



November 1, 2018

Fellow Scouters

Please see enclosed the most recent (September 28, 2018) national FAQs communications on Youth Protection. This, in combination with the May 2018 Guide to Safe Scouting new Barriers to Abuse, should be your go-to resources for Youth Protection.

This has been a year with lots of rule changes and demands upon our adult volunteers. Some changes, particularly with regard to overnight housing, have necessitated increased expenditures and changes to traditions. Please remember what is most important – our youth and delivering the promise of scouting to all.

Thank you for your cooperation, efforts and concerns.

Nora Burke Klippstein PPC Youth Protection Champion

#### **ADDITIONAL FAQs FOR PATRIOTS PATH COUNCIL**

**Q. What exceptions are there for two deep registered adult leadership?**

**A.** The starting point for this discussion is that there may never be one-on-one contact between an adult and a youth.

With one exception there must always be two deep adult leadership. The single exception to two adults is with regard to transportation where the rule is that adult drivers must never be alone with a youth unless that youth is their own child.

The exceptions where one of the two deep adults can be unregistered are merit badge counselors, fundraising activities, Eagle mentors and visits to Scout homes. Registered leaders are strongly urged to always meet in public places and/or always be in the line of sight of other adults. These guidelines exist for both the protection of youth, our adult leadership and our organization.

**Q. What should Den Leaders without an Assistant Den Leader do for two deep adult leadership?**

**A.** Note that any registered adult can serve as two deep leadership. Look to your Assistant Cubmasters and Committee Members to help out in your Dens. An optimally functioning pack will have Pack Committee volunteers from every den.

**Q. What happens to registered leaders who fail to take the new Youth Protection?**



**A.** Any individual who has not completed all four new Youth Protection modules by the time their charter is transmitted will be dropped from the charter effective January 1, 2019. These individuals will be required to complete a new application with an attached current Youth Protection Training Completion certificate to be added back to their unit. There is no longer any ability by our registrars to leave an individual on the registration rolls without current Youth Protection training.

**Q. Where can I get the most up-to-date Youth Protection information?**

**A.** The online version of the Guide to Safe Scouting is the most reliable resource. Go to : <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/#a>. The G2SS supersedes all other guidelines including the new online training. Additionally, you should check the national website at: [www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/](http://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/).

**Q. Are there any additional live YPT trainings?**

**A.** At this time there are no additional live trainings scheduled.

**Q. Are there any alternatives to the online training?**

**A.** Individuals may come to council headquarters and use a computer or tablet preloaded with the new YPT modules.

**Q. What should the deadline be for completing the new Youth Protection?**

**A.** The BSA continues to manage Youth Protection site traffic, particularly during the upcoming re-charter process where we project in excess of 10,000 leaders a day will be taking our training.

**NOW** is the time to encourage our leaders to take the revised training.

## Scouting's Barriers to Abuse

The BSA has adopted the following policies for the safety and well-being of its members. These policies primarily protect youth members; however, they also serve to protect adult leaders. All parents and caregivers should understand that our leaders are to abide by these safeguards. Parents and youth are strongly encouraged to use these safeguards outside the Scouting program. Registered leaders must follow these guidelines with all Scouting youth outside of Scouting activities.

### ***Registration Requirements***

**The chartered organization representative, or in their absence the executive officer of the chartered organization, must approve the registration of the unit's adult leaders.**

Registration includes:



- Completion of application including criminal background check and mandatory Youth Protection training
- Volunteer Screening Database check

**Current Youth Protection training is required for leaders when renewing their registration or at unit charter renewal.**

**Adult program participants must register as adults and follow Youth Protection policies.**

### ***Adult Supervision***

**(Effective October 1, 2018) 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 over 21 in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader over 21 must be present for any activity involving female youth. Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age- and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided. (FAQ's)**

**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. (Transportation FAQ's)**

- In situations requiring a personal conference, the meeting is to be conducted with the knowledge and in view of other adults and/or youth.
- Private online communications (texting, phone calls, chat, IM, etc.) must include another registered leader or parent.
- Communication by way of social media (Facebook, Snapchat, etc.) must include another registered leader or parent.

