

YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST

Safeguarding – a code of practice for Young Leaders



scouts.org.uk/safeguarding

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It is the policy of The Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all young people by protecting them from neglect and from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

All members have a duty to report concerns or suspicions and a right to do so in confidence and free from harassment.

WHAT DO I DO IF...?

If a young person tells you they are being abused or they raise a concern about their safety or wellbeing you should:

- 1.** Allow them to speak without interruption and accept what they say
- 2.** Be understanding and reassuring but do not give them your opinion
- 3.** Tell them that you will try to offer support but that you must pass the information on
- 4.** Tell an adult leader immediately
- 5.** Write careful notes of what was said and pass to the same leader

If you are concerned about a young person's safety or wellbeing or there is a concern, complaint or allegation about an adult or yourself, inside or outside Scouting, you should:

- 1.** Tell an adult leader immediately
- 2.** Write careful notes of what was said and pass to the same leader

If you are in any doubt about what to do, contact the Scout Information Centre on **0345 300 1818** or **safeguarding@scouts.org.uk**

If you have a personal concern and would like to talk to someone please call Childline on **0800 1111**

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR



- Do** remember that you are a role model at ALL times, inside and outside Scouting
- Do** treat everyone with dignity and respect in line with the Scouting Values
- Do** treat all young people equally – do not show favouritism
- Do** report all allegations, suspicions and concerns to an adult leader immediately

- Do** remember that someone may misinterpret your actions
- Do** respect a young person's right to personal privacy
- Do** act within the boundaries of your role – even in difficult circumstances
- Do** have separate sleeping accommodation and changing facilities – do not share with young people or adults
- Do** encourage an open and transparent culture
- Do** create an environment where young people feel safe to voice their concerns

- Do** know your limitations and stay safe – do not put yourself in unnecessary danger
- Do not** trivialise abuse or let it go unreported
- Do not** drink alcohol or smoke while Scouting
- Do not** engage in romantic or sexual relationships with someone you are in a position of trust over
- Do not** allow activities or games which encourage bullying behaviour including initiation ceremonies, dares or forfeits

- Do not** use inappropriate, suggestive or threatening language when communicating with young people
- Do not** take part in physical contact games with young people
- Do not** plan to be alone with a young person or group – do run activities with at least two adults being present