



YOUTH PROTECTION

Boy Scouts of America Black Swamp Area Council

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our youth members. Youth protection requires sustained vigilance, and we work every day to protect children through mandatory policies and procedures at every level of our organization. We are also committed to continuous improvement in our approach to youth protection.

THE BSA LAYERS OF PROTECTION

We constantly evaluate and invest resources to strengthen our policies and ensure they are in line with, and where possible, ahead of best practices for prevention. To support this ongoing effort we regularly consult with survivors and experts from law enforcement, child safety, psychology, and other relevant fields.

The BSA has established a multi-tiered youth protection approach focused on volunteer screening, education, and training for everyone in the program, and clear policies to protect youth, including prohibiting one-on-one contact between adults and youth members. All units, adult leaders, and youth members have a responsibility to adhere to and enforce youth protection program policies.



YOUTH PROTECTION STANDARDS

1 Ongoing Youth Protection Education

All volunteers, parents, and youth members who have been selected as potential leaders of youth by a chartered organization must provide references, past addresses, other community affiliations, and affirm that they have no criminal accusations made against them.

No person can become a registered leader in Scouting without first completing the BSA's youth protection training. All registered adult volunteers are required to complete the training. No BSA unit may be re-chartered unless all registered leaders have completed the BSA's youth protection training. The training is available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

2 Formal Selection and Screening Process

Chartered organizations provide local insight and ongoing supervision. The involvement of local chartered organizations (churches, schools, or civic groups) helps ensure that volunteers are known and trusted in the community.

The BSA requires criminal background checks on all Scout leaders. The background checks are administered by a nationally-respected third party that also provides this service to many local, state, and federal governments; educational institutions; and other nonprofits.

3 Two-Deep Adult Leadership Requirements

Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including meetings. There must be a registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth. Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age- and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided.

All adults accompanying a Scouting unit who are present at the activity for 72 total hours or more must be registered as leaders. The 72 hours need not be consecutive. One-on-one contact between adult leaders and youth members is prohibited both inside and outside of Scouting.

4 Volunteer Screening Database System

Before an applicant can join or volunteer with Scouting, the BSA verifies that he or she is not included in our database of individuals that have been prohibited from participation. The database prevents individuals from re-registering in Scouting who were removed for a range of misconduct and inappropriate behavior inside or outside the organization, including allegations of abuse.

There are two types of Youth Protection–related reporting procedures all volunteers must follow:

- When you witness or suspect any child has been abused or neglected (See "Mandatory Report of Child Abuse" below).
- When you witness a violation of the BSA's Youth Protection policies. (*See below)

Mandatory Report of Child Abuse

All persons involved in Scouting shall report to local authorities any good-faith suspicion or belief that any child is or has been physically or sexually abused, physically or emotionally neglected, exposed to any form of violence or threat, exposed to any form of sexual exploitation, including the possession, manufacture, or distribution of child pornography, online solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material. You may not abdicate this reporting responsibility to any other person.

Steps to Reporting Child Abuse

- 1.) Ensure the child is in a safe environment.
- 2.) In cases of child abuse or medical emergencies, call 911 immediately. In addition, if the suspected abuse is in the Scout's home or family, you are required to contact the local child abuse hotline.
- 3.) Notify the Scout executive or his/her designee.

Visit scouting.org/training/youth-protection/ to download the Incident Information Form. Learn more about incident reporting at scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/.

*If you think any of the BSA's Youth Protection policies have been violated, including those described within *Scouting's Barriers to Abuse*, you must notify your local council Scout executive or his/her designee so appropriate action can be taken for the safety of our Scouts.

Support

The Boy Scouts of America is outraged there have been times when individuals used our programs to gain access to and harm children, and for that we apologize to victims and their families. Nothing is more important than the safety of our youth members. We are committed to providing ongoing support to victims and their families, including counseling. We want to help victims heal on their own terms. Support is available to anyone currently or previously involved in the Boy Scouts of America through our dedicated 24/7 Scouts First Helpline **1-844-SCOUTS1 (1-844-726-8871)** or at scouts1st@scouting.org.

Review the complete Boy Scouts of America Youth Protection policy at www.scouting.org/bsayouthprotection.

1-844-SCOUTS1 OR 1-844-726-8871

Reporting Youth Protection Concerns

All reports of youth protection concerns including violations of youth protection policies and reports of child abuse should be taken at face value. All youth protection concerns should be brought immediately and directly to the Scout Executive, Marc Kogan: marc.kogan@scouting.org. (419) 581-9680

BSA policy and Ohio state laws also obligates anyone with knowledge of child abuse to report to local authorities. If you know or suspect a child has been abused, contact your local police department or call your local child abuse reporting hotline.

- Allen County: (419) 227-8590
- Auglaize County: (419) 739-6505
- Defiance County: (419) 782-3881
- Fulton County: (800) 344-3575
- Hancock County: (419) 424-7022
- Hardin County: (419) 675-1130
- Henry County: (419) 592-4210
- Mercer County: (419) 586-5106
- Paulding County: (419) 782-3881
- Putnam County: (419) 538-4580
- Seneca County: (419) 447-5011
- Van Wert County: (419) 238-5430
- Williams County: (419) 636-6725

FACTS ABOUT THE VOLUNTEER SCREENING DATABASE

- Maintained since early 20th Century and recognized as an unprecedented barrier at a time before computers, internet, and electronic databases.
- When someone is reported or removed from the BSA for any policy violations they are logged in this national database. The intent of the Volunteer Screening Database is to remove individuals from the organization and prohibit them from re-joining.
- In Scouting, we have zero tolerance for abusive behavior and we have a very low threshold for removing any adult from Scouting who breaches – or is suspected of breaching – any of our policies. Our priority is keeping kids safe.
- Reviewed by experts who found, "BSA's use of a database to prevent unsuitable adults from accessing children was cutting edge and it worked."

BSA SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL REGISTRY.

We are eager to share the information contained in our database with other youth serving organizations. That is why we have advocated for the creation of a national database, similar to one the BSA has used for almost 100 years, to serve as a clearing house for all youth serving organizations. Our shared vision is that all youth serving organizations would be required to document those adults who have harmed or have been suspected of harming children and report this information into a national registry.

The BSA works with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, the CDC, and has called on Congress to partner in this.



A TIMELINE OF YOUTH PROTECTION IN THE BSA: 100+ YEARS OF ENHANCING EFFORTS TO PROTECT YOUTH

1910

BSA founded on Feb. 8.

1911

The BSA institutes character reference checks for Scoutmasters.

1920s

The BSA begins cross-referencing all adult volunteers against a list of "ineligible volunteers" maintained at its national headquarters.

1970s-1980s

The BSA establishes standards for leadership as a guideline for screening adult leaders and publishes content to aid youth protection efforts.

1987

The BSA formally adopts the two-deep leadership policy, which requires two adult leaders at all Scouting activities, and a camp staff training program is developed.

1991-1992

The BSA prohibits one-on-one adult and youth activities. Scouting Representatives serve on the U.S. Government Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect.

1994

The BSA requires criminal background checks and updates its Youth Protection Guidelines for Volunteer Leaders and Parents.

2011-Present

The BSA makes Youth Protection training mandatory for all registered adult members and requires it to be repeated every two years and creates a Mandatory Reporting policy. BSA works with industry professionals on Youth Protection and engages Congress on National Registry. BSA also updates Youth Protection training materials.