYT Assessment

Survey #2 SYT Assessment

Launch Anon Reporting to Scouts First

Analysis of Data to Councils

Parent's Video



# SAFEGUARDING YOUTH: 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Council Key 3 reporting in place**
- **Federal law enforcement prevention partnership**
- **First YSO with anonymous reporting by text**
- **Nonmonetary commitments continue**
- **Symposium delivered**



# SAFEGUARDING YOUTH: 2025 GOALS

- **Driving S.A.F.E.ty culture – events & Philmont conference**
- **New safeguarding training launch**
- **New youth training & involvement**
- **Technology**
- **Analytics and trend reporting**
- **Benchmarking project**
- **Invest in prevention**



or fact?



# SAFEGUARDING YOUTH SYMPOSIUM 2024

**Make the right choice – Share!**

***Our Voice – survey for survivors of  
sexual violence in childhood***



Nina Vaaranen-Valkonen  
Executive Director, M.Soc.Sc Social Psychologist  
Victims Services and Offender Management  
Sub-Group Chair, Interpol SGCAC  
Trauma focused Cognitive Psychotherapist

# Child Sexual Abuse and Boundary Violating Behaviors in Youth Serving Organizations: National Prevalence and Distribution by Organizational Type

Luciana C. Assini-Meytin<sup>1</sup> , Ian McPhail<sup>1</sup>, Yi Sun<sup>1</sup>, Ben Mathews<sup>2</sup>, Keith L. Kaufman<sup>3</sup>, and Elizabeth J. Letourneau<sup>1</sup> 

## Abstract

Many youth serving organizations (YSOs) implement child sexual abuse (CSA) prevention strategies. We examined the potential impact of those strategies by retrospectively estimating the prevalence of CSA and boundary violating behaviors experienced in five broad organizational settings: organized sports, religious organizations, music or arts programs, K-12 schools, and the “Big 6 settings” (i.e., 4-H, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA, and the YMCA of the USA). We compared victimization rates between nationally representative cohorts of younger adults (age 18–22; N = 3174) and slightly older adults (age 32–36, N = 3237). Across all participants and settings, 3.75% (n = 363) experienced CSA in YSOs. Among survivors, younger adults reported experiencing a lower proportion of CSA within Big 6 settings than older adults (29.1% vs. 44.5%;  $p < .05$ ), suggesting that prevention efforts may be having the desired effects in Big 6 settings.

## Keywords

youth serving organizations, child sexual abuse, boundary violating behaviors, prevention

## Introduction

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a prevalent public health problem in the U.S. and globally (Amene et al., 2023; Finkelhor et al., 2014; Mathews, Pacella, et al., 2023; Stoltenborgh et al., 2015). In the U.S., the prevalence of substantiated CSA has declined by 64% from 1992 through 2020 (Finkelhor et al., 2022). While it is difficult to ascertain the specific reasons for observed declines in CSA rates, varied explanations have been offered, including increased awareness among the general population, professionalization of child protective services (Finkelhor, 2008; Finkelhor & Jones, 2004), and decreases in sexual recidivism rates (Lussier et al., 2023). Another potential explanation pertains to the numerous CSA prevention, detection, and intervention efforts implemented in recent decades in many youth serving organizations (YSOs) (Assini-Meytin et al., 2021; Kaufman et al., 2020). Youth serving organizations are defined as “any public or private body, agency, association, club, institution, organisation or other entity or group of entities of any kind [...] that provides, or has at any time provided, activities, facilities, programs or services of any kind that provide the means through which adults have an opportunity to interact with children, including through their families; and

Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, 2014, p. “Terms of Reference” section).

## Child Sexual Abuse and Boundary Violating Behaviors in Youth Serving Organizations

Improving our understanding of both CSA and boundary violating experiences from non-forensic, representative samples can contribute to developing more effective interventions and policies aiming at preventing CSA perpetration in YSOs (Kaufman & Erooga, 2016; Kaufman et al., 2019). Child sexual abuse includes non-consensual contact acts (e.g.,

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Email: [lassini@jhu.edu](mailto:lassini@jhu.edu)

