



NEW BSA YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE

BSA Youth Protection Mission Statement:

True youth protection can be achieved only through the focused commitment of everyone in Scouting. It is the mission of Youth

Protection volunteers and professionals to work within the Boy Scouts of America to maintain a culture of Youth Protection awareness and safety at the national, regional, area, council, district, and unit levels.

Great New Training Available:

BSA's brand new Youth Protection Training is now available via BSA's Learn Center. You can access BSA's Learn Center via your www.My.Scouting.org account, and then adding the Youth Protection Training to your Training Plan. It's a great new training that ALL people interested in helping youth should take, including parents and even non-Scouters and non-Scouting families. This is great new material that is very up-to-date.

A Summary of the Four Modules

Here are the course numbers and approximate run time:

- Overview & Policies – SCO_3001 (20 minutes)
- Sexual Abuse – SCO_3003 (22 minutes)
- Bullying – SCO_3004 (13 minutes)
- YPT Certification – SCO_3007 (no time estimate)

TRAINING NOTES:

- The 'right arrow with a vertical line at the point is how to advance to the next slide or make the training continue.
- When done with each module click on the "Close Course" button in the upper right-hand corner of the module.

To print your certificate, you will have to relog into My.Scouting.org, go to the Learn Center, then when on the YPT tab (located near the top) click on the printer icon on the right hand side of the line that has your YPT Status and expiration date. At this point a 'pop up' window will appear (reminder: make sure your browser allows pop-up windows) and then you can choose which YPT course you want to a certificate to print or to download.

- You need to get 75% or more of the 25 questions correct to 'pass' the YPT exam.

Youth Protection Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) commitment to Youth Protection?

Nothing is more important to the BSA than the safety of our youth members. We believe that even one instance of child abuse is unacceptable, and we are outraged there have been times when our best efforts to protect youth were not enough and Scouts were abused. We sincerely apologize to victims and their families.

The 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.

What are the Boy Scouts of America's Youth Protection policies?

- The BSA strives to prevent child abuse through comprehensive policies and procedures, which include the following safeguards to serve as barriers to abuse:
- Ongoing youth protection education for all volunteers, parents, and Scouts.
- A formal selection and screening process for adult leaders and staff that includes criminal background checks.
- A Volunteer Screening Database system to prevent the registration of individuals who do not meet the BSA's standards due to known or suspected abuse or misconduct inside or outside the organization.
- Requiring two or more adult leaders be present with youth at all times
- Youth protection begins with you. All units, adult leaders, and youth members have a responsibility to enforce youth protection program policies. Our education and training programs are specifically designed to teach Scouts, parents, and adult volunteers to recognize, respond, and report abuse—in and out of Scouting.

What updates are coming to the BSA's Youth Protection Policies?

The BSA is introducing the next generation of youth protection for our organization. Our updated youth protection policies include:

- Any person looking to become a registered leader in Scouting must complete the BSA's youth protection training before registering.
- Youth protection training is mandatory for any volunteer who participates in an outing lasting longer than 72 hours.
- Units may not re-charter until and unless all adult leaders are trained in the BSA's youth protection.

Why is the BSA updating its Youth Protection Policies? Were the previous policies inadequate?

The BSA constantly evaluates and reinvests resources where needed to strengthen our policies and ensure they are ahead of or in line with society's knowledge of abuse and best practices for prevention. We also regularly consult with survivors, experts from law enforcement, child safety, psychology, and other relevant fields.

How can those who are involved in Scouting report suspicions of inappropriate behavior?

The BSA has a dedicated 24-hour Scouts First Helpline (1-844-SCOUTS1 or 1-844-726-8871) available to report any suspected inappropriate activity. Contact local law enforcement immediately in any case of suspected inappropriate behavior.

How does the BSA support victims of abuse?

The BSA believes that even one instance of child abuse is unacceptable, and we deeply regret the times when our best efforts to protect youth were not enough. We are committed to providing ongoing support to victims and their families, including counseling. We want to help victims heal, on their own terms, with a professional counselor of their choice.

The Boy Scouts of America offers assistance with counseling to any Scout, former Scout, or the family member of any Scout who suffered abuse during their time in Scouting. The BSA has a dedicated 24-hour Scouts First Helpline (1-844-SCOUTS1 or 1-844-726-8871) and email contact address (scouts1st@scouting.org) for these sensitive matters.

Contact local law enforcement immediately in any case of suspected inappropriate behavior.

What is the BSA's message to parents about youth protection issues?

Youth protection is of paramount importance to the BSA, and integral to everything we do. Parents are our most important allies in protecting our youth. Keeping an open dialogue with your children—no matter what their age—is a vital part of keeping them safe. The subject can be uncomfortable, but parents must speak to their children about these issues. That's why every Cub Scout and Boy Scout handbook includes the BSA's Youth Protection materials that helps parents speak to their children about youth protection issues. Additionally, all aspects of Scouting are open to observation by parents and leaders.

How are adult leaders selected?

All potential volunteer Scout leaders must provide personal references from the community they hope to serve and pass an extensive background check.

- **STEP 1: Application**

All adults 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 had no criminal accusations made against them.

- **STEP 2: Adult Leader Youth Protection Training**

No person can become a registered leader in Scouting without first completing the BSA's Youth Protection training and all registered adult volunteers are required to complete the training every two years. The training is available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- **Step 3: Chartered Organizations Reference Check**

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.

- **STEP 4: Criminal Background Check**

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.

- **STEP 5: Volunteer Screening Database Check**

Before an applicant can join or volunteer with Scouting, the BSA verifies that he or she is not included in our database of individuals who have been prohibited from participation. The database prevents the registration of individuals who do not meet the BSA's standards due to known or suspected abuse or misconduct inside or outside the organization.

Have all registered adult Scout volunteers undergone criminal background checks?

Yes. All registered volunteers have undergone a criminal background check.

Is Youth Protection training a requirement for all adult volunteers?

Yes, all adult volunteers are required to complete [Youth Protection training](#) before they start as a volunteer, and every two years thereafter.

Extra Notes from Mount Baker Council Registrar Susan McCaughan

I spoke with a volunteer earlier this morning who has been having difficulty taking the new Youth Protection training. He called National and the person with whom he spoke at National said that if a person tries to click through the training (hurrying it up) rather than taking it at the regular speed, it will lock up and they will not be able to go any further with the training. So, if this happens, the person should log out of their my.Scouting account, clear their browsing history, log back in and try again. Here's a couple of other tips:

- Single click your mouse as you go through it; if you double-click, you'll get another pop-up that needs to be cleared away before you can go to the next frame which makes the training take longer.

- If you can, take all 4 modules during the same time period.
- It's probably a good idea for key unit leaders to try taking the updated Youth Protection training in the near future, just so that you are aware of how it works when someone talks to you about it.
- Besides, it's probably not a good idea to wait until October 1st to take it when the system could possibly crash when everyone else is trying to take it.