



April 27, 2018

To all Patriots' Path Council families:

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Take this ideal opportunity to act on behalf of children by renewing your knowledge about abuse and reacquainting yourself with the abuse prevention protocols of the Boy Scouts of America. Consider:

- Volunteer Training – Have you logged onto the new Youth Protection training at my.scouting.org? The new training has three modules of content on BSA Overview and Policies, Sexual Abuse Prevention and Bullying Prevention that total an hour of learning. The fourth module is a 25 question test whose satisfactory completion will allow you to produce a YPT Certificate.
- Barriers to Abuse - Does everyone know the Guide to Safe Scouting Barriers to Abuse? Are you aware that along with the new training, the Barriers to Abuse were updated and strengthened to insure safety for all, youth and leadership? We recommend that all unit leaders and committees read and review the application of these rules to their unit operation. (<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/#a>)
- Council Youth Protection Support – We are looking for volunteers to participate in YPT Train the Trainer and share the course during in-person trainings throughout our council. Classes will be held Tuesday, May 15 at 2 pm and 7 pm and Thursday, May 24 at 1pm and 6 pm for our Train the Trainer sessions which can also serve as In-Person Training at the council service center in Cedar Knolls. Contact 973-765-9322 x259 to register.

Over the first three months of 2018 the BSA rolled out several new Youth Protection programs and policy changes. These include:

- Updated Youth Protection training, including insights from experts and survivors and the latest strategies for recognizing and preventing major forms of abuse. This replaces all other required adult Youth Protection courses. **All volunteers must take the new training by OCTOBER 1, 2018, no matter when they took the previous training.**
- An expanded ScoutsFirst Helpline (**844-SCOUT1 OR 844-726-8871**) to aid volunteers and families in addressing potentially dangerous situations.
- Unlimited counseling and support for healing to anyone who has ever been abused in Scouting.

In addition to updated training, we recently announced new policies to ensure compliance with mandatory training requirements, including:

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www.ppcbsa.org

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- Effective **June 1, 2018**, adults accompanying a Scouting unit who are present at the activity for 72 total hours or more must be registered as a leader, including completion of a criminal background check and Youth Protection training. The 72 hours need not be consecutive. (Note this is updated info from our March 1, 2018 communication.)
- Effective **October 1, 2018**, all program participants 18 years of age or older including Venturing, Order of the Arrow and Exploring young adults must complete the new Youth Protection training.

With these changes, and more outlined (see Changes to the Barriers to Abuse), we will continue to build a safe environment for our youth. As advocates and champions for Youth Protection in the Scouting movement, we encourage you to take the training and spread the word.

Additional in-person training is listed on the enclosed "PPC YPT2 Course Schedule" including 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm on June 4 at our Tradeshow of Scouting. Please make every effort to preregister for the Tradeshow classes, as well as, the in-person training sessions. Be sure to have your Scout ID number available so that we can have training certificates available and properly register your completion of course modules.

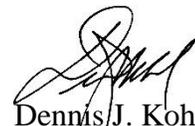
We realize the October 1 training deadline will be a challenge for some, but the safety of our children is too important to delay.

Thank you for your work in sharing the message of safety in Scouting. You make a difference every day, in ways you may never know.

Truly, Youth Protection Begins with YOU.

Yours in Scouting,

Nora Burke Klippstein
Nora Burke Klippstein
Youth Protection Committee Chair


Dennis J. Kohl
Scout Executive

