



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
SAMOSET COUNCIL



# **Understanding and Preventing Youth on Youth Abuse**

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The Boy Scouts of America's top priority is creating the most secure environment possible for our youth members.



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# Safety Moment

## SAFE Scouting



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# Today we will cover:

## Youth on Youth Abuse

- Recognize
- Prevent
- React
- Report



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# Youth on Youth Abuse

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## Recognize

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What comes into your mind when we say youth on youth abuse?

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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## Recognize

- Bullying
  - Hazing
  - Inappropriate physical contact
  - Sexual talk
  - Initiations & games
  - Inappropriate online interactions
  - Sexting
  - Exposure to inappropriate material
  - Sexual contact and assault
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# Youth on Youth Abuse - Reality



**Nearly one out of every four students or 22 percent report being bullied during the school year.**

**One in five of girls and 1 in 20 boys is a target of child abuse.**

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# Youth on Youth Abuse - Reality

**Sexual Abuse** – 1 out of 4 girls and 1 out of 6 boys experience sexual abuse before 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.



**1/3** are committed by other youth.

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# Youth on Youth Abuse - Reality

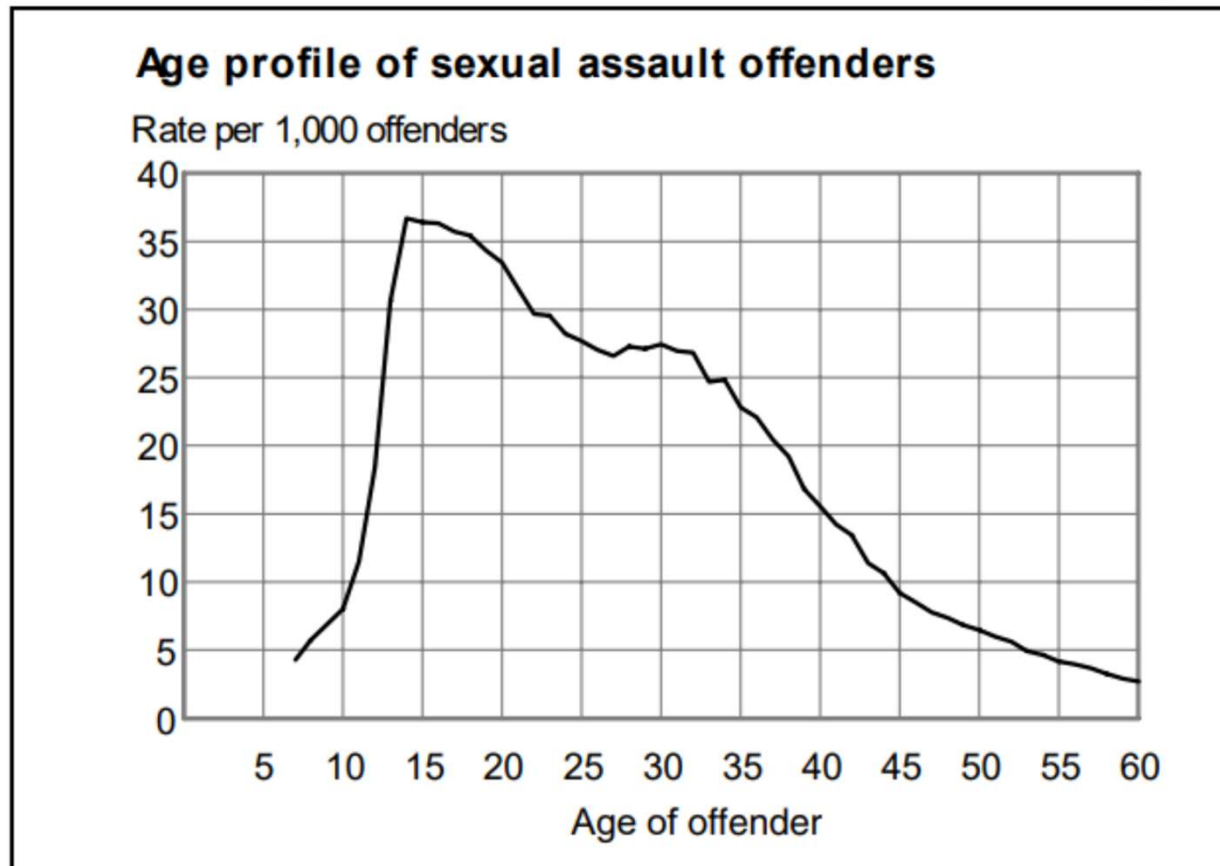
## Sexual Abuse

Over the course of their lifetime **28%** of US youth ages 14-17 have been sexually targeted.



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# Youth on Youth Abuse - Reality



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# Youth on Youth Abuse - Reality

Youth abusers are often:

- Older siblings, cousins & other family members
  - Sexual abuse likely to occur overnight
  - Abuse often disguised as “game playing”
  - Public displays of affection (PDA) are “Prohibited” in scouting.
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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## Recognize

Bullying : in person, group setting, online

- Physical Bullying
- Social Bullying
- Cyber Bullying



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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## **Recognize** Physical Bullying

1



2



3



4



5



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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## **Recognize** Social Bullying

1



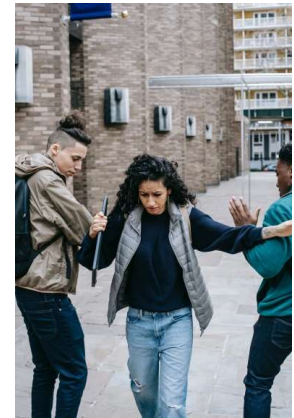