**Discipline must be constructive.**

- Discipline must reflect Scouting's values.
- Corporal punishment is never permitted.
- Disciplinary activities involving isolation, humiliation, or ridicule are also prohibited.

### ***Responsibility***

**Leaders must ensure that all participating in Scouting activities abide by the Scout Oath and Scout Law.**

**Adult leaders and youth members share the responsibility for the safety of all participants in the program, including adherence to Youth Protection and health and safety policies.**

- Adult leaders are responsible for monitoring behavior and intervening when necessary.
- Physical violence, sexual activity, emotional abuse, spiritual abuse, unauthorized weapons, hazing, discrimination, harassment, initiation rites, bullying, cyberbullying, theft, verbal insults, drugs, alcohol, and pornography have no place in the Scouting program and may result in revocation of membership.



**All leaders are required to adhere to the Scouter Code of Conduct.**

### ***Accommodations***

**Separate accommodations for adult males and females and youth males and females are required.**

#### **Tenting**

- Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth.
- Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.
- In Cub Scouting, parents and guardians may share a tent with their family.
- In all other programs, youth and adults tent separately. (**FAQ**)
- Spouses may share tents.

#### **Lodging/Cabin Accommodations**

**Whenever possible, separate cabins or lodging should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. Where separate accommodations cannot be provided due to group size or limited availability, modifications may be made. Where completely separate accommodations are not available, additional supervision is required. (**FAQ**)**

- If adults and youth of the same gender occupy single-room accommodations, there must be a minimum of two adults and four youth, with all adults being Youth Protection trained.
- Physical separation by other means, including temporary barriers or space, should be used only when no other arrangements are possible.
- These modifications are limited to single-gender accommodations.

#### **Restrooms**

**Separate shower and latrine facilities should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth.** If separate facilities are not available, separate times should be scheduled and posted.

Privacy of youth is respected.

- Adults and youth must respect each other's privacy, especially in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp.
- Adult leaders should closely monitor these areas but only enter as needed for youth protection or health and safety reasons.

### ***Program Requirements***

**The buddy system should be used.**

**The use of smartphones, cameras, mirrors, drones, etc., in places or situations where privacy is expected is prohibited.**

**All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.**

**The BSA does not recognize any secret organizations as part of its program. Hazing and initiations are prohibited and have no part during any Scouting activity.**



**All forms of bullying and harassment including verbal, physical, and cyberbullying are prohibited.**

**Inappropriate public displays of affection are prohibited.**

**Sexual activity is prohibited.**

**Appropriate attire is required for all activities.**

### ***Reporting Requirements***

**Adult leaders and youth members have a responsibility to recognize, respond to, and report Youth Protection violations and abuse.**

### **Reporting**

#### **Youth Protection Policy Violations**

- Serious Youth Protection policy violations or behaviors that put a youth's safety at risk must be reported to the Scout executive.
- Alternatively, policy violations may be reported to the Scouts First Helpline when the Scout executive is not available.
- Online reporting is also available at [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/).

#### **Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse**

- All persons participating in Scouting programs are mandated reporters of child abuse.
- Reports must be made to local law enforcement and child protective services. State law may require additional reporting.
- This reporting duty cannot be delegated to any other person.
- Reporting to the Scout executive or Scouts First Helpline ensures that follow-up can occur for the safety of our Scouts. Scout executives and Scouts First coordinate follow-up actions.

#### **Scouts First Helpline**

As part of its "Scouts First" approach to the protection and safety of youth, the BSA has established a dedicated 24-hour helpline to receive reports of known or suspected abuse or behavior that might put a youth at risk.

