



# YOUTH PROTECTION

## Boy Scouts of America

The Boy Scouts of America (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.

### HOW IT WORKS

## ADULT VOLUNTEERS

### 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. All registered adult volunteers are required to complete the training.

### 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 that have been prohibited from participation. The database prevents individuals from re-registering in Scouting who were removed for a range of misconduct and inappropriate behavior inside or outside the organization, including allegations of abuse.

We constantly evaluate and invest resources to strengthen our policies and ensure they are in line with, and where possible, ahead of best practices for prevention. To support this ongoing effort we regularly consult with survivors and experts from law enforcement, child safety, psychology, and other relevant fields.

Review the complete BSA Youth Protection policy at [www.scouting.org/bsayouthprotection](http://www.scouting.org/bsayouthprotection)

**OUR COMMITMENT**  
TO SAFE SCOUTING

LEARN MORE | [SCOUTINGSAFELY.ORG](http://SCOUTINGSAFELY.ORG)



Always report any suspicion of abuse or inappropriate behavior to the 24/7 Scouts First Helpline: 1-844-SCOUTS1 or 1-844-726-8871

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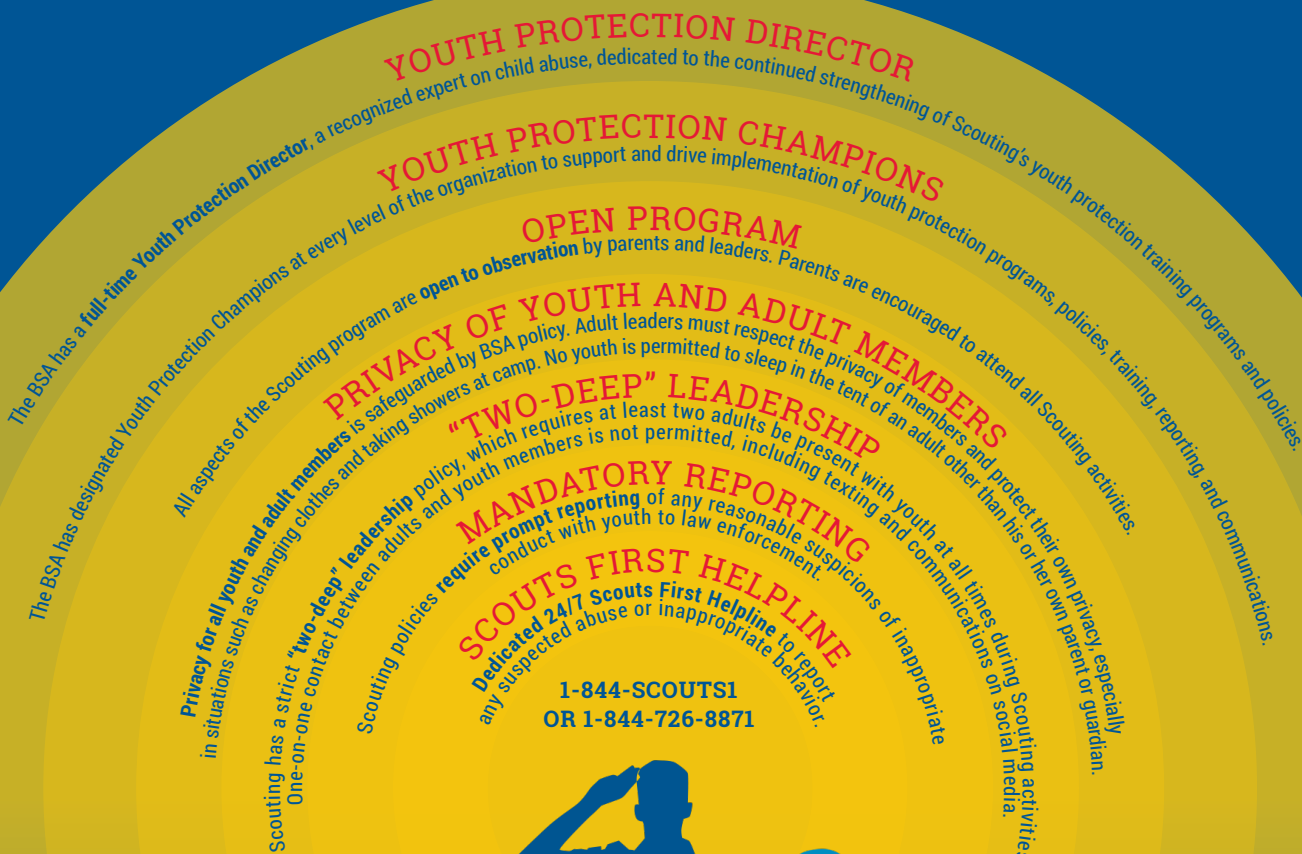
# ENHANCING EFFORTS TO PROTECT YOUTH A TIMELINE OF YOUTH PROTECTION

Recognizing that youth protection requires sustained vigilance, the BSA continues to be on the forefront of developing youth protection policies to strengthen and enhance efforts to protect youth through clear policies, training of adult volunteers, and effective screening of volunteers.

- **1987** | "Two-Deep Leadership" policy officially enacted
- **1990** | "How to Protect Your Children" insert included in the Boy Scout Handbook
- **1994** | Required background checks for all professionals & staff who work with youth
- **2003** | Computerized criminal background checks required for all new adult volunteers
- **2010** | Mandatory Youth Protection training required every 2 years for all registered adults
- **2012** | ScoutHelp Hotline and Cyber Chip programs officially launched



## THE BSA LAYERS OF YOUTH PROTECTION



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