Youth Protection requires sustained vigilance. That is why the BSA has continued to develop and enhance its youth protection efforts as everyone continues to learn more about the dangers and challenges facing youth. The BSA has established a multi-tiered youth protection approach focused on volunteer screening, education and training for everyone in the program, and clear policies to protect youth.

This is how it works:

**ADULT VOLUNTEERS**

**STEP 1** Chartered Organizations Reference Check

Chartered organizations provide local insight and ongoing supervision. Prior to employment, a background investigation should verify that no criminal activity is known or suspected involving the individual.

**STEP 2** Application

All adults who have been selected as potential leaders of youth by a chartered organization must provide references, past addresses, and other community affiliations, and affirm that they have had no criminal accusations made against them.

**STEP 3** Criminal Background Check

The background investigations are conducted for a period of five years. Criminal background checks are conducted for all adults who were active leaders at any time within the past five years, regardless of whether the leaders are currently employed or not.

**STEP 4** Ineligible Volunteer File Check

The file is a national database that helps prevent those who are convicted of sex crimes from working with youth. The file is updated daily with the most recent information on convicted sex offenders.

**STEP 5** Adult Leader Youth Protection Training

All registered adult volunteers are required to complete the BSA’s Youth Protection training every two years.

**THE BSA LAYERS OF PROTECTION**

**OPEN PROGRAM**

Parents are encouraged to attend all Scouting activities. In senior programs, youth are required to attend all meetings and events.

**PRIVACY OF YOUTH AND ADULT MEMBERS**

Privacy of youth and adult members is safeguarded by BSA policy. Adult leaders must respect the privacy of members and protect their own privacy, especially in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp. No youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his or her own parent or guardian.

**“TWO-DEEP” LEADERSHIP**

Scouting has a strict “two-deep” leadership policy, which requires at least two adults to supervise all Scouting activities.

**MANDATORY REPORTING**

Scouting policies require prompt reporting of any reasonable suspicions of inappropriate conduct with youth to a governmental agency.

**PARENTS AND SCOUTS**

**STEP 1** Parental and Scout Youth Protection Education

Parents and youth are required to review the BSA’s Youth Protection materials at the front of every handbook, as a joining requirement.

**STEP 2** Parental Policy Notification

A Parental Policy Notification form must be completed, signed, and returned to the unit leader. Parents are encouraged to discuss the key elements of youth protection with their children.

**STEP 3** Empowerment of Scouts

The BSA teaches the “three R’s” of youth protection, which convey an important message in a clear manner easily understood by youth members:

- **Recognize** situations that place them at risk, how child molesters operate, and that anyone could be a molester.
- **Resist** unwanted and inappropriate attention. Resistance will stop most attempts at molestation.
- **Report** attempted or actual molestation to a parent or other trusted adult. This prevents further abuse and helps protect other children.