



# The History of the Youth Protection Training Program of the Boy Scouts of America

William Mitchell College of Law  
and  
The National Child  
Protection Training Center

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# BSA's History

- 1910 – Incorporated under D. C. laws
- 1911 – Scout Oath and Scout Law adopted
- 1912 - First Eagle Scout
- 1913 – First local councils chartered
- 1920 – First World Jamboree
- 1937 – First national jamboree
- 1954 – Adult volunteers top 1 million
- 1969 – First female Explorer Scouts
- 1982 – Millionth Eagle Scout
- 1991 – Learning for Life established
- 2009 – Two millionth Eagle Scout
- 2010 – Scouting's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

[www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/BSAYouthProtection/BSA\\_Communications/Timeline.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/BSAYouthProtection/BSA_Communications/Timeline.aspx)



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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# BSA Youth Programs 7 – 21 Years of Age

## **CUB SCOUT**

Tiger

Bobcat

Wolf

Bear

Webelos

## **BOY SCOUT**

Tender Foot

2<sup>nd</sup> Class

1<sup>st</sup> Class

Star

Life

Eagle

## **VARSITY SCOUTING**

## **VENTURING (Co-ed)**

Ranger

Bronze

Silver

Gold

## **Sea Scouts**

Learning for Live/Exploring  
(Co-ed)





# Iconic Values

Scout Motto - Be prepared!

## Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best

To do my duty to God  
and my country

and to obey the Scout Law;

To help other people at all times;

To keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally  
straight.

## Scout Law

A Scout is:

- Trustworthy,
- Loyal,
- Helpful,
- Friendly,
- Courteous,
- Kind,
- Obedient,
- Cheerful,
- Thrifty,
- Brave,
- Clean,
- and Reverent.

**We pray and say the Pledge of Allegiance.**





# The Foundation of Scouting

- Scouting has always been known as family and neighborhood-centered and parents have been encouraged to participate and register as leaders
- “For the formation of units, charters may be granted to organizations upon application from the duly constituted authorities of such organizations”
- “Such applications shall obligate the organizations to provide adequate facilities, *supervision, and leadership*”





# Basic Steps

- In 1981, in the Scoutmaster Handbook, BSA espoused that no troop engage in any activity without two adult leaders at a minimum





## The Education Journey Begins

- October 1981 Scouting ran an advertisement from the National Committee on the Prevention of Child Abuse in *Scouting Magazine*, unfiltered directly into the homes of approximately 1 million volunteers
- The second ad appeared in March of 1983 and a third in October of 1984
- *Scouting Magazine* is sent to each registered adult leader and had a circulation approaching 1 million in that time frame





## The Journey Continues....

- **September 1985** issue of *Scouting Magazine* presented a statement on Child Abuse and Scouting and how it would not be tolerated
- One year later, **September 1986**, an article ran in *Boys' Life Magazine* entitled "Wrong Kind of Touching" (circulation 1.2 million youth and all unit leaders)
- Same month, a 5-page article ran in *Scouting Magazine* by Dr. Walter Menninger of the famed Menninger Institute delivered a message to Scouting adults







## The Journey Continues....

- **1986** – “Child Abuse-Let’s Talk About It” appeared in *Scouting Magazine*
- **1987** – “Child Sexual Abuse-How To Deal With It” and a letter from the Chief Scout Executive citing “Grooming by a Child Abuser” in *Scouting Magazine*
- **1987** – Developed camp staff training program and the “2 Deep Leadership Policy” formally adopted





- **1988** – “Youth Protection Guidelines: Training for Volunteer Leaders and Parents”
- **1988** – “How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse: A Parents’ Guide” created and inserted into age-level handbook and featured in ***Boys’ Life Magazine***
- **1989** – “A Time to Tell” – a video announced in October Scouting Magazine was created for 11 to 16 year olds that introduced the “3 Rs” of Youth Protection: **RECOGNIZE, RESIST and REPORT!**
- **1990** – rolled out a new version of “Youth Protection Guidelines: Training for Volunteer Leaders and Parents”





- **1991** – “It Happened to Me” the video was created for 7-10 year olds
- **1992** – Exploring-aged (15-21) youth protection training materials produced
- **1992** – “Youth Protection Guidelines....” updated to Version 2
- **1994** – “Youth Protection Guidelines....” updated to Version 3
- **1995** – a new handbook insert was created, “How to Protect Your Children....”





