BSA Youth Protection Policies

There are two types of Youth Protection–related reporting:

- When you witness or suspect any child has been abused or neglected—See “Mandatory Report of Child Abuse” below.
- When you witness a violation of the BSA’s Youth Protection policies—See “Reporting Violations of BSA Youth Protection Policies” below.

Mandatory Report of Child Abuse

All persons involved in Scouting shall report to local authorities any good-faith suspicion or belief that any child is or has been physically or sexually abused, physically or emotionally neglected, exposed to any form of violence or threat, exposed to any form of sexual exploitation, including the possession, manufacture, or distribution of child pornography, online solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material. No person may abdicate this reporting responsibility to any other person.

Steps to Reporting Child Abuse

1. Ensure the child is in a safe environment.
2. In cases of child abuse or medical emergencies, call 911 immediately. In addition, if the suspected abuse is in the Scout’s family, you are required to contact NLC Youth Protection Hotline at 701-499-0670.
3. Notify the Scout executive or his/her designee during his/her absence. (See contact names/numbers below.)

Reporting Violations of BSA Youth Protection Policies

If you have reason to believe any of the BSA’s Youth Protection policies, including those described within Scouting’ Barriers to Abuse have been violated, you must notify your local council Scout executive so he or she may take appropriate action for the safety of our Scouts.

Youth Protection can be achieved only through the shared involvement of everyone in Scouting. Remember—Youth Protection Begins With YOU.®

For more information about the BSA’s Youth Protection policies, visit http://www.scouting.org/YouthProtection.aspx.