



**NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

October 19, 2012

Dear Scouting Parent & Volunteer:

With the recent news stories concerning the release of a group of documents by the court system referred to as the Ineligible Volunteer Record Files, I know many of you have questions as to what we are currently doing in Scouting to protect our children. I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight for you the many ways in which we are constantly evolving in our effort to make Scouting a safe-haven for our youth.

Even a single instance of abuse is unacceptable, so I am obviously troubled by the instances 40 years ago when the Scouts' efforts to protect children were insufficient.

In the decades since the Ineligible Volunteer Files were created, the Scouts have constantly worked to enhance our policies and procedures. Our regimen now includes background checks, comprehensive training programs, and safety policies that have become a model for other youth organizations. I want to be clear that every adult volunteer and every member of our Council staff is required to report even the suspicion of abuse directly to the local authorities.

Going forward, I am personally committed, along with every other adult on the Scouting team, to make certain that our approach to protecting our youth continues to evolve with the best practices for protecting youth.

In this period of heightened awareness about youth safety, let me recap with you the many ways in which we currently help protect our Scouting youth:

- **All volunteers must complete a rigorous application and screening process** before joining Scouting. As part of this requirement, applicants must provide references and submit to a national criminal background check. We also verify that our organization has not received any prior allegations of misconduct on the volunteer's part by checking names against the National BSA's Ineligible Volunteer Files. Our goal is to ensure that all adult volunteers represent the values and character outlined in the Scout Oath and Scout Law and are good leaders for your child.

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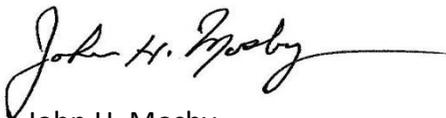
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- **All volunteers are required to complete Youth Protection training** and must renew the training every two years. This training is accessible to the general public online at www.Scouting.org, under the Youth Protection tab. Please review the training, as it provides important information about detecting and preventing abuse, no matter where it may occur.
- **Scouting's two-deep leadership policy requires at least two adults to be present** for all Scouting activities. No youth should ever be alone with a Scout leader for any reason.
- **Every Boy Scout and Cub Scout handbook includes a pamphlet to help parents teach their children** how to recognize, resist and report abuse. If you haven't done so already, please immediately review and discuss this information with your child. A copy of the pamphlet and other youth-oriented literature is available under the Youth Protection tab on the National BSA website.
- **All Scouting activities are open to parents**, and we encourage families to enjoy Scouting together.
- **Anyone suspected of inappropriate behavior will be immediately and permanently banned from Scouting.** If you ever have any concerns about your child's safety, please contact our Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America office immediately at 401-351-8700.

These measures are by no means the full extent of our efforts, but represent some of the many ways in which we are staying vigilant to our desire to provide a safe Scouting program for all youth. Additional information and resources can be found by visiting www.Scouting.org and clicking on the Youth Protection tab.

Thanks for all you do to support Scouting and help us keep kids safe.

Sincerely,



John H. Mosby
Scout Executive/CEO

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