- **1999** – With the creation of the new Venturing program a special training for Youth Protection issues was created following “Youth Protection Guidelines....”
- **1999** – the Personal Safety Awareness video for Venturing aged youth (15-21) was created
- **2001** – The Youth Protection comic book series for Cub Scouts was introduced – first subject was Bullying





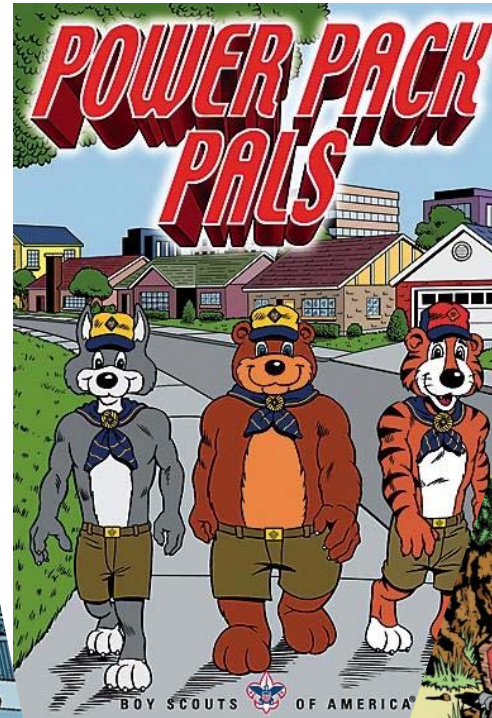
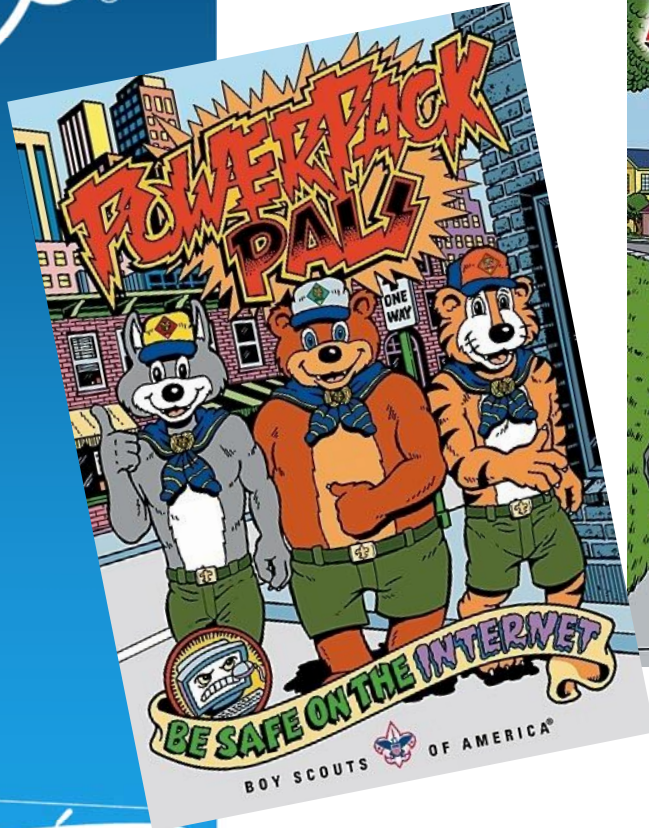
- **2003** – The “Youth Protection Guidelines: Training for Adult Leaders and Parents” was introduced on-line
- **2004** – Second comic book for Cub Scouts introduced on Internet Safety in both English and Spanish
- **2005** – Third comic book introduced on “Four Rules of Personal Safety”





