

RESOURCE GUIDE

2011-12 • Fall/Winter

Save until March 2012



For our most up-to-date information go to www.pacsky.org

NEW tear-out training
guide for leaders!
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Youth Protection Guidelines



For more information on events and programs, please call us at (650) 341-5633 or visit our website at www.pacsky.org.

YOUTH PROTECTION

The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for our youth members. To maintain such an environment, the BSA developed numerous procedural and leadership selection policies and provides parents and leaders with resources for the Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venturing programs.

Leadership Selection

The Boy Scouts of America takes great pride in the quality of our adult leadership. Being a leader in the BSA is a privilege, not a right. The quality of the program and the safety of our youth members call for high-quality adult leaders. We work closely with our chartered organizations to help recruit the best possible leaders for their units.

The adult application requests background information that should be checked by the unit committee or the chartered organization before accepting an applicant for unit leadership. While no current screening techniques exist that can identify every potential child molester, besides doing criminal background checks we can reduce the risk of accepting a child molester by learning all we can about an applicant for a leadership position—his or her experience with children, why he or she wants to be a Scout leader, and what discipline techniques he or she would use.

Effective June 1, 2010

- Youth Protection training is required for all BSA registered volunteers, regardless of their position.
- New leaders are required to take Youth Protection training before submitting an application for registration. The certificate of completion for this training must be submitted at the time the application is made and before volunteer service with youth begins.

- Youth Protection training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer's Youth Protection training record is not current at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be reregistered.
- View more information about this change in English and Spanish at scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.

Barriers to Abuse Within Scouting

The BSA has adopted policies on the following topics 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 leaders from false accusations of abuse.

- Two-deep leadership
- No one-on-one contact
- Respect of privacy
- Cameras, imaging, and digital devices
- Separate youth/adult accommodations
- Proper preparation for high-adventure activities
- No secret organizations
- Appropriate attire
- Constructive discipline
- Hazing prohibited
- Junior leader training and supervision
- Member responsibilities
- Unit responsibilities

Please visit www.scouting.org/youthprotection to view the policies.

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 campers 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.

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.

For more information on the new Youth Protection Guidelines go to www.scouting.org/youthprotection

