

THE  
POWER  
OF ONE



# 2025

## NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

PRESENTED BY  
 UpperCrust  
AT YOUR SERVICE.



Scouting  America™





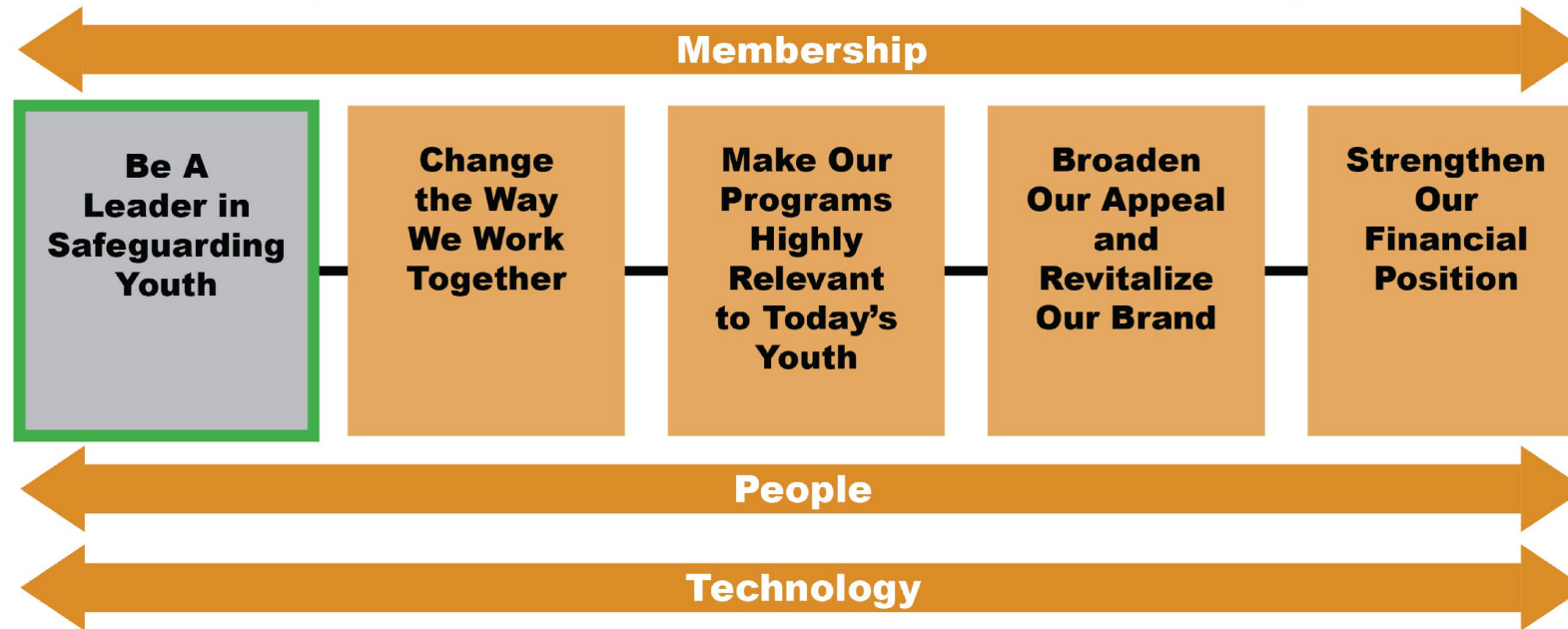
# GLEN POUNDER

SVP, Chief Safeguarding Officer

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



BOLD — INCLUSIVE — TRUSTWORTHY — SERVICE-ORIENTED



## Our Imperative

Live the Ideals of the  
Scout Oath and Law

## Key Metrics

America's Leader in  
Safeguarding Youth

Leader  
Satisfaction

Membership  
Growth

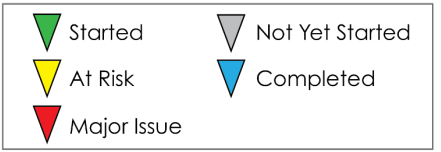
Debt Below \$200MM  
by Dec. 31, 2026



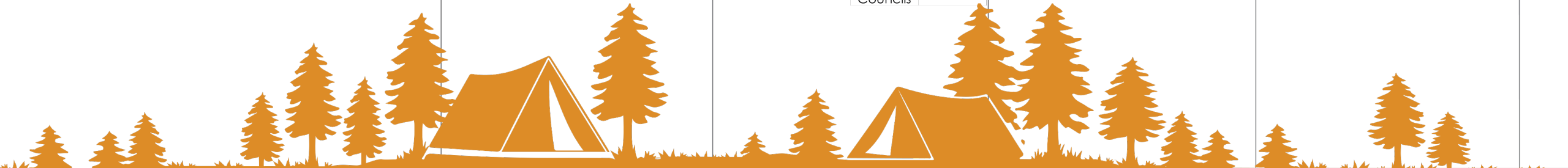