# Three Power Pack Pals

## English and Spanish





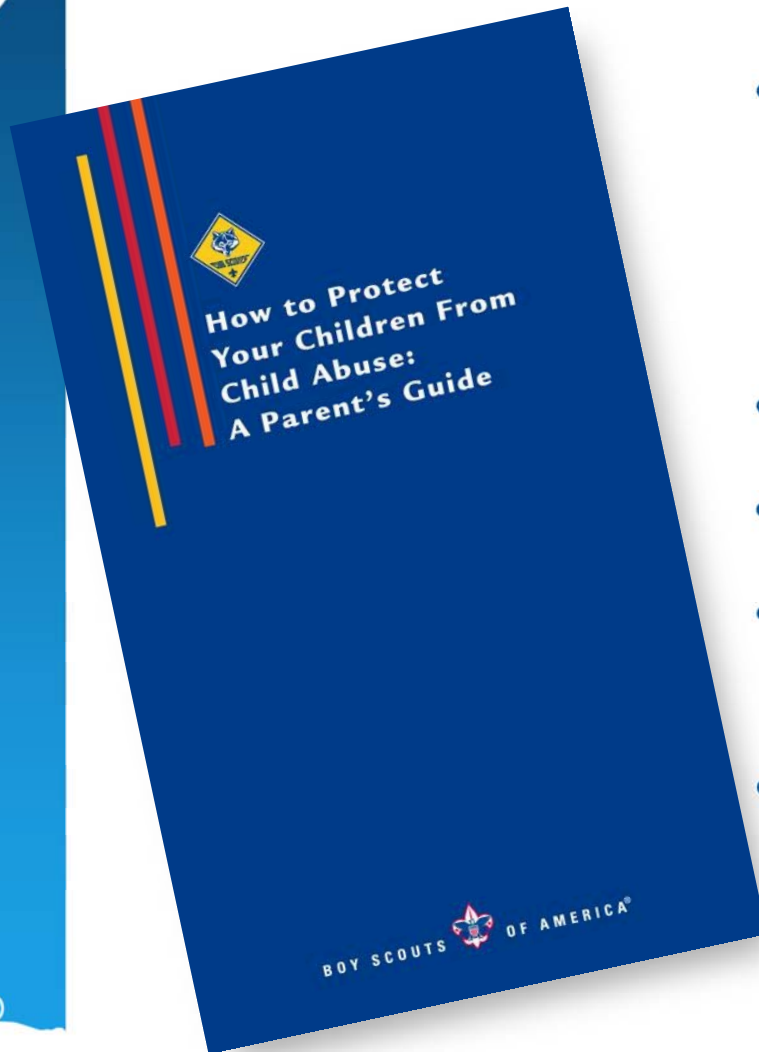
## More 2005 Developments

- Parents' guide in handbooks, *How to Protect your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide* was revised for both Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting
- Less technical, more conversational
- Cub Scouting was a complete revision and rewrite





# Parents' Guide for Cub Scouting



- *How to Protect your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*
- New design
- Complete rewrite
- More conversational, less technical
- Covers the Four Rules of Safety







# Parents' Guide for Boy Scouting

- *How to Protect your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*
- New design
- No substantial change in content
- Less technical, more conversational





