



Boy Scouts of America
Youth Protection

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- The Boy Scouts of America takes great pride in the quality of its adult leadership.
 - Being a leader in BSA is a privilege, not a right.
 - The quality of the program and the safety of our youth members call for high-quality adult and youth leaders.

The "three R's" of Youth Protection

- The "three R's" of Youth Protection convey a simple message to youth members:
- **Recognize** situations that place you at risk of being molested, how child molesters operate, and that anyone could be a molester.
- **Resist** unwanted and inappropriate attention. Resistance will stop most attempts at molestation.
- **Report** attempted or actual molestation to a parent or other trusted adult. This prevents further abuse and helps to protect other children. Let the Scout know he or she will not be blamed for what occurred.



Recognizing Child Abuse

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual Abuse



Barriers to Abuse Within Scouting

The BSA has adopted the following policies to provide additional security for our members. These policies are primarily for the protection of our youth members; however, they also serve to protect our adult and youth leaders from false accusations of abuse.

Barriers to Abuse Within Scouting

No one-on-one contact.

One-on-one contact between adults and youth members is not permitted. In situations that require personal conferences, such as a Scoutmaster's conference, the meeting is to be conducted in view of other adults and youths.

Respect of privacy.

Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers, and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require.

Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.

Barriers to Abuse Within Scouting

Separate accommodations.

No youth is permitted to sleep in the tent or room with an adult other than his own parent or guardian. Separate times for youth and leader use should be scheduled and posted for showers.

Proper preparation for high-adventure (High Risk) activities.

Activities with elements of risk should never be undertaken without proper preparation, equipment, clothing, supervision, & safety measures.



Barriers to Abuse Within Scouting

No secret organizations.

The Boy Scouts of America does not recognize any secret organizations as part of its program. All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.

Two-deep leadership.

Two registered adult leaders or one registered leader and a parent of a participant, or other adult, must be present.

Barriers to Abuse Within Scouting

Appropriate attire.

Proper clothing for activities is required. For example, skinny-dipping is not appropriate as part of Scouting.

Constructive discipline.

Discipline used in Scouting should be constructive and reflect Scouting's values. Corporal (Physical) punishment is never permitted.



Barriers to Abuse Within Scouting

Hazing prohibited.

Physical hazing and initiations are prohibited and may not be included as part of any Scouting activity.

Youth leader training and supervision.

Adult leaders must monitor and guide the leadership techniques used by junior leaders and ensure that BSA policies are followed.

Digital Privacy

A key ingredient for a safe and healthy Scouting experience is the respect for privacy.

Advances in technology are enabling new forms of social interaction that extend beyond the appropriate use of cameras or recording devices (see "Barriers to Abuse Within Scouting").

Sending sexually explicit photographs or videos electronically or "sexting" by cell phones is a form of texting being practiced primarily by young adults and children as young as middle-school age.

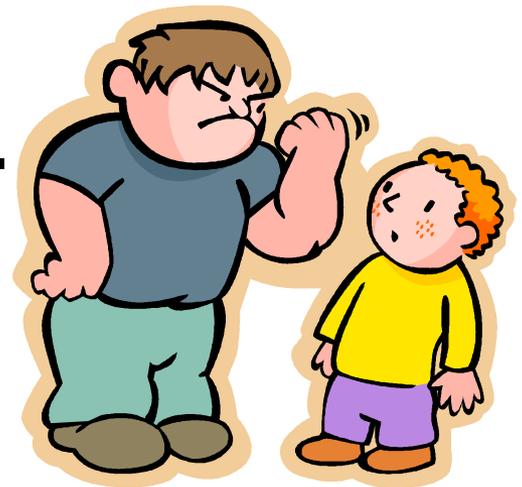
Sexting is neither safe, nor private, nor an approved form of communication and can lead to severe legal consequences for the sender and the receiver.

Although most scouts and leaders use digital devices responsibly, educating them about the appropriate use of cell phones and cameras would be a good safety and privacy measure.

