

STAY SAFE AT FUNDAYS

Best practice advice for leaders

YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST

Safeguarding in Scouting





KEEPING YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE

With almost 7,000 Beavers and Cubs across two sites, Fundays 2018 is set to be a fantastic event. With over 100 creative and adventurous activities and medieval-themed surprises, it's going to be an action-packed day!

As a leader you have an important role to play in ensuring that all young people are kept safe whilst at Fundays.

It is the policy of The Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all members by protecting them from neglect and from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

This guide will help you to think about some of the potential situations which could arise during Fundays and help you and your team to plan for and mitigate these risks.

It also outlines the help and support available to you and your group in the unlikely event that something does go wrong.

Please share and discuss this guide with all adult volunteers prior to attending Fundays. Should you have any safeguarding questions before the event please contact your County Safeguarding Awareness Co-ordinator.

We look forward to having you and your group with us in June at Fundays 2018.



SETTING BOUNDARIES

Setting clear boundaries with young people can help stop situations from occurring or escalating. It is important to have conversations with young people about ground rules and sanctions before coming to Fundays.

Engaging young people in setting their own Code of Behavior promotes a shared responsibility and ownership. A good place to start is with the question "Imagine you were going to a birthday party at your friends' house - how would you behave?"

A good Code of Behavior should be in keeping with Scouting Values. Asking young people what they feel are appropriate sanctions for rule-breaking can also work well but make sure none of the sanctions could be seen as belittling or bullying.

Once these ground rules have been agreed by the group it is your responsibility to ensure they are upheld. Sending a copy of the code of conduct to parents and asking them to discuss it with their child can also help to encourage positive behavior. Also share with parents and young people the code of conduct on the yellow so they know what to expect from leaders

It is worth revisiting your Code of Behavior once onsite and reminding young people of their shared responsibility. You could also create pocket versions for young people to carry.



PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

It is your responsibility to ensure that young people are acting appropriately whilst at Fundays.

Everyone on-site must adhere to the terms and conditions of Fundays at all times. Any breach of these terms may result in your group being asked to leave.

Agree with your team beforehand how you are going to ensure young people are supervised at all times. If you feel there are young people in your group who may wander off it is worth agreeing a plan for monitoring behavior and mitigating this risk.

Upon arrival, familiarize yourself with the site and where Centre Management is located.

All leaders should feel confident in challenging inappropriate behavior and de-escalating any situations which may arise between young people. Staff on-site will be available should you require any support.

While the vast majority of groups have a positive and safe experience at Fundays it is worth discussing with your team ahead of time what your plan is if something does go wrong. Do you have an exit plan should you need to remove a young person or call in specialist support? Will you have enough adults to continue safely should some have to deal with an incident?

If you need support in dealing with a situation or have any questions please contact Centre Management.



DISCUSSING CONSENT

Empowering young people to have the confidence to say **no** enables them to keep themselves safe.

Often we discuss consent only in the context of relationships but it is much broader than this. Having conversations about personal space, belongings and appropriate physical touch helps to enforce a culture of mutual respect.

Discussing consent promotes the Scouting Values of Integrity and Respect. While this may seem daunting, you may be the first person to have ever told a young person they have the right to say no.

A good exercise to start the conversation is Thumbs Up - Thumbs Down. Ask the question "Is it ok...?" Followed by a series of statements such as:

- »to wear someone else's Necker
- »to hold hands
- »to borrow someone's torch
- »to share someone's sweets
- » to offer someone a hug
- » to tell someone your name

Ask young people to put their thumbs up if they think it is ok and put their thumbs down if they don't. Facilitate a discussion around which option the young people have chosen and why. It is important to emphasize the point that no means no - even if everyone else is saying yes.



GIVING ADVICE

Being away from parents for the day at an event often allows young people the opportunity to ask questions and discuss topics they wouldn't otherwise be able to.

No topic is off limits for young people and you should discuss as a team how you could respond to potentially difficult questions.

When giving advice remember to offer multiple options and enable young people to make informed choices. All advice should be in line with Scouting Values and adults should always be within sight and hearing of another adult when speaking to an individual young person.

If you don't know, or are unsure of the appropriate answer it is ok to say you don't know but if you offer to seek advice ensure you follow up with the young person in question.

If a young person's question gives you cause for concern over their welfare please speak to Centre Management who will be able to advise accordingly.

REMEMBER THE YELLOW CARD

The Yellow Card is a code of behavior which outlines how we expect adults to behave while scouting.

All adults on-site will be asked to read the Yellow Card upon arrival and adhere to it at all times.

It is worth re-visiting the Yellow Card regularly with your team and particularly ahead of trips and events.

Each leader should carry a Yellow Card at all times while scouting. Orange Cards are also available for Young Leaders.

While the Yellow and Orange Cards clearly outline how we expect adults and Young Leaders to behave, leaders should also use common sense and professional discretion to ensure their team are acting appropriately and in the best interests of young people at all times.

Should you have any Safeguarding questions before the event please contact your County Safeguarding Awareness Co-ordinator.

If you would like any additional copies of the Yellow or Orange Cards please ask at Event Reception upon arrival.

WHAT TO DO IF...?

If a young person is at immediate risk of significant harm contact the police and then inform on-site Centre Management.

If you are concerned about a young person's safety and well-being, or there is a concern, complaint or allegation about an adult or yourself please follow the procedure as outlined on the Yellow / Orange Card.

Similarly, if a young person tells you they are being abused please follow the procedure on the Yellow / Orange Card.

During Fundays, Centre Management will act as the first point of contact for all referrals.

They will liaise with the Duty Safeguarding Officer and advice accordingly.

Everyone in Scouting has the right to report concerns or suspicions about another member in confidence and free from harassment.

You must refer any concern or complaint to Centre Management. DO NOT investigate it yourself but ask enough questions to understand what the young person is telling you.

If you are in any doubt about what to do please contact Centre Management.

BEFORE FUNDAYS

- » Share best practice document with all leaders
- » Design Code of Behavior with young people
- » Send Code of Behavior to parents
- » Agree contingency plans with leaders
- » Revisit Yellow / Orange Card
- » Add Centre Management number to phone contacts

UPON ARRIVAL

- » Familiarize yourself with the site
- » Collect Yellow / Orange Cards & Stay Safe leaflets
- » Find out where Centre Management are located
- » Remind young people of Code of Behavior



STAY SAFE AT FUNDAYS

Do you feel **unsafe**?

Are you **worried** about someone on-site?

Have you seen or experienced

something you don't like?

If so please speak to

Centre Management immediately

GILWELL PARK

Farm Reception

07885 764 074

WOODHOUSE PARK

Scout Adventures Reception

0145 4612 204

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