

YOUTH PROTECTION GUIDELINES

Training for Volunteer Leaders and Parents Facilitator's Guide

The Boy Scouts of America deeply appreciates your acceptance of the responsibility to facilitate this session of “Youth Protection Guidelines: Training for Volunteer Leaders and Parents.” This training is an important part of our strategy for helping to protect our members from child abuse.

This Facilitator's Guide provides step-by-step instructions to help you prepare for and present this training session. We encourage you to review these materials and become thoroughly familiar with them. Most of the training is delivered through the information on the DVD.

In addition to the information from the video, you must learn the specific reporting procedures used in your BSA local council and add them to the handout materials for the participants in your training sessions.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Make arrangements for a meeting place, and schedule the training.
2. Promote the training in your council newsletter, in announcements at roundtables, or by personal contact. There is a sample flier that can be duplicated and passed out at roundtables or other Scouting gatherings.
3. Obtain training materials from your council or district:
 - “Youth Protection Guidelines: Training for Volunteer Leaders and Parents” DVD (Be sure to obtain the current version.)
 - Facilitator’s Guide, www.scouting.org/training/youthprotection.aspx
 - Copies of the promotional flier
 - Handout materials (BSA Youth Protection Guidelines: Questions and Answers in this Facilitator’s Guide, www.scouting.org/my scouting, select eLearning, take Youth Protection Quiz). Copies of the quiz and answer key (at the back of this Facilitator’s Guide). This paper version of the quiz should be used only if the participants taking the test will not have access to the Internet. Since the test does not have to be taken at the time of the training, participants can wait until they have access to a computer, as long as it is within a reasonable period of time.
 - Your council’s child abuse reporting procedures
4. Review the materials carefully and view the video.
5. Duplicate the handout materials, one set for each participant.
6. Review the local council’s child abuse reporting procedures and become very familiar with them. Your council’s reporting procedures should be available through your council Web site in the Youth Protection Online Training segment of the site.
7. Conduct the training session. Refer participants to the online learning center at www.scouting.org/Training/Adult.aspx to take the final exam and complete their training. A training certificate can be printed upon completion.
8. Follow your council’s procedures for recording attendance and reporting training participation.



NOTICE!

YOUTH PROTECTION GUIDELINES: Training for Volunteer Leaders and Parents

Where:

When:

Who: All registered leaders and interested parents

Introduction to Training

Welcome to this session of “Youth Protection Guidelines: Training for Volunteer Leaders and Parents.”

This training is an important component of the Boy Scouts of America’s strategy to protect its members from child abuse and other forms of mistreatment.

Child abuse is a serious problem in American society. There are more than 3 million reported cases of child abuse each year, including a half-million reported cases of child sexual abuse. As the nation’s largest youth-serving organization, the Boy Scouts of America has a unique opportunity to make an impact on this societal problem.

Our first priority is to take steps to protect our members while they are participating in the Scouting program. We can also make an impact on the larger problems of abuse in the community by increasing the awareness of our leaders, youth members, and their families. This training emphasizes BSA youth protection guidelines to be used by all Scout units. These guidelines protect the youth in the program as well as shield our leaders from unfounded allegations of abusive behavior.

During the video presentation, there will be two discussion periods that require participants to apply the proper guidelines. After the training, participants will be directed to visit the online learning center at www.scouting.org to complete a quiz and receive their training certificate.

Training Session

The video we are about to view is the result of listening to suggestions made by BSA leaders during focus groups sponsored by BSA.

The objectives for this training are to:

Protect our youth members by rigorous use and enforcement of the Youth Protection Guidelines.

Inform our leaders of the BSA’s Youth Protection policies.

Improve the protection of children by promoting prompt reporting of suspected abuse and violations of Youth Protection Guidelines.

Familiarize key leaders with BSA’s Youth Protection resources and their intended use in unit programs.

While viewing the video, there will be two scenarios for discussion. After the video, we will discuss our council’s child abuse reporting procedures. Let’s watch the video. (Start the video, “Youth Protection Guidelines: Training for Volunteer Leaders and Parents.”)

First Scenario

This scenario depicts an adult leader who appears to be asking a member to accompany him into the woods without others along. Another adult leader points out that one-on-one situations are not allowed. The same adult is seen a few minutes later attempting the same thing with another youth.

Discussion points:

Why are one-on-one situations not allowed in the Scouting program?

In order for sexual abuse to occur, the child has to be isolated with an offender. In addition, leaders are better protected from false allegations of abuse when others are present.

What should be done when a volunteer continues to violate the guidelines after having them explained to him? Even if no abuse occurs, leaders in Scouting must obey the rules. When they demonstrate an unwillingness to follow the rules, they must be expelled from the activity and reported to the Scout executive, who will determine any follow-up action—up to and including revocation of membership in the BSA.

Is the strict enforcement of the Youth Protection Guidelines really necessary?

In order for youth protection to be meaningful, we must eliminate opportunities for abuse to be perpetrated. The Youth Protection Guidelines are BSA's way of limiting the opportunities for abuse to occur.

Second Scenario

In this scenario, we see a young man with a cell phone approaching a latrine. A short time later, the same young man is seen running out of the latrine looking at the view screen on his phone.

What happened?

It is apparent that the young man used the camera in his cell phone to violate the privacy of others in the latrine. This is a violation of Youth Protection Guidelines, and immediate intervention is called for.

What should the intervention be?

The first thing is to confiscate the cell phone and delete the pictures. Because of the ease of posting pictures on various Web sites on the Internet, this must be done immediately. Concurrently, the adult leader must attempt to find out if the pictures have already been posted—if so, they should be deleted. However, deletion is no guarantee that all copies will be destroyed.

This is a learning opportunity for the young offender. It is also a time that the unit should involve the parents of the youths. Most times that young people engage in this kind of behavior, they mean for it to be a harmless prank. Helping them appreciate the pain and embarrassment that such pictures can cause for the subjects of the pictures is part of the lesson that needs to be learned.

Some young people act out of maliciousness or other motivations. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that nearly 10 percent of the child pornography on the Internet is produced by young people using cell phones, webcams, or other digital imaging devices.

What responses can the unit make to this kind of situation?

Depending upon the circumstances, the unit has a range of responses available to it. These responses may include reprimanding the youth to terminating his membership in the unit. This situation also calls for consultation with the Scout executive.

Local Council Reporting Procedures

After viewing the video portion of the training, there should be a brief discussion of your council's reporting procedures. Answers for the following points should be covered during this portion of the training:

Your council's reporting procedures should be available through your council Web site in the Youth Protection Online Training segment of the site.

Who is the person in the council responsible for receiving reports of child abuse? (It should be either the Scout executive or someone the Scout executive designates.)

How can the designated person be contacted by someone who wishes to make a report of suspected child abuse?

What are the procedures for reporting child abuse during times the service center is closed, if they are not the same as during regular business hours?

If the child is not in the Scouting program, where should the report be made?

Concluding the Training

The video portion of the training has been completed. In order for credit to be given for the completion of training, participants need to go online and take a brief quiz. This requires registering for the online learning center at www.scouting.org. After successfully completing the quiz, a training certificate can be printed by the participant.