2



3



4





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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## **Recognize** Cyber Bullying



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# Youth on Youth Abuse

Types of youth that are likely to be bullied?

**Race/Ethnicity/Language**

**Religion**

**Limited social skills**

**Sexual identity**

**Intelligence – high/low**

**Physical condition**

**Special Health Care**

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# Youth on Youth Abuse Prevention

## BSA Program



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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## Prevention – BSA Program

Mandatory  
Youth Protection  
Training

Formal leader  
selection process

Criminal  
background  
check

Barriers to abuse  
in place

Mandatory  
reporting

Volunteer  
screening  
database



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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## Prevention – BSA Barriers to Abuse

- ✓ Supervision – tenting & nighttime
  - ✓ Monitor areas
  - ✓ No more than two years age difference – tenting
  - ✓ Ban alcohol & drugs
  - ✓ Buddy system with no more than two years age difference
  - ✓ No one on one contact
  - ✓ Two deep leadership
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- ✓ **PROHIBITED** all sexual activity & all forms of PDA



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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## **Prevention** – Leaders actively involved



- **Situational awareness**
  - **Monitor areas known for gatherings**
  - **Make sure buddies are used**
  - **Be alert for unwanted behaviors.**
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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## **Prevention** – Unwanted behaviors

- ✓ Unwanted advancements of staff (in person/online)
  - ✓ Unwanted sexual or suggestive advances (in person/online)
  - ✓ Verbal harassment (in person/online)
  - ✓ Unwanted touching.
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# Youth on Youth Abuse Traditions

Can traditions be abuse, harassment, bullying,  
hazing, initiations?



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# Youth on Youth Abuse

**React** – When you see bullying DO

- **Stay calm**
  - **Stop the behavior**
  - **Separate the youth involved**
  - **Make sure everyone is safe**
  - **Meet any medical (physical and mental) health needs**
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# Youth on Youth Abuse

**React** – When you see bullying - DO

- **Summon assistance**
  - **Notify program leadership – Camp Director, Scout Executive**
  - **Identify bystanders and discuss what happened privately**
  - **Be respectful and impartial.**
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## Youth on Youth Abuse

