

SCOUTS TT

National Scout Headquarters
#1 St. Ann’s Road
St. Anns
Trinidad and Tobago

Phone: 1(868) 624-7271
Email:
Website: scouts.tt

SCOUTS
TT



National
Youth
Protection
Policy

Eff. Date: January 01, 2014

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to prepare adult leaders to conduct Scouting activities in a safe and prudent manner. The policies and guidelines have been established because of the real need to protect members from known hazards that have been identified through a hundred year plus years of experience.

Safe Scouting can happen if you follow the Scout motto. Be Prepared. This document will describe how to plan for and conduct a safe Scout outing as a Scout Trip Leader. This document includes best practices for planning a safe Scouting event and covers safety issues that will crop up during an event (including vehicle, activity, and weather safety).

The Leader's responsibility is to make sure that all outings, activities, etc, as well as events leading up to the trip, are taken care of.

Limitations on certain activities should not be viewed as stumbling blocks; rather, policies and guidelines are best described as stepping stones toward safe and enjoyable adventures.

The Scout Association of Trinidad and Tobago places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for its youth members. To maintain such an environment, the SATT has developed numerous procedural and leadership selection policies, and provides parents and leaders the following guidelines for the Cub Scouting, Scouting, and Venturing programs

Adult leaders should be aware of legal requirements that supersede SATT policies and guidelines.

Yours in Scouting

Roger N.C. Berkeley
National Scout Commissioner

Policy

Purpose

The Scout Association of Trinidad and Tobago (Scouts TT) understands the importance of protecting youth in the community and in our programs and therefore wishes to provide a safe and secure environment.

The national leadership of Scouts TT is committed to ensuring compliance with its Youth Protection Guidelines in order to provide practices that will protect youth from incidents of misconduct or inappropriate behavior and also protect the employees and volunteers from false accusations.

The SATT will ensure that the appropriate systems and processes are in place to ensure the safety, security and well being of all its members.

Every child and youth has a right to protection from 'harm'. The association through these guidelines is committed to the safety and well being of all children and young people who participate in its programmes. As a our staff and leadership is committed to providing young people with a safe and secure environment, within which to enjoy

Definitions

- ◆ Adult – all employees, full and part-time, and program volunteers that have any contact with youth or access to scouting facilities, where youth maybe present.
- ◆ Youth – individuals 18 years of age or younger.

Youth Protection and Adult Leadership

Scouts TT places our primary importance on creating the most secure environment possible for its youth members. To maintain such an environment, the SATT has developed numerous procedural and leadership selection policies, and provides parents and leaders the following online and print resources for the Cub Scouting, Scouting, and Venturing programs.

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse



All persons involved in Scouting shall report to local authorities any good faith suspicion or belief that any child is or has been physically or sexually abused, physically or emotionally neglected, exposed to any form of violence or threat, exposed to any form of sexual exploitation including the possession, manufacture, or distribution of child pornography, online solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material. No person may abdicate this reporting responsibility to any other person.

Notify your District Commissioner of this report, or of any violation of SATT's Youth Protection policies, so that he or she may take appropriate action for the safety of our Scouts, make appropriate notifications, and follow-up with investigating agencies.

Helping prevent abuse in Scouting?

The SATT has adopted a number of policies aimed at eliminating opportunities for abuse within the Scouting program. These policies focus on leadership selection and on placing even greater barriers to abuse than already exist today in Scouting.

New leaders are required to take Youth Protection training before submitting an application for registration. All adult members and volunteers MUST complete this training module.

District Leaderships should ensure that the SATT's Youth Protection policies are understood and accepted by ALL registered and new SATT adult volunteers.

Youth Protection training must be taken every three years. If a volunteer's Youth Protection training record is not current at the time of his or her warrant review, the volunteer will not be re-registered.

Leadership Selection

The Scout Association of Trinidad & Tobago takes great pride in the quality of its adult leadership. Being a leader in the SATT is a privilege, not a right. The quality of the program and the safety of youth members call for high-quality adult leaders. We work closely with our sponsoring partners to help recruit the best possible leaders for their units.

