

MANAGING BOYS

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YOUTH MEMBER BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

The Boy Scouts of America is a values-based youth development organization that helps young people learn positive attributes of character, citizenship, and personal fitness. The BSA has the expectation that all participants in the Scouting program will relate to each other in accordance with the principles embodied in the Cub Scout Promise.

One of the developmental tasks of childhood is to learn appropriate behavior. Children are not born with an innate sense of propriety, and they need guidance and direction. The example set by strong adult role models is a powerful tool for shaping behavior and a tool that Scouting stresses.

Member Responsibilities

All BSA members are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Cub Scout Promise. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, verbal insults, and drugs or alcohol have no place in Scouting.

If confronted by threats of violence or other forms of bullying from other youth members, Scouts should seek help from their pack leaders or from their parents.

Unit Responsibilities

Misbehavior by a single youth member in a Scouting unit may become an unreasonable burden on that unit and constitute a threat to the safety of those who misbehave as well as to other unit members.

Adult leaders of Scouting units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of the youth members and interceding when necessary. Parents of youth members who misbehave should be informed of the problem and asked for assistance in dealing with it.

The BSA does not permit the use of corporal punishment by unit leaders when disciplining youth members.

The pack committee should review repetitive or serious incidents of misbehavior in consultation with the parents of the child to determine a course of corrective action, including possible revocation of the youth's membership in the pack. When problem behavior persists, units may revoke the Scout's membership in that pack.

The pack should inform the Scout executive in cases in which allegations of sexual victimization by another Scout or physical injury occurs.

DEN DISCIPLINE

Young boys tend to be noisy, active, and full of energy. How do you, as a leader, keep Cub Scouts under control? How do you handle noise? These are questions that you might ask yourself as you approach the responsibilities of leadership. Accepting the fact that boys *will* be noisy is the first step. Second, find a meeting location where noise isn't an issue. After that, good group discipline is about 90 percent preparation.

Part of that preparation is the awareness of what boys are like at various ages (see Chapter 15, "Cub Scout—Age Boys"). Make assets out of their abilities and interests instead of liabilities. Then as they mature, so do you—right along with them.

Make sure that group activities remain fun and challenging. The other element of preparation is planning enough to do and having enough physical and human resources on hand to keep the group going for the entire meeting.

Some people think that the best kind of control is inner control, but Cub Scouts are a long way from reaching such a goal. This does not mean that they are too young to try. You

