

Roundtable Safety Moment

Code of Conduct

Youth

Scouting America utilizes a Youth Code of Conduct—deeply rooted in the [Scout Oath and Law](#)—to ensure a safe, respectful, and character-building environment. It serves as a clear, written set of behavioral expectations that prohibits bullying, hazing, abuse, and discrimination, while promoting responsibility, safety, and ethical decision-making during activities. The unit should create their own specific code of conduct that represents who they are and what they expect from their scouts and scouters.

Why Have a Youth Code of Conduct?

- **Safety First:** It protects youth from physical, emotional, and verbal abuse, especially when adult supervision is limited.
- **Character Development:** It provides actionable, real-world applications of the Scout Oath and Law, teaching young people to be respectful, kind, and responsible citizens.
- **Preventing Harmful Behavior:** It clearly outlines that actions like hazing, bullying, cyberbullying, fighting, and harassment have no place in Scouting.
- **Uniform Standards:** It ensures a consistent and safe environment across different units and activities.
- **Accountability:** It establishes expectations for behavior, helping youth understand the consequences of their actions and the importance of acting with integrity.
- **Promoting Inclusivity:** It fosters a welcoming environment by forbidding discrimination and promoting respect for others.

Essentially, a Code of Conduct is designed to keep Scouts safe while preparing them to make ethical, moral choices throughout their lives. The goal is to provide guidelines of conduct that support the Scout Oath and Law and ensure that every scout understands the unit's expectations. Units should discuss this code of conduct at the beginning of the program and review it annually.

Adults



Did you know that the Rules and Regulations of Scouting America support the establishment of codes of conduct?

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scouting America expects Scouters to follow the Scout Oath and Scout Law as well as other laws and regulations from local, state, and federal governments.

The Scouter Code of Conduct should be reviewed regularly; abiding by it is acknowledged by all adults when they complete an application. This code of conduct:

- Provides a checklist of expectations for all adults involved in Scouting.
- Emphasizes the need for all adults to follow Scouting America Safeguarding Youth policies and guidelines.
- Highlights the need for adult leaders to be familiar with the Guide to Safe Scouting and SAFE.
- States that drivers will obey all laws and follow safe driving practices when transporting Scouts.
- Sets expectations regarding Scouting America's Rules and Regulations, policies, and Scouting America-provided training.
- Helps adults to model behaviors for all youth involved in Scouting America activities.
- Emphasizes a leader's responsibility to notify the appropriate person(s) if a violation occurs.

RESOURCES

- [The Scouter Code of Conduct](#)



- [Policies](#)



[Scouting America Scouter Code of Conduct](#)

