

Young people first

Safeguarding – a code of practice for Young Leaders

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scouts.org.uk/safeguarding



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 in a younger section
- 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