

Roundtable Safety Moment

Barriers To Abuse

(Safety Moment recommended for adult audiences only)

During the 1980s, Scouting America developed a robust program that created barriers designed to prevent abuse in Scouting and protect Scouts from abuse. Those barriers are effective when observant leaders know what to look for and how to respond if they believe abuse is occurring.

While many people assume that abuse cases are primarily adult-on-child interactions, in the last several years, the majority of abuse cases in Scouting have happened during youth-on-youth encounters. This type of abuse can be difficult to spot because it occurs in places adult leaders are not present, such as youth showers or sleeping facilities. Adults should be increasingly vigilant in ensuring that barriers to abuse are in place and guidelines are followed. What can we do as leaders to ensure the safety of those we are serving?

Scouting America has adopted the following policies for the safety and well-being of its members. These policies primarily protect youth members; however, they also serve to protect adult leaders. Registered leaders must follow these guidelines:

Registration Requirements

- The chartered organization representative must approve the registration of all adult unit leaders.
- Scouting uses a Volunteer Screening Database to prohibit known or suspected abusers from registering.
- Safeguarding Youth Training and criminal background checks are mandatory for all registered volunteers and staff.

Adult Supervision

- One-on-one contact between adult leaders and youth members is prohibited either in person, online, over the phone, or via text.
- Two-deep adult supervision by registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over is required for all Scouting activities.

Accommodations

- Separate accommodations for adult males and females and youth males and females are required for tenting, lodging, and restroom facilities.
- Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.

Reporting Requirements

- Adult leaders and youth members have a responsibility to recognize, respond to, and report suspected abuse.
- All Safeguarding Youth violations must be reported to the local council. Abuse issues must also be reported to local law enforcement.

RESOURCES

[Safeguarding Youth Training](#)



[Incident Reporting](#)



[Scouting is Safer than Ever Before video](#)



[Youth Safety Infographic](#)

