



YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST

Guidance for Young Leaders

It is the policy of The Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all members by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

A Code of good practice for Young Leaders in Scouting. Designed for you to keep with you -carry it.

What happens if . . . ?

If you suspect a young person is being abused:

- 1 immediately tell an adult leader.
- 2 make a note of the facts as you know them and give the information to the same Leader

If a young person tells you about abuse by someone else:

- 1 allow the young person to talk without interruption just accept what is said
- 2 tell the young person that you treat what has been said seriously but that you must pass it on to an adult leader.
- 3 follow steps 1-2 above as if you suspect a young person is being abused

If you receive a complaint about anyone or about yourself:

- 1 immediately tell an adult leader
- 2 make a note of the facts as you know them and give the information to the same leader

Always pass on information to an adult leader; do not investigate

Code of behaviour

Do put the Young People First guidance into practice

Do treat everyone with respect

Do treat all young people equally -show no favouritism

Do set an example you wish others to follow

Do plan activities with more than one other person present, or at least within sight or hearing of others

Do respect everyone's right to personal privacy

Do have separate sleeping accommodation for young people, Young leaders and adults

Do provide time and opportunity for young people to talk about their worries

Do encourage everyone to talk freely about attitudes or behaviour they don't like

Do avoid situations that could affect relationships within the group (e.g. a relationship between a Young leader and a youth member)

Do steer clear of attention seeking behaviour (e.g. tantrums, crushes etc.)

Do remember that others might misunderstand your actions, however well intentioned.

Do remember to be very sensitive when dealing with ...J issues like bullying, bereavement or abuse

Don't allow abusive activities like initiation ceremonies, ridiculing, bullying, racism, sexism etc

Don't get involved with physical contact games with young people -even if you are running them

Don't make sexual or racial remarks or gestures, even in fun.

Don't rely on just your good name to protect you from these types of allegations -actively follow this code

Don't believe it could never happen to me