



UPDATED YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE

Update Your Training by October 1, 2018

Over the decades, the Boy Scouts of America has been a leader in developing training and policies designed to keep young people safe. Over time, these policies have become standard with organizations across the nation. Now, the Boy Scouts of America is releasing fully updated training to further strengthen our ability to protect youth.

These changes include:

- Updated Youth Protection Training, including insights from experts and survivors and the latest strategies for recognizing and preventing major forms of abuse. *This is the designated Youth Protection Training for all adults. All volunteers must take the new training by October 1, 2018, no matter when they took the previous training.*
- An expanded ScoutsFirst Helpline 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.
- Youth Protection Training for youth members available in 2019.

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

- As of January 1, 2018, no new leader can be registered without first completing youth protection training.
- As of January 1, 2018, no council, regional, or national leader will be allowed to renew their registration if they are not current on their Youth Protection Training.
- As of September 1, 2017, no unit may re-charter without all leaders being current on their Youth Protection Training. Registrars no longer have the ability to approve charters without full compliance.

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. With these changes, and many more outlined in the documents listed below, as well as the overview video, we will continue to build a safe environment for our youth.

As an advocate and champion for youth protection in Scouting movement, I encourage you to [watch the video](#), become familiar with the resource documents, [take the training](#) and spread the word.

We realize the October 1st 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 difference every day, in ways you may never know. Truly, Youth Protection Begins with You.

Sincerely,

Michael Johnson
Director, Youth Protection

Additional Resources:

[Overview](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Youth Protection Infographic](#)

[Youth Protection Presentation](#)

[How to Guide for Taking Youth Protection](#)



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Two-Deep Leadership and Digital Communications

A new portion on the new Youth Protection Training includes a short discussion on two-deep leadership/one-on-one contact during digital communications:

The policies of two-deep leadership and no one-on-one contact between adults and youth members also apply to digital communication.

Leaders may not have one-on-one private online communications or engage one-on-one in other digital activities (games, social media, etc.) with youth members. Leaders should copy a parent and another leader in digital and online communication, ensuring no one-on-one contact takes place in text, social media, or other forms of online or digital communication.