

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO BSA's YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING POLICIES

Effective June 1, 2010

- * Youth Protection Training is required for all registered volunteers. Youth Protection Training protects both youth members and adult volunteers.
- * New leaders are required to take Youth Protection Training before submitting their registration application. The Youth Protection Training certificate of completion must be submitted with the registration application and before volunteer service with youth begins.
- * Youth Protection Training must be taken every two years.
- * If a volunteer's Youth Protection Training record is not current at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be reregistered.

If you have not taken Youth Protection training within the past two years, please log on to MyScouting.org and create a user account if you do not already have one. Follow the instructions and an email will be sent to you asking you to set a password. When you have entered a password a link will appear that will take you directly to the e-learning site and Youth Protection Training. If you cannot locate your membership card contact the Council Service Center at 903/597-7201 or email at etac@etexscouts.com for your member number.

You can find out more about the Youth Protection policies of the Boy Scouts of America in the Parent's Guide in any Cub Scout or Boy Scout handbook or go to <http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>.

FAQs

Q: Does the executive officer (Institutional Head) of a unit need to take Youth Protection training?

A: If the executive officer is not a registered leader, he or she is not required to complete Youth Protection training, although it is strongly recommended. If the executive officer is registered as an adult leader, then he or she must complete Youth Protection training.

Q: I am a Tiger Cub adult partner and ScoutParent. Do I need to take Youth Protection training?

A: The Tiger Cub adult partner and ScoutParent designations are not registered adult positions; therefore, mandatory Youth Protection training is not required. It is strongly recommended, however, that all adults involved in Scouting take Youth Protection training. All registered adults are *required* to take Youth Protection training.

Q: I am sure I know all there is to know about youth protection. Can I "test out" by only taking the Youth Protection online quiz?

A: No. You must complete the entire online training in order for your Youth Protection certificate to be valid. This ensures you receive the latest information on BSA Youth Protection.

Q: Are parents who attend weekly meetings, weekend campouts, or summer resident camp required to take Youth Protection training?

A: Only if they are registered leaders. However, it is highly recommended that any adult participating with your unit activities take Youth Protection training. Having them register as adult leaders is also highly recommended.

Q: What is the deadline to meet the new Youth Protection training standard?

A: All registered leaders should take or renew their Youth Protection training so that it is current as of today. A unit will not be able to recharter without its key registered adults being up-to-date on their Youth Protection training. No individual leader will be able to register without being up-to-date on his or her Youth Protection training.

Q: Why a new training policy on such short notice?

A: Youth safety is the No. 1 concern of the BSA. It is important to implement this training at all levels of the organization. The BSA is always reevaluating and reassessing its policies to ensure the safest youth program and the best training is being offered. The BSA's Youth Protection training has been in existence long enough for it to be understood and accepted as a mandated training for all registered BSA adult leaders.

Q: The new policy indicates that a Youth Protection certificate of completion must be submitted "at the time of application." What does that mean?

A: A BSA application should only be collected from a prospective leader after they have fully completed the form, attached a copy of their Youth Protection certificate of completion, and submitted that to the Council Service Center.

Q: Will both the regular and Venturing leader versions of Youth Protection training meet the requirement?

A: Yes, as long as they are using the most current versions of the DVD's for group training. The online version is the preferred method, as it allows for those taking the training to get one-on-one training and take all the time they need for review. The online quiz does not require printing of any test pages. They are issued an immediate certificate of completion and it allows for the updating of their ScoutNet record.

Q: Do leaders need to wait until they have final clearance on the background check to meet with youth?

A: No. As long as their application is fully completed, approved, and submitted to the Council Service Center, their fee is paid, and Youth Protection training is certified, they will be able to interact with youth while the Criminal Background Check (CBC) is still pending.

Q: If a unit's leaders' Youth Protection training is not current, should we not register any new youth to their units until they do so, or will those who are not current be dealt with through the recharter process?

A: This policy does not affect youth registrations. However, if a unit's leadership has not complied with the new Youth Protection standard by the next rechartering period, the unit will NOT be able to complete its registration.

Q: When does the change go into effect?

A: As of June 1, 2010, all registered adult volunteers must complete Youth Protection training prior to beginning their volunteer service.

Q: Do merit badge counselors need to take Youth Protection training?

A: Yes. A merit badge counselor is a registered volunteer position.

Q: If a person is not a registered leader, how can he or she log in and take the Youth Protection training?

A: A person does not have to be a registered volunteer to take Youth Protection training. To take the training, log into myscouting.org and create an account. From the myscouting.org portal, click on E-training and take Youth Protection. Upon completion, print a certificate and submit with a new application or submit to the unit leader for processing at the local council.

Q: Can units that have some adults that have not completed Youth Protection training be rechartered?

A: In order for a unit to be rechartered, it must have all the required positions filled with Youth Protection trained adults. Adults who have not completed Youth Protection training will not be reregistered.

Q: Is there a grace period to get all adults trained?

A: No. If a leader's Youth Protection training is not current, the volunteer must take or renew their training immediately. **Every effort should be taken so that all adults involved in Scouting have a current certificate of completion of the Youth Protection training.**

Q: Does all volunteers mean all volunteers—even board members and council presidents?

A: Yes. The goal is to have all registered volunteers Youth Protection-trained. This is an important statement for us an organization and shows our commitment to the well-being of our youth members.