



To members of the Pathway to Adventure Council community:

Nothing is more important than the safety of our youth and youth staff members.

With exciting new developments, such as welcoming girls into our Cub Scout and traditional Scouts BSA programs, the Key 3 of your Pathway to Adventure Council are taking this opportunity to describe the essential steps we are taking council-wide to ensure the protection of our youth in our programs and camps, including our newest safety initiatives.

All adult volunteers and professionals are required to receive a background check and a volunteer screening database check. Volunteers must take an online Youth Protection Training course that gives adults the tools and skills to recognize, respond to, and report the different kinds of abuse experienced by youth, such as sexual abuse and bullying. Adults must then complete and pass a certification test.

BSA's "two-deep" leadership policy requires two adults to be present at all times during Scouting activities.

All BSA activities are supervised by adult leaders, and parents are encouraged to attend and observe.

Scouting policies require leaders, members, parents, and professionals to contact the Scouts First Helpline (dial **1-844-SCOUTS1, 1-844-726-8871**) if they observe or suspect abuse or behavior that might put a youth at risk.

Pathway to Adventure's campsites have adopted the following precautions to ensure the safety of all campers and youth staff:

- Separate usage of restroom and shower facilities for adult and youth, males and females, including signage and schedules.
- Separate tenting arrangements, and youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.
- Week long staff training, and certification in updated youth protection seminar.
- Separated staff housing with administrative team resident supervisors.
- Observance of the buddy system for all Scouts and staff, as well as the "no one-on-one contact" rule between youth and adults.

As part of camp orientation, we invited the parents of youth staff members to attend a meeting where camp leadership reviewed and discussed youth protection policies, safeguards, and expectations, including all of the foregoing.

**Des Plaines Valley
Center for Scouting**
811 W. Hillgrove Avenue
La Grange, IL 60525
(312) 421-8800

**Northwest Suburban
Center for Scouting**
617 E. Golf Road Suite 101
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
(312) 421-8800

**Robert J. Welsh
Center for Scouting**
8751 Calumet Avenue
Munster, IN 46321
(312) 421-8800

**Steve Fossett
Center for Scouting**
1218 W. Adams Street
Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 421-8800



True youth protection can be achieved only through the focused commitment of everyone in Scouting. It is the Pathway to Adventure Council's mission to maintain a culture of youth protection awareness and safety at all levels.

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Simmons and Cedric Bodley at ypt@pathwaytoadventure.org. If you need to report suspected abuse, please contact the Scouts First Helpline (dial **1-844-SCOUTS1, 1-844-726-8871**).

Sincerely,

Stephen W. Schwab,
Council President and
Executive Board Chair,
Pathway to Adventure Council

Susan J. Simmons,
Council Commissioner
Pathway to Adventure Council

Jeffery L. Isaac,
Scout Executive
Pathway to Adventure Council

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