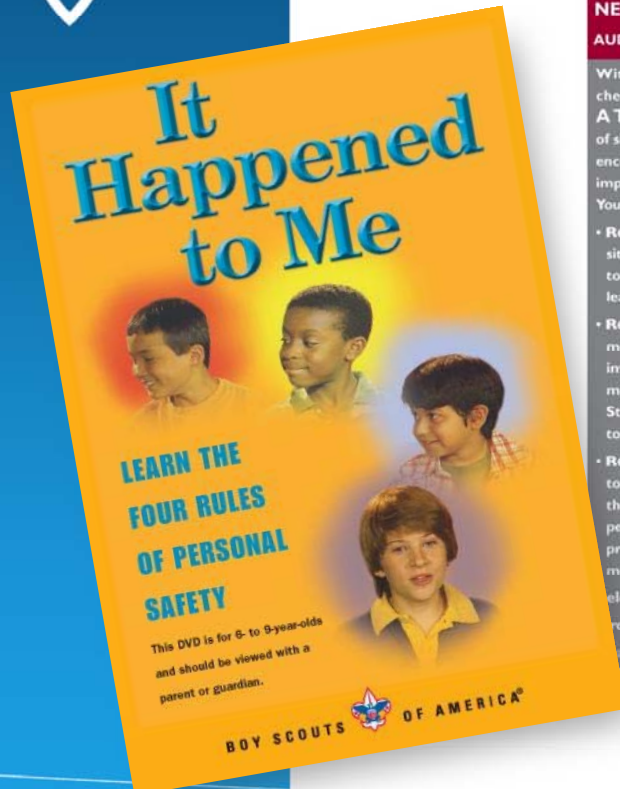
## 2005 Developments (cont'd.)

- Three age-level videos published on DVD
- Cub Scouting's "It Happened To Me" was a complete rewrite and introduced the 4 rules for personal safety
- Boy Scouting's "A Time To Tell" added scenarios on bullying and internet safety, created a coed version for Learning for Life, and added five total new scenarios
- Venturing's Personal Safety Awareness featured new scenarios on internet safety and stalking, acquaintance rape and peer sexual harassment





# DVDs Updated



## A Time to Tell

**NEW VERSIONS FOR BOY SCOUTING AND LEARNING FOR LIFE**  
**AUDIENCE: 11-14 YEARS OF AGE**

With introductions and "reality checks" by teens for teens, *A Time to Tell* presents a variety of situations that young people may encounter. These scenes stress the importance of the three R's of Youth Protection:

- **Recognize** strategies and situations used by child molesters to isolate an adolescent that can lead to attempted molestation.
- **Resist** attempts of child molesters. Say no firmly and impolitely. Resistance will stop most molesters in their tracks. Statistically, very few resort to force.
- **Report** individuals who attempt to molest or who have molested in the past. This helps prevent young people from being harmed and provides an opportunity for the molester to get help.

release date: Summer of 2005  
 order AV-09DVD04

2005 printing






# Adult Venturing Leader Training Online

Youth Protection Guidelines Youth Development Personal Safety Guidelines Review/Exercises **Responding to Disclosure** Reporting Responsibilities

## Responding to Disclosure



If a Venturer tells you that he or she has been a victim of sexual misconduct, you should:

- ▶ Try to keep calm.
- ▶ Listen carefully.
- ▶ Don't criticize the youth.
- ▶ Respect the youth's privacy.
- ▶ Be patient and supportive.
- ▶ Allow the youth to express him or herself.
- ▶ Don't try to push for more information.
- ▶ Make notes as soon as you can.
- ▶ Proceed with reporting.