Bullying

The BSA does not permit the use of corporal punishment by unit leaders when disciplining youth members.

If confronted by threats of violence or other forms of bullying from other youth members, Scouts should seek help from their unit leaders or parents.





Why Talk About Bullying?

○ Bullying

- Is encountered by the majority of Scouts.
- Can cause serious harm to its victims.
- Has been associated with victims' acts of extreme violence against themselves and others in recent years.
- Can be stopped.



What is Bullying?

- Bullying is any behavior that is
 - Deliberate and hurtful
 - Repeated over time
 - Characterized by a relationship involving an imbalance of power, such as size or popularity
- Bullying can
 - Be physical, verbal, emotional, social, behavioral, or any combination.
 - Occur on the troop meetings, campouts, during training activities,
 - and even online via the Internet



Examples of Bullying

- Hitting or kicking
- Stealing or damaging belongings
- Menacing gestures or facial expressions
- Repeated name-calling
- Teasing and taunting
- Spreading rumors
- Coercion
- Intentional exclusion from the group
- Cyberbullying

Difference between bullying and “good-natured” joking?

- Bullying is
 - Is intentionally hurtful.
 - Happens repeatedly.
 - Involves an imbalance of power, real or perceived, between the bully and the victim.

Bullying: Fact or Myth?

- *Bullying toughens you up.* **MYTH**
- *Kids learn to be bullies from watching others who believe that you have to treat others aggressively in order to succeed in getting what you want.* **Fact**
- *When leaders intervene in bullying, it makes matters worse* **MYTH**



How Scout leaders can help Victims

- 1. Take victims of bullying seriously.**
- 2. Help victims of bullying communicate with others and seek additional help.**
- 3. Help victims develop coping strategies, *but be sure they know it is not their fault for being bullied, even if these don't work***
- 4. Recognize some of the red flags that a Scout may be a victim of bullying**



How can Scout leaders and leader redirect Scouts who bully others?

- 1. Stop the bullying immediately.**
- 2. Hold Scouts who have bullied others accountable for their actions**
- 3. Avoid labeling *bullies*.**
- 4. Notice appropriate behavior.**
- 5. Help Scouts who bully develop empathy.**
- 6. Help the Scouts discover *replacement behaviors* to engage in instead of bullying.**



How can Scout leaders create an antibullying culture in their units?

- 1. Be a role model.**
- 2. If you see any bullying, stop it right away**
- 3. If you suspect bullying is happening; get more info; then supervision**
- 4. Talk to the bystanders individually**
- 5. Establish an open-door policy**
- 6. Facilitate a discussion with the patrol leaders' council, and then with the troop**

What Is Cyberbullying?

- *Cyberbullying is the use of electronic communications such as the Internet to harass, threaten, and harm others.*



What tactics are used by those who cyberbully

- “Dissing” or “Flaming” – spreading damaging gossip
- Harassment – repeatedly sending or forwarding hateful messages; posting pictures of victims without their consent
- Impersonation – Pretending to be someone else online and posting damaging information, or tricking someone else into revealing personal information



What can Scouts do to prevent cyberbullying?

- If you wouldn't say it in person, don't say it online. Be kind online.
- Refuse to forward cyberbullying messages; delete them instead.
- Tell friends to stop cyberbullying.
- Block communication with those who cyberbully.
- Stay away from sites that tolerate and encourage bullying.
- Report bullying to a trusted adult.

What should Scouts do if they are victims of cyberbullying

- Never try to seek revenge.
- Calmly ask for the cyberbullying to stop.
- Tell the person that you will take other steps will be taken if the cyberbullying does not stop.
- Tell a parent or guardian if it continues.

What should Scout leaders do if a Scout tells them he is the victim of cyberbullying?

- Let victims know they are not to blame.
- Understand they may be afraid to tell their leader, but encourage them to do so, or offer to talk to their leader with them.
- Encourage them to block messages, delete messages without reading them.
- Report incidents to Internet service providers.
- If threats are made, leader should call the police.

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