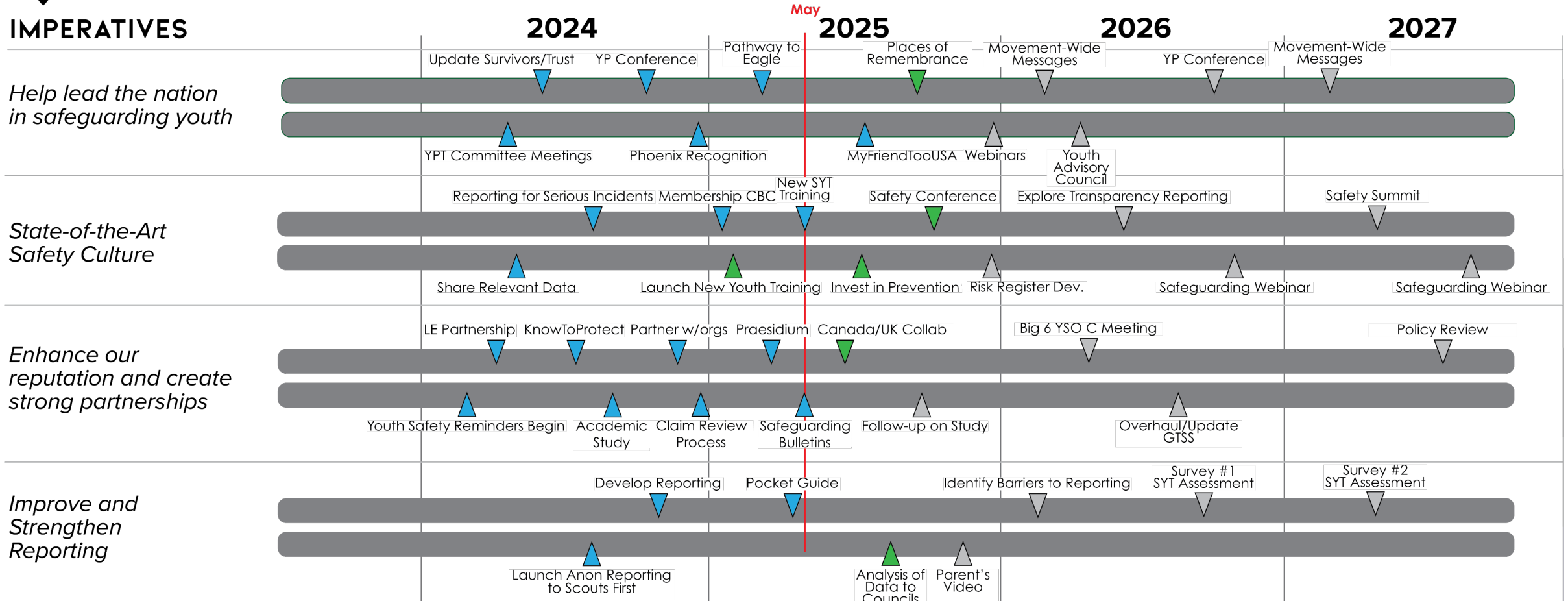


# BE A LEADER IN SAFEGUARDING YOUTH

Preparing America's Youth for Lives of Impact and Purpose



## IMPERATIVES





# 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

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## 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, organization 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 access to children, including through their families; and” (Finkelhor et al., 2022, p. 1).

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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- 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.







