

Youth and Adult Member Behavior Guidelines

The Boy Scouts of America is a values-based youth development organization that helps young people learn positive attributes of character, citizenship, and personal fitness. The BSA has the expectation that all participants in the Scouting program will relate to each other in accord with the principles embodied in the Scout Oath and Law.

One of the developmental tasks of childhood is to learn appropriate behavior. Children are not born with an innate sense of propriety and they need guidance and direction. The example set by positive adult role models is a powerful tool for shaping behavior and a tool that is stressed in Scouting.

Misbehavior by a single youth member in a Scouting unit may constitute a threat to the safety of the individual who misbehaves as well as to the safety of other unit members and/or impact the overall successful operations of a den, pack, patrol, troop or crew. Such misbehavior constitutes an *unreasonable burden* on a Scout unit/leaders and cannot be ignored. Membership in the Scouting organization is a privilege that should be respected by all youth, adult leaders and parents.

Member Responsibilities

All members of the Boy Scouts of America are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Law. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, theft, verbal insults, and drugs and alcohol have no place in the Scouting program and will result in the revocation of a Scout's or adult's membership in the unit.

If confronted by threats of violence or other forms of bullying from other youth members, Scouts should seek help from their unit leaders or parents.

Unit Responsibilities

Adult leaders of Scouting units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and interceding when necessary. Parents of youth members who misbehave should be informed and asked for assistance in dealing with it. It is important to document specific incidents and address with parents as soon as possible.

The BSA does not permit the use of corporal punishment by unit leaders when disciplining youth members.

The committee chairman and unit committee with consultation of the institutional head or their designee which is the charter organization representative for the unit should review repetitive or serious incidents of misbehavior in consultation with the parents of the child to determine a course of corrective action including possible revocation of the youth's membership in the unit. The institutional head of the chartering organization has final decision on these matters. The same process of review would apply to adult leaders who present concerns that are affecting unit operations.

*If problem behavior persists, units may revoke a Scout's membership in that unit. When a unit revokes a Scout's membership, it should **promptly notify** the council of the action.*

The unit should inform the Scout Executive at the council office(239-936-8072 Ext. 102) immediately about all incidents that result in a physical injury or involve allegations of sexual misconduct by a youth or adult member.

Each Cub Scout den and Webelos Scout den and each chartered Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, and Venturing crew shall have one leader, 21 years of age or older, who shall be registered and serve as the unit or den leader. A unit leader may not serve simultaneously in any other position within the same unit. The head of the chartered organization or chartered organization representative and the local council must approve the registration of the unit or den leader on the appropriate form. Two-deep leadership is always in effect at all Scouting activities.

Please review the Safe Guide to Scouting available at www.southwestfloridacouncilbsa.org for policies pertaining to all unit activities.