

Westchester-Putnam Council
Boy Scouts of America

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING PROCEDURES

Any time child abuse is suspected, whether neglect, emotional, physical, or sexual, action must take place. This next step is often dependent on the type of abuse involved. In Scouting, the unit leader may handle low levels of emotional abuse or neglect with the parents of the child. All cases of suspected physical or sexual abuse **must** be reported.

If the child **is** a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America, use the following steps:

1. Contact your district executive at either the council service center, 914-773-1135, or on their cell phones. The district executives are:

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| Algonquin District | Bob Willett | x224 or 203-837-0864 |
| Four Rivers District | Tiffany Deygoo | x231 or 914-607-1025 |
| Manitoga District | Ian Yearwood | x238 or 914-563-9144 |
| Muscoot District | Dan Conniff | x241 or 845-597-5232 |
| Mohican District | Jim Lupfer | x235 or 201-233-4930 |

If you are uncertain as to which district executive to call, each of them are equally qualified to respond to your report.

2. If you are unable to reach your district executive, contact Bob Willett, field director, at the council service center, 914-773-1135, x224, or 203-837-0864.
3. Your district executive or Bob Willett will guide you on the next step.

Remember: As of January 1, 2003, every pack, den, troop, or crew event must have an adult leader with current Youth Protection training.

In general, if you suspect/observe physical or sexual child abuse of any sort and the child is **not** a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America, call 800-342-3720. This is a hotline for Child Protective Services. They will take your information and contact the Child Protective Services office in the appropriate community.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT YOU HAVE A LEGAL OBLIGATION TO REPORT ANY CASE OF SUSPECTED PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE. YOU CANNOT BE HELD LIABLE UNDER THE LAW AS LONG AS YOU ARE ACTING IN "GOOD FAITH."

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ESTABLISHING EXTERNAL OBSTACLES TO ABUSE

The Boy Scouts of America has established program policies that serve the dual purposes of protecting the youth members as well as providing leaders protection from unfounded allegations of abuse. Some of these are as follows:

- Two adults (two-deep leadership) are required for all trips and outings. Additional leadership may be required based on the age and/or size of the group, its skill level, anticipated environmental conditions, and overall degree of challenge.
- One-on-one activities between adults and youth are prohibited.
- “Secret” organizations are not recognized by the Boy Scouts of America and are not permitted as part of our program.
- Activities of organizations such as the Order of the Arrow must meet the same standards of leadership as Scout units.
- Adult leadership needs to respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing into swimming suits or taking showers at camp and intrude only to the extent that health and safety requires. They also need to protect their own privacy in similar situations.
- It is important to encourage parental participation in unit activities.