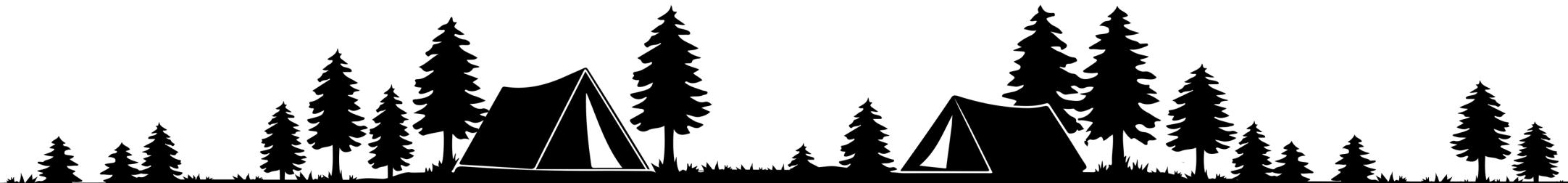
- Peer-reviewed and published.
- Surveys the prevalence of CSA and boundary-violating behaviors.
- Confirms ALL YSOs have experienced incidents of child maltreatment, including CSA.
- A 20% decline in CSA translates into reduced human suffering.
- Findings reflect the capacity of all YSOs to enhance child safety.





# PATHWAY TO EAGLE

- Pathway for survivors who had their journey to Eagle curtailed.
- Retains integrity of Eagle Scout rank.
- There was a lot of input from YPC, NEB members, and professional staff.



# PLACES OF REMEMBRANCE



- **Designed in collaboration with the YPC, including survivors of abuse in Scouting.**
- **In all 4 HABs by 2026.**
- **A route will be created for councils to replicate this effort.**
- **Recognize the past while messaging about highly effective prevention efforts today.**

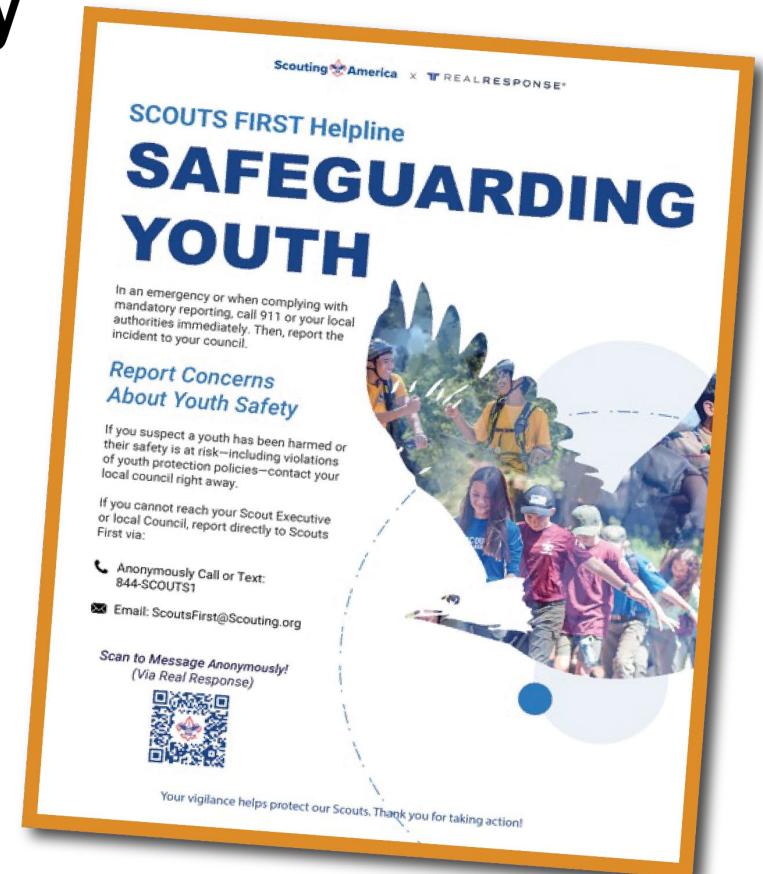


# SAFEGUARDING YOUTH

## 2025 – NATIONAL INVESTMENTS IN PREVENTION



- Assets for every camp in the country
- CBC re-check
- Safeguarding – pocket guide
- Academic partnerships
- Law enforcement partnerships
- KNOW2PROTECT patches
- Benchmarking project
- Invest in a full-time analyst





# PREVENTION PARTNERSHIPS EXAMPLES

- **Book a Special Agent to speak with Scouts at your Council**  
(free patch from National!)

*[iguardian.hq@hsi.dhs.gov](mailto:iguardian.hq@hsi.dhs.gov)*



# LAUNCH BENCHMARKING ON PREVENTION

- **Onboarding approach**
- **Training**
- **Policies**
- **Risk registers**
- **Technology**
- **Preventing adult abuse**
- **Preventing peer abuse**
- **Governance & transparency**



# SAFETY CONFERENCE PTC

## SEPTEMBER 14-17, 2025



SUPERVISION  
ASSESSMENT  
FITNESS AND SKILLS  
EQUIPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT



<https://reservations.scouting.org/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x157473abcd>

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