**React** – When you see bullying DO NOT

- **Don't use labels like victim or bully**
  - **Don't ignore the behavior**
  - **Don't question or ask bystanders publicly**
  - **Don't make youth immediately apologize.**
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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## **React** – Be an Upstander



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## Youth on Youth Abuse

**React** – When child comes to you about abuse:

- **Let child know you believe him or her**
  - **Show child you care**
  - **Respond in calm & supportive manner**
  - **Tell the child it is not their fault**
  - **Let child know you want to help.**
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## Youth on Youth Abuse

**React** – When child comes to you about abuse:

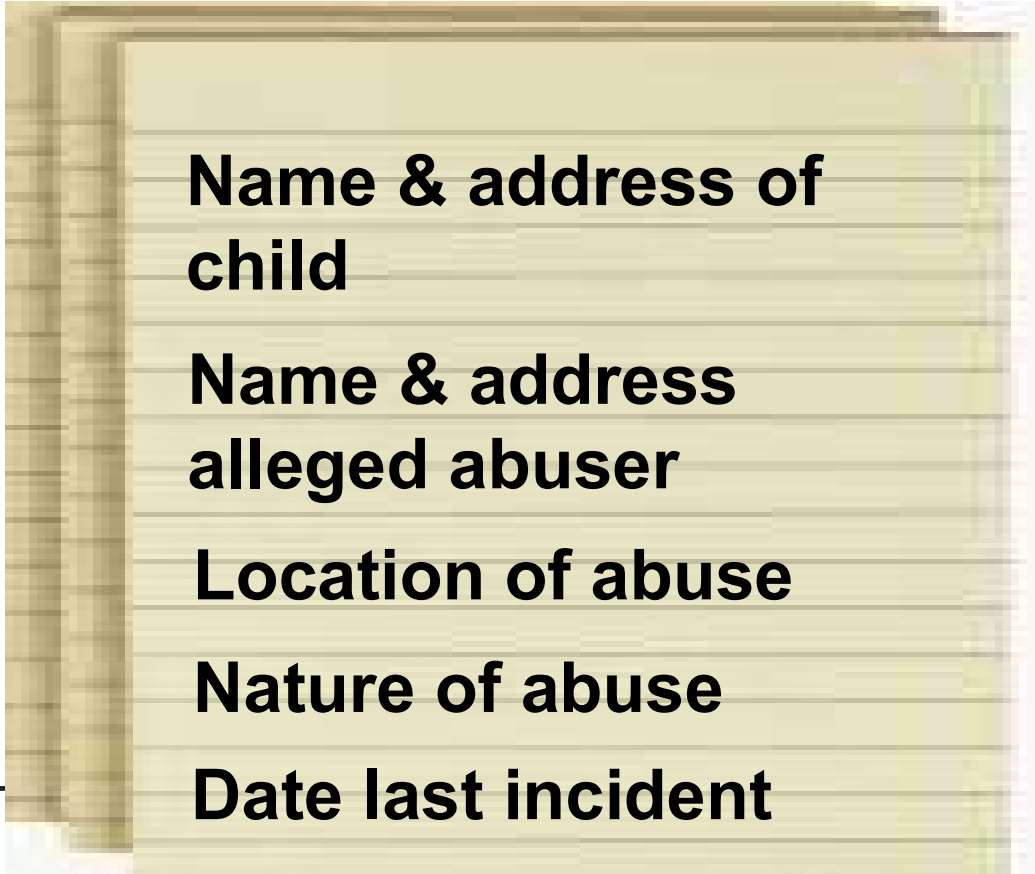
➤ **Get basic info – you do not need details.**

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# Youth on Youth Abuse

**React** – When child comes to you about abuse, info to get:



**Name & address of child**

**Name & address alleged abuser**

**Location of abuse**

**Nature of abuse**

**Date last incident**

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# Youth on Youth Abuse

**React** – When child comes to you about abuse:

- **Don't overreact or panic**
  - **Don't press the child to give details**
  - **Don't promise not to tell anyone**
  - **Don't shame, blame or minimize feelings**
  - **Don't conduct own investigation.**
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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## Report

Stop abuse

If someone is at immediate risk - 911

Notify program director (camp director, scoutmaster, scout executive)

Scouts First Helpline 1-844-SCOUTS1

Incidents of inappropriate activity, physical or sexual, regardless if consensual, **MUST** be reported.

