

# Keeping Children and Young People Safe

## All adults in Scouts follow our Code of Conduct

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.  
If in doubt, report it.**

- Do** remember that you're a role model at all times, inside and outside of Scouts. You must set a good example for others to follow.
- Do** treat everyone with dignity and respect in line with the Scout Values.
- Do** treat all young people equally – don't show favouritism.
- Do** follow the adult-to-young-people ratios at all times.
- Do** remember that you have been placed in a position of trust – don't abuse this trust.
- Do** report all safeguarding concerns directly to the Safeguarding Team as soon as possible, and always within 24 hours.
- Do** contact the Safeguarding Team if you receive details of any statutory agency, such as the police, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or children's services, involvement regarding a member.
- Do** remember that someone may misinterpret your actions.
- Do** respect children's and young people's right to personal privacy.
- Do** act within appropriate boundaries, even in difficult circumstances.
- Do** encourage an open and transparent culture, where people challenge or report behaviour that isn't in line with this code.
- Do** make everyone aware of our safeguarding arrangements. Share our Yellow Card with volunteers, parents and guardians, and display it where meetings take place.
- Do** create an environment where children and young people feel safe and able to voice their concerns.
- Do** have separate sleeping accommodation for young people and adults, as well as young leaders working with a younger section.
- Do** plan activities that involve more than one other person being present. If that's not possible, make sure other people can see and hear what's going on.
- Do not** plan to be alone with a child or young person in Scouts, either online or in person.
- Do not** drink alcohol when you are directly responsible for children and young people in Scouts. Never allow under 18s to drink alcohol on Scout activities.
- Do not** trivialise concerns or abuse.
- Do not** let concerns or abuse go unreported. Contact the Safeguarding Team, especially if you feel your concern hasn't been taken seriously.
- Do not** join in physical contact games with children and young people.
- Do not** overstep the boundaries with children and young people by being involved in friendships or personal relationships with them.
- Do not** allow activities that encourage bullying behaviour, including initiation ceremonies, dares or forfeits.
- Do not** use inappropriate, suggestive or threatening language, whether verbal, written or online.
- Do not** rely on your reputation or position to protect you.
- Do not** get involved with a safeguarding concern if you've a personal friendship or family connection with those involved. Step back and tell the Safeguarding Team about the connection.

[scouts.org.uk/safeguarding](https://scouts.org.uk/safeguarding)

**If a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm, call 999 or 112 and ask for police. Tell the Safeguarding Team you've done this.**

### Young people

We want everyone in Scouts to be safe and happy. If an adult has made you feel bad or uncomfortable, either inside or outside of Scouts, please tell us and your parents or carer. We will listen to you and take you seriously.

### Parents and carers

If you're worried about a child or young person, or if you've concerns about an adult involved in Scouts not following this Code of Conduct, please contact the Safeguarding Team.

If you're unsure what to do, or you're not sure if a report has been made to us regarding a concern, contact us.

- **Safeguarding Team**  
+44(0)20 8433 7164  
[safeguarding@scouts.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@scouts.org.uk)
- **NSPCC**  
0808 800 5000  
[help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)
- **Childline**  
0800 1111  
Under 12? [childline.org.uk/kids](https://childline.org.uk/kids)  
Over 12? [childline.org.uk](https://childline.org.uk)