The adult application requests background information that should be checked by the group committee or the District's leadership before accepting an applicant for adult leadership. While no current screening techniques exist that can identify every potential child abuser, we can help reduce the risk of accepting a child abuser by learning all we can about an applicant for a leadership position—including his or her experience working with children and why he or she wants to be a Scout leader. Every uniformed leader MUST submit an official Certificate of Character from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. Our participants' safety is of paramount importance to the Scout Association of Trinidad & Tobago. It is important to implement this training at all levels of the organization. SATT continually seeks to increase awareness of this societal problem and to create even greater barriers to abuse than already exist today in Scouting to provide the most secure environment possible for its youth members.

Scout TT's Abuse Prevention Guidelines

The SATT has adopted the following guidelines for the safety and well-being of its members. These guidelines are primarily for the protection of its youth members; however, they also serve to protect adult leaders.

- ◆ **Two-deep leadership on all outings required:** Two registered adult leaders, or one registered leader and a parent of a participating Scout or other adult, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required for all activities.

Outings and trips must have persons with the relevant and recognised training required for the partic-

ular event. There are a few instances, such as patrol activities, when the presence of adult leaders is not required and adult leadership may be limited to training and guidance of the patrol leadership. With the proper training, guidance, and approval by the youth leaders, the patrol can conduct day hikes and service projects.

Appropriate adult leadership must be present for all overnight Scouting activities; coed overnight activities—even those including parent and child—require male and female adult leaders, both of whom must be 21 years of age or older, and one of whom must be a registered and trained member of the SATT.

- ◆ **One-on-one contact between adults and youth is prohibited.** One-on-one contact between adults and youth members is not permitted. In situations that require personal conferences, such as individual counseling, guidance or coaching, the meeting is to be conducted in view of other adults and youths.
- ◆ **Separate accommodations for adults and Scouts is required.** When camping, no youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his or her own parent or guardian. Leaders are strongly encouraged to have separate gender specific shower and toilet facilities. When separate facilities are not available, separate times for male and female use should be scheduled and posted for showers. Likewise, youth and adults must shower at different times.
- ◆ **Privacy of youth respected.** Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp, and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.
- ◆ **Inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, or digital devices prohibited.** While most campers and leaders use cameras and other imaging devices responsibly, it has become very easy to invade the privacy of individuals. It is inappropriate to use any device capable of recording or transmitting visual images in shower houses, restrooms, or other areas where privacy is expected by participants.
- ◆ **No secret organizations.** The SATT does not recognize any secret organizations as part of its program. All aspects of the Scouting program are open to observation by parents and leaders.

- ◆ **No hazing.** Physical hazing and initiations are prohibited and may not be included as part of any Scouting activity.
- ◆ **No bullying.** Verbal, physical, and cyber bullying are prohibited in Scouting.
- ◆ **Youth leadership monitored by adult leaders.** Adult leaders must monitor and guide the leadership techniques used by youth leaders and ensure that SATT policies are followed.
- ◆ **Discipline must be constructive.** Discipline used in Scouting should be constructive and reflect Scouting's values. Corporal punishment is never permitted.
- ◆ **Appropriate attire for all activities.** Proper clothing for activities is required. For example, skinny-dipping or revealing bathing suits are not appropriate in Scouting.
- ◆ **Members are responsible for acting in accordance with the Scout Promise and Scout Law.** All members of the Scout Association of Trinidad & Tobago are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Promise and Scout Law. Physical violence, theft, verbal insults, drugs, and alcohol have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of a Scout's membership.
- ◆ **Group Leaders are responsible for enforcing Youth Protection policies.** Adult leaders are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and interceding when necessary. Parents of youth members who misbehave should be informed and asked for assistance. Any violations of the SATT's Youth Protection policies must immediately be reported to the District or National leadership, where applicable.

Eff. Date: January 01, 2014