# **Youth on Youth Abuse**

## **Report BSA Mandatory Reporting to BSA**

**Any physical threat or use of weapon**

**Any negative behavior associated with  
race, color, national origin, gender, sexual  
orientation, gender identity or  
disability**

**Any abuse of a child**

**Any mention or threat of suicide or  
harm to self or others**



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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## Report

**Trust your  
instincts!**

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## Youth on Youth Abuse **Report**

Why people are  
hesitant to report?

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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## Set the right environment to prevent abuse

- Create bully free environment
  - Set positive examples
  - Know & enforce Youth Protection policies
  - Teach everyone about empathy
  - Teach everyone how to look out for one another
  - Teach everyone to be an upstander
  - Be a leader that is situationally aware
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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## Situational Examples to Review

For each example you review consider:

What Barrier to Abuse was not followed.

What actions would you take?

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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## Situational Examples to Review

Scenario 1: You become aware that a 17-year-old staff member is texting with a 15-year-old staff member over the course of a week. The 15-year-old becomes uncomfortable when the 17-year-old begins texting suggestive emojis to the 15-year-old. How do you respond?

Is your response different if during the week the 17 year old turns 18 years old?

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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## Situational Examples to Review

Scenario 2: At camp you notice that the unit next to you has scouts going off on their own without buddies.

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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## Situational Examples to Review

Scenario 3: You walk into a program area where a group of 16 year old campers are talking with some 14 year olds of the opposite gender and you hear them invite the 14 year olds to a party they are having tonight after dinner.

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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## Situational Examples to Review

Scenario 4: You walk into a program area where a group of scouts are huddled together looking at someone's phone. The youth are giggling and saying, "show me, show me." These youth are a mixed group of genders and ages. Something doesn't feel right and as soon as you get closer the youth quickly puts the phone away and sits down.

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# Youth on Youth Abuse

## Situational Examples to Review

Scenario 5: You notice a group of young scouts walking in the woods in the early evening, appearing to be searching for something. When you ask them what's up they say they have to find a snipe in order to participate in their unit's campfire sing along tonight. This is their first night at camp.

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# Youth on Youth Abuse

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## Questions?

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Do you have anything you  
would like us to discuss?

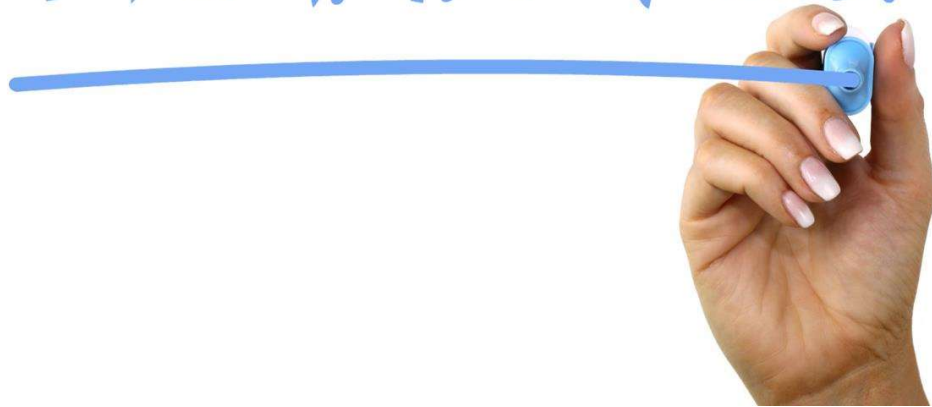
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Any outstanding issues?

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# Youth on Youth Abuse

THANK YOU



for your attention and participation!