

Scout Canada's Youth Protection Procedures and Guidelines

Scouts Canada has comprehensive procedures and guidelines in place related to the safety and wellbeing of our members. We take great pride in the quality of our adult leadership. Being a leader in Scouts Canada is a privilege, not a right. The quality of the program and the safety of our youth members demands high-quality adult leaders. We work closely with our Councils across Canada to help recruit the best possible leaders for their units.

Leadership Selection

While no current screening techniques exist that can identify every potential danger, we can reduce the risk by learning all we can about an applicant for a leadership position—his or her experience with children and why he or she wants to be a Scout leader.

Our leader screening Policy establishes a stringent and thorough process with multiple check-points:

- All volunteer members must complete Police Record Check (PRC), including Vulnerable Sector Check (which checks specifically for child-related offences);
- All volunteers and staff must provide an updated PRC every three years;
- Prospective volunteers must complete an interview with interviewers trained to look for red flags;
- Three personal references must be provided and are checked;
- Volunteers are not permitted to work with youth until fully screened and the entire process is signed off by the Council Executive Director;
- Occasional volunteers who are not parents or guardians accompanying their registered youth must be fully screened before participating in overnight activities;
- Scouts Canada's 2-Leader policy must be maintained during all group meetings, activities, trips and outings with youth;
- Allegations of any violations of youth protection procedures and guidelines against a volunteer result in immediate suspension pending investigation;
- **We are uncompromising in our adherence to this process.**



Scouts Canada places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for our youth members. To maintain such an environment, it is extremely important that should a member experience or observe a violation of any one of our procedures that they report it immediately. Scouts Canada volunteers are trained to respond quickly in a supportive manner and are required to immediately report any violations of our procedures to their Council Executive Director.

National Help Line: 1-888-726-8876

National Help Centre: helpcentre@scouts.ca

Local Council contact information:

www.scouts.ca/ca/find-your-local-council