1-844-SCOUTS1 (1-844-726-8871)

When to use it:

- Anytime you believe a youth has been harmed or their safety and wellbeing is at risk, and you cannot immediately reach your Scout executive or local council.
- If a Scout is bullied because of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability, and local help is unable to resolve the problem.

If someone is at immediate risk of harm, always call 911.

#### **BSA Incident Reporting Resources:**

[www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/)

#### **Additional Resources:**

**Youth Protection Webpage = <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection>**

**Youth Protection Training = <https://my.scouting.org>**



**Guide to Safe Scouting = <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss> = [https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/Scouter\\_Code\\_of\\_Conduct.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/Scouter_Code_of_Conduct.pdf)**

State-by-state mandatory reporting information: [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)

# Youth Protection and Barriers to Abuse FAQs

Additional FAQ's: [General Health and Safety](#), [Annual Health and Medical Record](#), [Shooting Sports program](#), [Family Scouting Information](#)

## Adult Supervision

**Q: The Barriers to Abuse say that there must be two registered adults present for all Scouting activities and meetings. Does that include merit badge counseling? Fund-raising events?**

**A.** Yes. However, the parent or legal guardian of the Scout may serve as the second adult. This parent or legal guardian does not have to be a registered leader.

**Q: Why is a female adult 21 years of age or over required whenever female youth are present, but not the other way around?**

**A.** The requirement to ensure that a registered female adult is present at activities serving girls is not dissimilar to policies we've enacted in the past for Venturing when male and female adult leaders were required for certain co-ed activities. At this time, we believe that these are the best, most appropriate measures for our movement. We hope you understand that these requirements were given substantial and thorough consideration.

**Q. Do Lion and Tiger Den meetings require two-deep leadership since adult partners are present?**

**A.** Yes. A Lion or Tiger adult partner is not considered a registered leader for meeting two-deep leadership requirements. Lion or Tiger partners, as well as other pack leaders, provide a pool of adults who could be registered as an assistant den leader to meet this requirement.

**Q. If only one leader shows up, does that mean we have to cancel the meeting or activity?**

**A.** Yes. This policy is in place to prevent abuse in and out of Scouting. Adults should never be alone with youth who are not their children.

**Q. The Barriers to Abuse states "One-on-one contact between adult leaders and youth members is prohibited both inside and outside of Scouting." What does 'inside and outside of Scouting' mean?**

**A.** The BSA has adopted its youth protection policies for the safety and well-being of its members. These policies primarily protect youth members; however, they also serve to protect adult leaders. All parents and caregivers should understand that our leaders are to abide by these safeguards. Registered leaders must follow these guidelines with all Scouting youth outside of Scouting activities. There are careers that may require one-on-one contact with youth, however aside from those roles, volunteers must abide by the youth protection policies of the BSA even outside of Scouting activities.

This policy is in place to prevent abuse in and out of Scouting. Adults should never be alone with youth who are not their children.



**Q. Does this mean my son cannot have a sleepover if I am the only adult present?**

**A.** Yes, if any of the children other than your own child is a Scout, we strongly encourage all adults to use the Barriers to Abuse in and out of Scouting.

### **Accommodations**

**Q. Our council camp has Adirondack shelters that sleep 8 youth, should we treat them as tents or lodging?**

**A.** Lodging.

**Q. Why do youth tent separately from parents outside of Cub Scouting?**

**A.** Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturing are youth led programs. The Cub Scout program is family-oriented.

### **Transportation**

**Q. How do the Barriers to Abuse apply to transportation?**

**A.** An adult may not drive or be alone in the car with a Scout unless that Scout is their own child. An adult may drive two or more Scouts.

**Q. Can 18-year-old Scouts transport other Scouts, if so, what are the qualifications for this?**

**A.** Yes. Drivers must be currently licensed and at least 18 years of age. **Scouting youth (under age 18) are not insured under the Boy Scouts of America commercial general liability policy.** Transportation guidance can be found in the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#).