



A SCOUT IS KIND

Youth Protection Resources

Summer 2014

Bullying Awareness

The idea that a Scout should treat others as he or she wants to be treated – *A Scout is Kind* – is woven throughout the programs and literature of the Boy Scouts of America. When a Scout follows the principles of the Scout Oath and Law bullying and hazing situations should never occur.

However, as Scouts, leaders, and parents, we may feel uncertain about how to handle bullying when we see or hear it happening in or out of Scouting. We may respond in ways that don't make the best use of the opportunity to teach a Scout the difference between appropriate and inappropriate behavior. Because bullying among children is inappropriate in that it is aggressive behavior that is intentional and involves an imbalance of power and strength, it is important that situations are handled appropriately.

To assure that Scouts, Scouters, and parents do not stand by as uninterested bystanders during instances of bullying, because of a lack of understanding of the subject, actions to reduce, and/or BSA recommended and required practices, policies, and procedures, a significant amount of information on the subject has been developed and made available. This pamphlet provides a listing of many of the resources available for review and use. It should be noted, that if the use of these resources and guides do not resolve a bullying issue, Scouts, leaders, and parents should seek support and assistance from your leader, a parent, or trusted adult, and where appropriate the council Scout executive.

"Be aware of how you treat people who are younger, smaller, or less able than yourself. Lead by setting a good example. Respect others and help them succeed. If you know someone is being hazed or bullied, stand up for what is right by defending them."

"Sometimes it might seem easy to respond to someone's poor behavior with angry words or physical force, but there are always better ways to handle difficult situations. When dealing with peer pressure, bullying, hazing, and other challenges, use the Scout Oath and Scout Law as reliable guides for making good decisions."

-Boy Scout Handbook, p. 62



SCOUTING U
Learn. Challenge. Lead.™

STOP
BULLYING
TAKE A STAND. **NOW!** LEND A HAND.

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Cyber Chip

Today's youth are spending more time than ever using digital media for education, research, socializing, and fun. To help families and volunteers keep youth safe while online, the BSA introduced the Cyber Chip program. In developing this exciting, age-specific tool, the BSA teamed up with content expert NetSmartz®, part of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children® and training expert for many law enforcement agencies.

NetSmartz® has created a Scouting portal showcasing Cyber Chip resources, including grade-specific videos, for each level which can be found at www.Scouting.org/cyberchip

BSA social media guidelines may be found on www.Scouting.org/YouthProtection



Resources

The BSA has prepared resources to address the issue of bullying and hazing, and has made them available for use by Scouts, leaders, and parents.

Learning Presentations

Presentations useful to youth and adult leaders are available on the BSA supplemental training resources site – www.Scouting.org/Training/Adult/Supplemental

Stop Bullying Now: Tips for Scouting Leaders and Scouts – These simple, basic presentations created by the BSA in conjunction with the US Department of Health and Human Services can be used by individuals or in a group setting to help our members and families learn more about preventing bullying in Scouting.

Fact Sheets

A series of BSA Factsheets on the following topics are provided on the BSA Youth Protection website at: www.Scouting.org/YouthProtection

- Bullying—What is Bullying?
- The Bully
- Creating a Bullying-Free Culture in Scouting
- What to Do if Your Child is Being Bullied
- Providing Support to Scouts Who are Bullied: Tips for Scouters and Parents
- Prevention of Cyberbullying in Scouting
- Prevention of Bullying in Scouting – A Patrol/Den/Squad/Crew Discussion
- Reporting Suspected or Observed Bullying

ScoutCast

ScoutCast and CubCast are monthly podcasts that address issues and/or program features. Look for the January 2013 edition of ScoutCast "**How to Handle Bullying in the Troop**" at www.Scouting.org/ScoutCast.

The values of Scouting make it clear that bullying cannot be tolerated. Scouting leaders have a unique opportunity to teach respect and acceptance of others.

Bullying

Bullying is a widespread and serious societal problem that has a negative impact on the “target.” It is not a phase that youth have to go through. It is not “just messing around”, and is not something involved youth – bully or target – will grow out of. Continued bullying will lead to poor self-image, poor self-esteem, quitting Scouting, or becoming a bully to other younger youth, thus perpetuating the bully cycle.

Forms of bullying include:

- Verbal – name calling, teasing
- Social – spreading rumors, leaving the “target” out of activities, breaking up or manipulating friendships
- Physical – hitting, pushing, shoving, physical coercion
- Group – intimidations, ostracizing
- Criminal – injury, assault, sexual aggression
- Cyber bullying – using technology (social media, mobile phones, computers, etc.) for any of the above



Learning for Life

Learning for Life has developed video educational programs for staff, parents, and students that can be found at:

<https://learning.learningforlife.org/digital-programs/abc-video/>

- Educational videos 35-40 minutes in length designed for five different target audiences
- Parent video available in Spanish,
- Defines the different types of behavior that constitute bullying,
- Provides a clear distinction between traditional and cyber-bullying,
- Introduces school and district staff and parents to NEW types of bullying including: Slam books, sexting & exclusion; flaming & cyber-harassment; denigration & impersonation; and outing or trickery, and Happy Slapping,
- Discusses the consequences of bullying and explores the reasons why kids bully,
- Legal ramifications of bullying and sexual harassment,
- Prevention strategies for educators, parents, and students,
- Available in Spanish for students and parents

Youth Protection Reporting

The *Youth Protection/Membership Incident Reporting Form* and its supplemental information may be required for reporting abuse such as bullying. This form is to be used for documenting and reporting any bullying incidents that are considered violations of BSA policies or guidelines, violations of criminal or child abuse statutes, and/or behavior unbecoming of a Scout. The form is available as part of the local council's Health and Safety Folder.

Other Key Resources

A website managed by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services with additional bullying information and age-appropriate training videos can be found at www.stopbullying.gov.

Contact Us

For more information on bullying and/or to discuss Youth Protection policies, procedures, and/or issues, contact your council Scout executive, or BSA Member Care at 982-580-2489.

Find the council locator and visit us on the Web at www.Scouting.org/youthprotection

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