# OVERVIEW



# 2-DEEP LEADERSHIP



No  
1-on-1 Contact



# THE BARRIERS TO ABUSE



# APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS



# BUDDY SYSTEM



# PRIVACY



# SECRET ORGS AND INITIATIONS



# DIGITAL DEVICES



# SUPERVISION



# NO HAZING BULLYING



# LEADER SELECTION



# CONCLUSION



# 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.**

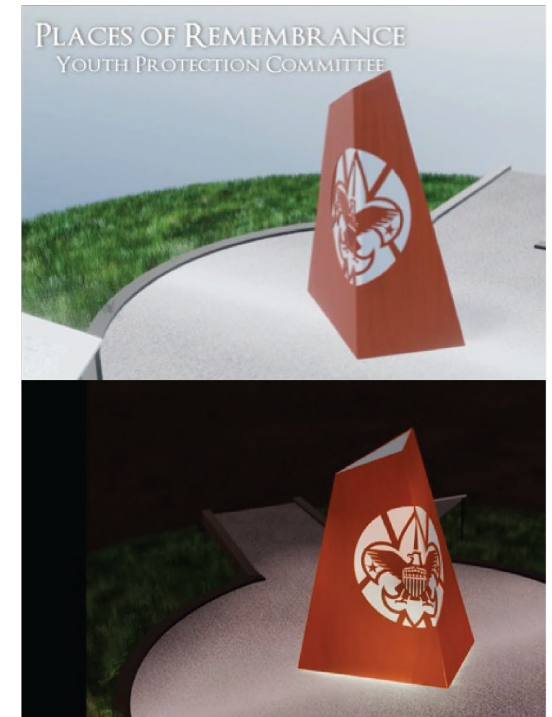




# PLACES OF REMEMBRANCE



- **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.**



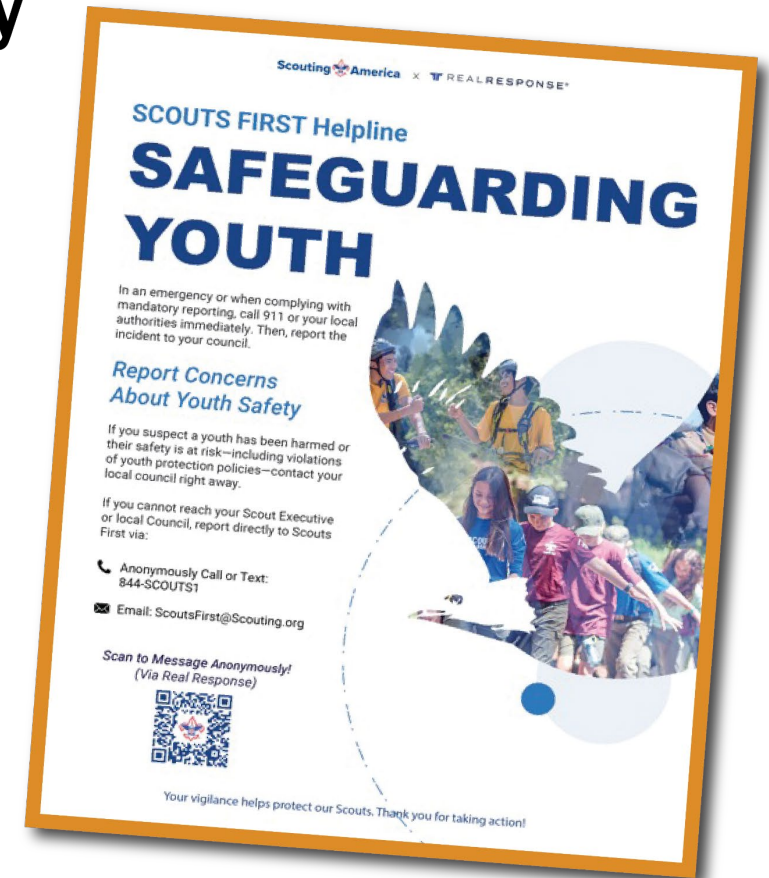
# SAFEGUARDING YOUTH

## 2025 – NATIONAL INVESTMENTS IN PREVENTION

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- 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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