Back Next

Course Progress Bar

- Posted in June 2005
- Available in English and Spanish





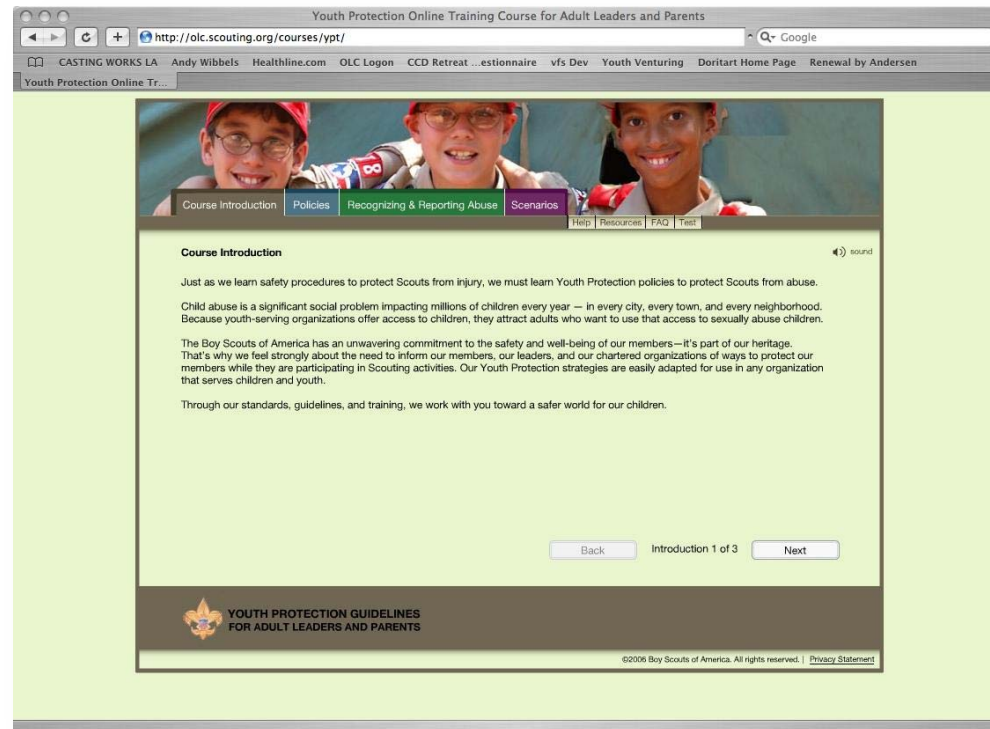
## 2006

- Order of DeMolay adopted BSA's youth protection training materials for their youth members, including "A Time To Tell" and "Personal Safety Awareness"
- State of Texas recognizes BSA Youth Protection materials and new on-line training as meeting its standard
- New DVD added to LFL curriculum for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades in Fall 2006
- New interactive version of Youth Protection Training made available June 1, 2006

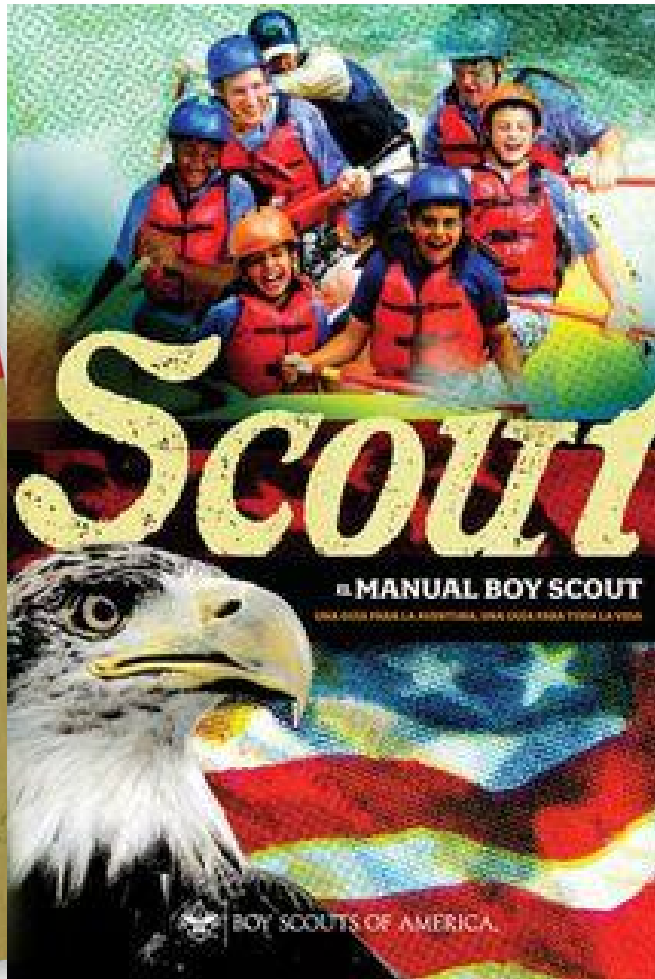
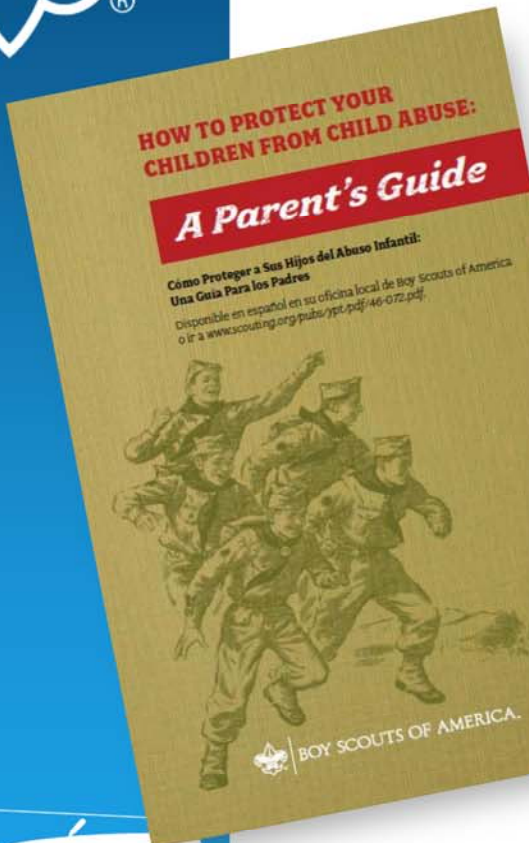




