

# APRIL IS YOUTH PROTECTION AWARENESS MONTH

Child abuse is an increasingly serious, widespread problem in society, affecting every ethnic group, socioeconomic level, and geographic area. The significance of this problem is revealed by the nearly 3 million cases of child abuse reported each year in the United States. The Boy Scouts of America has developed Youth Protection Training to prepare its leaders to help children who have been, or are being, abused.

In addition, the BSA has adopted a comprehensive set of policies and procedures to help ensure that Scouting continues to be safe for all participants. Background checks are required for all new leaders as of April 2003, and the Boy Scouts of America will not tolerate any form of child abuse in its program and will take all necessary steps to remove any offenders from membership in the BSA. Also, In 2006, the state of Texas passed a law that requires ALL adults and staff participating in any licensed youth camps to complete youth protection training! This includes BTSR and Cub scout Day camps.

Every leader involved should complete Youth Protection Training. Training or the course is delivered online and must be completed every two years. Parents will also find this training valuable. In addition to a thorough review of BSA Youth Protection policies, the training develops an increased awareness of Youth Protection issues.

**TO COMPLETE YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING,  
PLEASE LOGON TO THE TRAINING SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE AT:  
[WWW.BUFFALOTRAILBSA.ORG](http://WWW.BUFFALOTRAILBSA.ORG)**

## YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Youth protection training is available for adults involved in scouting and for the scouts they lead. There are four DVDs to help you with training and with recognizing abuse. DVDs are available for check-out at the Midland Scout Service Center and a Facilitator's Guide is available with hand out materials at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).

1. *Youth Protection Training for Adult Leaders* is a comprehensive youth Protection training program for all BSA professionals and volunteers that covers recognizing and reporting child abuse. Training is found online at [www.buffalotrailbsa.org](http://www.buffalotrailbsa.org). Click on "Training". Only takes approximately 30-45 minutes.



2. *A Time to Tell* is an award winning youth Protection program now available on DVD. The program presents a variety of situations that young people may encounter and stresses the importance of the three R's of Youth Protection; recognize, resist, and report. It was designed to be viewed by 11 to 14 year old boys. The DVD includes both English and Spanish versions.

3. *It Happened to Me* is a new training program developed for 6 to 9 year old boys. It is designed to educate this age group, through five scenarios, on the issue of sexual abuse and the trickery involved in luring young victims.



4. *Personal Safety Awareness For Venturing* is a presentation for any young person 14 through 20 years of age. It is made up of a series of four vignettes dealing with the issues of acquaintance rape, Internet safety and pornography, peer sexual harassment, and suicide and depression. Each scenario has points where it can be paused for group discussions.