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:

**STEP 1** Chartered Organizations Reference Check

Chartered organizations provide local insight and ongoing supervision. Involvement of local organizations in Scouting, schools, or other groups helps ensure that volunteers are known and trusted in the community.

**STEP 2** Application

All adults enrolled as leaders have been subjected to a background check, including credit and criminal history. Application forms and other community affiliations, and other community affiliations.

**STEP 3** Criminal Background Check

All adults enrolled as leaders have been subjected to a background check, including credit and criminal history. The background check is administered by a nationally recognized third party.

**STEP 4** Ineligible Volunteer File Check

The BSA maintains an Ineligible Volunteer File to help prevent anyone who has been determined to be ineligible for leadership from joining the organization. Ineligible Volunteer Files serve as a barrier to entry, preventing those who are believed to be unfit for leadership from serving in Scouting.

**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 training is available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**PARENTS AND SCOUTS**

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

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

**STEP 2** Parental Policy Notification

Every application for youth membership advises parents about the basic principles of youth protection. Every parent completing a youth membership form acknowledges awareness of the BSA’s Youth Protection policies.

**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. Understand that you will not be blamed for what occurred.

Review the complete Boy Scouts of America Youth Protection policy at www.scouting.org/bsayouthprotection.