# Youth Protection Guidelines in the Online Learning Center



Online certification printing now available in English and Spanish





## Additionally in Education...

- **Publications**
  - More than 40 articles in *Boys' Life* and *Scouting* magazines
- **Exhibits and Presentations**
  - Since **1987**, BSA annual national meetings has provided youth protection information
  - Participated in 14 other child abuse prevention, education or youth development national conferences
  - In **1993**, BSA hosted the first National Child Abuse Prevention Symposium for educational, religious, and other youth-serving organizations
  - Exhibited at the national Learning for Life Conference in Dallas in 2005







# Outreach

- Encouraged local councils to perform community youth protection training for constituencies outside of Scouting
- Met regularly with National Collaboration for youth Child Abuse Task Force
- Freely shared information with other organizations to improve their child abuse strategies
- From 1992 to 1995 served as advisor to U.S. Government through U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect
- Promoted specific outreach efforts into the community for Child Abuse Month





# Strengthen Leadership Selection Procedure

- Most Scout leaders are parents of Scouts and trusted members of the community
- Ineligible Volunteer File is maintained to keep out of Scouting individuals deemed to be unsuitable as leaders.
- **1988** – Expanded the adult leader application form and added reference checks for chartered organizations to check on new leaders
- **1994** – Criminal background checks for all professionals and staff who work with youth were required





# Strengthen Leadership Selection Procedure

- **2002** - Criminal Background Checks for all new volunteers
- **2005** - a new adult leader application that encourages immediate on-line training for youth protection and other immediate needs
- **2006** - Background checks began for all Exploring adults
- **2008** - Background checks for those without checks and checks continue for each new volunteer





# FIRST OUTSIDE RECOGNITION

## National Victims Center

1988

### Certificate of Merit

“Youth Protection Guidelines  
for Adult Leaders and Parents”





## TELLY AWARDS

- **1991** - “Youth Protection Guidelines for Adult Leaders and Parents”
- **1991** – “It Happened to Me”
- **1991** - “A Time to Tell”
- **2000** - “Personal Safety Awareness”





## CINE AWARDS

- **1991** – “A Time to Tell”
- **1991** – “It Happened to Me”
- **1993** – “It Happened to Me”
- **1998** – “Youth Protection Guidelines for Adult Venturing Leaders”
- **2000** – “Personal Safety Awareness”
- **2001** – “Personal Safety Awareness”
- **2006** – “A Time to Tell”





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