



Safeguarding at Camp / Nights Away

Talk to parents/carers. It is important that leaders have as much information as possible about a young person before they take them away. Without key information about behaviour, habits or worries, leaders cannot fully support that young person. Small things can get exacerbated in the camp environment, but with prior planning and input from parents/carers, they can be minimised.

Write a camp code of conduct. This can be a preventative measure, to tackle issues before they arise and to get the young people thinking about the sort of behaviour that is acceptable on camp. As with the code of conduct for section meetings, discussions should involve the young people.

Think about what happens after camp. While they are away, young people are in a safe environment, removed from daily life. They may be thinking about what they are going home to, or the new school term, so be sensitive to this and encourage parents/carers to be open about things affecting their child outside Scouting.

Keep the home contacts list up-to-date. Leaders need to be able to get hold of a parent/carer if they need to. If parents are going on holiday at the same time as their child is on camp, they must make sure they leave details for another emergency contact with the leaders.

Treat disclosures seriously. It is a very difficult thing to make a disclosure at any age, but it can be particularly hard as a young person. Anything disclosed should be treated seriously, with tact and in line with the Yellow Card.

Support Young Leaders. Young people are more likely to disclose to other young people first, rather than adults. Young Leaders can seem more approachable because they are closer in age, so they should be fully supported by adults in passing information on.

Have a designated adult. This person is responsible for dealing with any and all welfare issues that arise on camp, creating consistency for both the leadership team and the young people. They should be approachable for everyone.

Use the Yellow Card. All the information needed about safeguarding, including what to do after a disclosure, is on the Yellow Card. Every adult should have received one during their induction but it is helpful to check that they still have an up-to-date copy.

Be aware of how to report. Follow the guidance on the Yellow Card: it is the responsibility of the Leader who becomes aware of a safeguarding issue or concern to ensure that this is reported to the HQ Safeguarding Team immediately, if urgent, or within 24 hours - this also applies during camps. The report to the HQ Safeguarding Team should include details of the camp leader (alongside the person's line manager, if known). The person reporting should also inform the camp leader that they have made a report to the HQ Safeguarding Team (as they might want to reach out to the HQ Team as well). The HQ Safeguarding Team will follow the usual process and liaise with the relevant Lead Volunteer/Commissioner.

This process makes sure that HQ are aware of concerns as soon as possible and therefore can put measures in place to minimise risks to children, young people and adults at risk.