

Youth Protection Reporting Requirements

- A. If you suspect child abuse in Scouting, you are required to inform the Scout Executive and/or the Director of Field Service. All reports, whether they originate in the form of conversation, phone calls, or letters, must be forwarded to the Scout Executive or his representative: c/o Theodore Roosevelt Council, Boy Scouts of America, 544 Broadway, Massapequa, NY 11758-5010, telephone (516) 797-7600.
- B. All allegations should be kept strictly confidential with as few people involved and as little discussion about the matter as possible.
- C. New York State requires individuals in certain professions to report all suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. Examples of mandated reporters are: doctors, nurses, medical facility administrators, child care providers, teachers, school administrators, law enforcement personnel, and others responsible for the care of children. In addition, any person who suspects that a child has been or may be subject to physical, mental, emotional, or sexual abuse or neglect may report the matter. Reports should contain the following information (if known):
- The name and address of the child, child's parents or guardian(s).
 - The child's location.
 - The child's condition, including the nature and extent of injury.
 - The child's age, gender, and race.
 - Name and address of the alleged offender.
 - Any other helpful information.

New York State Child Abuse & Maltreatment Reporting Center – 1-800-342-3720

UNIT LEADER IN CHARGE OF YOUTH PROTECTION

Every pack, troop, and crew in the Theodore Roosevelt Council must have an Assistant Cubmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or Associate Crew Advisor to be in charge of their unit's youth protection program. This is mandatory to be a Quality unit. Youth protection is a vital part of the Boy Scouts of America.

The job description of that assistant is:

1. Ensure that every registered leader in the unit has attended the 90-minute youth protection program sponsored by the council's training committee.
2. Be familiar with all policies of the Boy Scouts of America concerning youth protection, child abuse, and safety policies.
3. Read the "Safe Scouting" guide and ensure the unit follows all the policies and practices discussed.
4. Annually arrange for youth members to view the appropriate child protection video tape. For Cub Scouts, the "It Happened to Me" tape should be shown at den meetings with the parents present with their child. For Boy Scouts, the "A Time to Tell" tape should be shown at a troop meeting. For Venturers, the "Personal Safety and Awareness" tape should be shown at a crew meeting. Parents must be notified that the video tape will be shown.
5. Report any incidents or suspicions of child abuse or health and safety incidents to the Theodore Roosevelt Council by calling the Scout Executive.

YOUTH PROTECTION GUIDELINES

The Theodore Roosevelt Council wants to ensure every pack, troop, and crew is the safest place a young person can be. The following guidelines **MUST** be followed:

- 1) All activities must have a minimum of two adult leaders. The leader in charge must be at least 21 years old and the assistant leader must be at least 18 years of age.
- 2) A youth should never be in a position of being one on one with an adult unless within view of others. For example, during a Scoutmaster Conference the Scout and Scoutmaster can sit in the far corner of the troop meeting room or in a room off the meeting room with the door open.
- 3) A youth member may not share a tent with an adult unless it is a parent/child.
- 4) If a troop is traveling and staying in motel rooms, one adult may not share the room with boys. There must always be two adults sleeping in a room with Scouts.
- 5) Youth are to be provided privacy from adults when using the restroom, shower, or changing.
- 6) Every youth member who joins a pack, or troop, is expected to review the "*How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse*" pamphlet with his parent or guardian. This guide is in the front of every *Wolf, Bear, Webelos* and *Boy Scout Handbook*.
- 7) Every adult working regularly with a unit should be registered by completing the adult application.
- 8) Every new adult registering is to have at least three references. It is the responsibility of the committee chairman and chartered organization representative to contact at least three references before submitting the application. (If at least three members of the current committee know the individual and will give a positive endorsement, this will meet the requirement).
- 9) Every Cub Scout den is to annually show the video "*It Happened To Me*" to parents and Cub Scouts at a combined meeting.
- 10) Every troop is to annually show the video "*A Time To Tell*" to the Scouts at a regular troop meeting.
- 11) Every Venture crew is to annually show the "*Youth Protection Personal Safety Awareness*" video to the Venturers at a meeting.
- 12) Every commissioner, district committee member, key council program Scouters, unit leaders, and all other uniformed leaders should complete the two-hour Youth Protection Course conducted of the council training committee. This course should be repeated every three years.
- 13) At least one Venture leader in each crew is assigned responsibility for Youth Protection Training and must complete the two-hour course conducted by the council training committee.
- 14) A Merit Badge Counselor may never be in a one-to-one situation with a youth. A Merit Badge Counselor may counsel a Scout who has a buddy with him so there are two boys present. However, even in this situation a counselor should not be in an isolated situation with two boys, such as in his home with no other adults in the house.
- 15) Any incident or suspicion of child abuse should be reported to the Scout executive, immediately at the council service center: 516-797-7600 ext. 101.
- 16) One registered adult is assigned responsibility for Youth Protection training and ensures all the above items are followed. This individual must complete the two-hour Youth Protection course provided by the council training committee.
- 17) Effective January, 2003, both the Local Tour Permit Application (BSA No. 34426B) and the National Tour Permit Application (No. 4419B) will require that at least one adult present during the event or activity must have completed BSA Youth Protection Training.