



Scouts Canada Code of Conduct

It starts with Scouts.

Adult Code of Conduct

Approved March 2026

Introduction

At Scouts Canada, we believe that everyone, including youth, volunteers, and employees, has the right to be treated in a respectful and professional manner, and to be provided with an environment that is free from all forms of harassment, violence, and discrimination.

The purpose of this Code is to protect young people and to help adults work safely and productively with them and with each other.

This Code of Conduct applies to age 18+ Scouts Canada volunteers, 18+ Rover Scouts, all employees, and parents/guardians and other resource people who participate in Scouting activities. For employees of Scouts Canada, this Code supplements, and does not replace, Scouts Canada employment policies and procedures.”

The Code of Conduct applies to all interactions, in person and virtually (online), while carrying out your role as a Scouter.

This Code may also apply to conduct outside Scouting where that conduct reasonably raises concerns about youth safety, the integrity of Scouts Canada programs, or your suitability to participate in Scouting.

Commitment

At all times my behaviour will reflect [Scouts Canada's Values](#) and the [Scout Promise and Law](#). My actions will protect the safety and well-being of all Scouts Canada members and other people I interact with as a member of Scouting. I will set an example that I would wish others to follow. I understand that breaches of the Code of Conduct may be subject to the [Discipline, Temporary Suspension & Termination of Membership Policy](#).

I WILL:

- Treat everyone with fairness, respect and dignity.
- Know and follow Scouts' Canada's youth protection policies and standards when planning and conducting Scouting activities including: the Two-Scouter Rule, mandatory reporting procedures, Scouter-to-Youth ratios, and appropriate sleeping, washroom and hygiene requirements.

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- Follow all Scouts Canada's policies and procedures when planning and conducting Scouting activities.
- Ensure everyone I interact with is safe from bullying, abuse, harassment, violence, and discrimination.
- Immediately report any concern for the safety or welfare of a youth, or any allegation of abuse, assault, exploitation, or sexually harmful behaviour, including youth to youth harmful behaviour. As legislated in each province and territory I will report to the appropriate child protection authority or police any reasonable suggestion of harm to a child. I will also report to Scouts Canada through the designated Safe Scouting channels. I understand that reporting within Scouts Canada does not replace any legal reporting obligation
- If I am unsure of my actions or when faced with ambiguity or unforeseen circumstances, I will prioritize safety above all else, opting for the safest course of action.
- Take part in any review conducted by Scouts Canada or any local authority as per established guidelines and timelines.
- Immediately notify Scouts Canada, where legally permitted, if I am charged with a criminal offence in Canada or elsewhere, or if I become aware of an investigation that may reasonably impact youth safety, trust, or my suitability to participate.
- Immediately notify Scouts Canada (safety@scouts.ca or 1-800-339-6643) if allegations are made against me by any authority regarding youth safety or child protection.
- Obtain a youth's permission before I touch them where practical, and ensure any physical contact is respectful, safe, and appropriate. This does not prevent immediate action to prevent emergencies in the case of harm.
- Encourage people to speak up about issues related to personal or Group safety that concerns them.
- Respectfully challenge behaviour or attitudes that I believe are inconsistent with Scouting values.
- I will address conflict respectfully, directly, and in good faith when it is appropriate and safe to do so, and I will use Scouts Canada's Volunteer Performance Management and complaints processes where concerns cannot be resolved informally.

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- Protect digital and physical personal information and confidentiality in accordance with Scouts Canada privacy policies and applicable privacy law
- Use positive discipline, promoting good behavior by guiding youth towards positive solutions during disciplinary discussions rather than focusing on bad behavior.

I WILL NOT:

- Use my role in Scouting to initiate or maintain private, unauthorized, or one to one contact with youth outside approved Scouting activities or outside Scouts Canada approved communication channels.
- Fail to follow the Two-Scouter rule at any time. This includes having contact with youth online (direct messages, calls or social media), or in-person and using any means of transportation, including in a private vehicle.
- Engage in inappropriate conduct or behavior with youth at any time.
- Engage in any form of inappropriate or intimate relationship with a youth member of Scouts Canada or use my position in Scouting to exploit or pressure any young person.
- Trivialize or be a bystander to Bullying, Abuse, Harassment or Discrimination
- Engage in intimidation, exclusion, gossip, or behaviour that undermines trust, dignity, or psychological safety
- Swear or use inappropriate language
- Use punishments and discipline that are demeaning, embarrassing, or degrading including requiring any person to perform an action in public such as, but not limited to, singing, dancing or other form of public humiliation.
- Smoke, vape, or take part in similar actions in front of youth.
- Consume alcohol, cannabis or any substance that could impair my ability to supervise youth or participate safely in Scouting activities.



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- Assume that reputation or intent is a substitute for compliance with youth protection policies, boundaries, and reporting obligations

This Code of Conduct must be completed at the start of each Scouting year before participating in any activities.

If you are worried about yourself or anyone else or need to report something, you can get help from:

- An adult you trust
- kidshelpphone.ca | 1-800-668-6868
- cybertip.ca to report online sexual content or abuse
- Safe Scouting: safety@scouts.ca or 1 (800) 339-6643 (24 hours)
- Emergencies: 911

Resources

- [Adult Code of Conduct](#)
- [Youth Scouter Code of Conduct](#)
- [FAQ — Scouts Canada Online Support Centre](#)