

Scouts Canada Youth Protection: Key Points

- Obviously, the *Fifth Estate* story and the past instances of abuse it highlights are of great concern. It details terrible examples of criminal exploitation that the intervening years and even decades do nothing to diminish.
- As Scouters, there is nothing more important to us than the wellbeing of the young people with whom we work so closely and whose lives we aspire to influence for the better.
- To meet that obligation, Scouts Canada has developed a rigorous set of policies and practices with respect to youth protection.
- These include, but are not limited to, an extensive screening process that includes detailed police checks, a “suspend first, inquire later” principle in handling complaints and a 2-Leader rule that ensures that in all group meetings, activities, trips and outings, Scouts are always accompanied by at least two adult Leaders.
- These policies are necessary because Scouts Canada is one of the country’s largest youth movements and therefore, sadly, is sometimes targeted by those seeking to exploit or even cause harm.
- We will continue to ensure our practices to protect youth are improved and advanced constantly.
- Unlike Boy Scouts of America, Scouts Canada has no history of keeping files, lists or records of any kind that detail suspected instances of misbehaviour, policy violations or abuse on the part of volunteer Leaders. To the contrary, our ‘suspend first, inquire later’ policy requires that receipt of any such reports or rumours triggers an immediate and explicit response.
- First, we immediately suspend the volunteer Leader in question. Second, we immediately notify both police and child protection services. Third, we share all information in our possession with the police and child protection services and support their efforts to conduct a proper investigation.



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