

# ***PUT OUR YOUTH FIRST!***

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

A code of good practice for adults in Scouting

Designed for you to keep with you – carry it!



## ***PUT OUR YOUTH FIRST!***

**Do** put this “Youth First” guide first

**Do** treat everyone with respect

**Do** provide an example you wish others to follow

**Do** plan activities which involve more than one person being present, or at least within sight or hearing of others

**Do** respect a young person’s right to personal privacy

**Do** have separate sleeping accommodation for leaders and young people

**Do** provide access for young people to talk about concerns they might have

**Do** avoid situations that compromise your relationship with young people and are unacceptable within the relationship of trust (e.g. a sexual relationship between a leader and a youth)

**Do** remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned

**Do** recognize that caution is required even in sensitive moments of counseling, such as when dealing with bullying, bereavement or abuse

**Do NOT** permit abusive peer activities (e.g. initiation, ridiculing, bullying)

**Do NOT** have any inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others

**Do NOT** allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention seeking behaviour such as tantrums or crushes

**Do NOT** jump to conclusions without checking facts

**Do NOT** show favouritism to any individual

**Do NOT** make suggestive remarks or gestures, even in fun

**Do NOT** let suspicion, disclosure or allegation of abuse go unrecorded or unreported

## ***WHAT HAPPENS IF...?***

### **If you suspect a child is being abused:**

1. Immediately tell your Provincial Commissioner / Provincial Manager
2. Record the facts as you know them and give a copy to your Provincial Commissioner / Provincial Manager
3. Ensure that the child has access to an independent adult
4. Ensure that no Scouting situation arises which can cause any further concern

### **If the child tells you about abuse by someone else:**

1. Allow the child to speak without interruption, accepting what is said
2. Alleviate feelings of guilt and isolation, while passing no judgment
3. Advise that you will try to offer support, but that you must pass the information on
4. Same steps as 1-4 as in suspecting a child is being abused

### **If you receive an allegation about any adult or about yourself**

1. Immediately tell your Provincial Commissioner / Provincial Manager
2. Record the facts as you know them and give a copy to your Provincial Commissioner / Provincial Manager
3. Try to ensure no-one is placed in a position which could cause further compromise

**You must refer. You must not investigate**