



Stay safe at Scarefest

Best practice advice for leaders

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Keeping young people safe

With over 1500 Scouts and Explorers on-site, Scarefest is set to be an exhilarating weekend exploring the spookier side of Gilwell Park.

As a leader you have an important role to play in ensuring that all young people are kept safe whilst at Scarefest.

It is the policy of The Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all members by protecting them from harm, including neglect, physical, sexual or emotional maltreatment.

This guide will help you to think about some of the potential situations which could arise during Scarefest and assist you and your team to understand and reduce any risks.

It also outlines the help and support available to you and your group throughout the event in regards to safeguarding or in the event that something does not go to plan.

Please share and discuss this guide with all adult volunteers prior to attending Scarefest. Should you have any safeguarding questions before the event please contact your County Safeguarding Awareness Co-ordinator.

We look forward to having you and your group with us



Setting ground rules

Keeping our members safe is always of great importance. It would be helpful to have conversations with young people **before** coming to Scarefest. By explaining the rules and boundaries of this event with them may help stop situations from occurring or escalating.

Engage young people in understanding the Scouts Young People First Yellow Card and encourage them to set their own code of conduct for the event. This promotes a shared responsibility, allows young people to ask questions, discuss the event and will promote positive behaviour for all involved.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the Yellow Card code of conduct are upheld. It may also be a consideration to send a copy of these to parents and ask them to discuss it with their child to further consolidate the information and to assist with parents understanding of our safeguarding policies and procedures.

Remember to revisit the codes of conduct when on-site and remind all young people and leaders of their shared responsibility in regards to upholding the expectation of behaviour and practice.



Promoting positive behaviour

It will remain your responsibility to ensure that volunteers and young people act appropriately and within accordance of The Scouts values at all times whilst at Scarefest.

Everyone on-site must adhere to the terms and conditions of Scarefest at all times. Any breach of these terms may result in your group being asked to leave the site.

Familiarise yourself with the site on arrival, understanding potential hotspots, areas where young people may congregate or areas where a young person could be easily lost. It is important that Centre Management is identified in relation to your campsite.

Ensure that leaders are assigned to supervise young people, remembering that supervision plans should be in place for all Scouting activities, even when young people are given free time. Further guidance on management of free time can be found at <https://members.scouts.org.uk/freetime>. If you feel there are more vulnerable young people within your group who may find the event or size of the site a challenge, discuss prior to the event which leaders will be responsible for monitoring them.

Scarefest will be a positive and safe experience for members, however there may be value in discussing with your team ahead of time what your contingency plan is if something does go wrong or you need to remove a young person or call in specialist support? Will you have enough adults to continue safely should some have to deal with any unforeseen incidents?

If you need support in dealing with a situation or have any questions please contact Centre Management.



Discussing consent

Empowering young people to have the confidence to say **no** when they are asked to do something that makes them feel uncomfortable or when they do not want to complete a particular activity enables them to keep themselves safe.

Often we discuss consent only in the context of sex and relationships but it is much broader than this. Having conversations about personal space, belongings and appropriate physical touch helps to enforce a culture of mutual respect.

Discussing consent promotes the Scouting Values of Integrity and Respect. This may be a difficult task as you may be the first person to have ever told a young person they have the right to say no.

A good exercise to start a conversation is “Traffic Lights”. Each young person has a red, amber and green card. Ask the question “**Is it ok.....?**” followed by a series of statements such as:

- to hold hands
- to give someone your snapcode
- to offer someone a hug
- to share someone’s food
- to borrow someone’s torch
- to enter someone else’s tent

Facilitate a discussion around which cards the young people have raised and why. This will allow the group can explore the issue of consent in a safe and supportive environment, while emphasising that no means no.



Giving advice

Being away from home for the night at a camp or event often allows young people the opportunity to question and discuss topics they wouldn't otherwise be able to. Confronting fear at an event like Scarefest, can also lead to heightened emotions and leaders should be mindful of this.

Young people may wish to talk about a broad range of topics and you should discuss as a team how you could respond to potentially difficult questions.

When giving advice remember it should be in line with Scouting Values and if you do not know an answer or are not comfortable discussing a topic, explain this to the young person and that you will find an appropriate answer or person to deal with the matter.

All adults should always be within sight and hearing of another adult when speaking to an individual young person.

If a young person's question gives you cause for concern over their or another's welfare please speak to Centre Management who will be able to advise accordingly.

For more information on issues young people face please visit: themix.org.uk

Remember the Yellow Card

The Yellow Card is a code of conduct which outlines how we expect adults to behave while Scouting.

All adults on-site will be adhere to the Yellow Card at all times while on-site.

In preparation for this event discuss the Yellow Card with your team and ensure that everyone understands the principles and the importance of this guide.

Each leader should carry a Yellow Card at all times while Scouting. Orange Cards are also available for Young Leaders.

While the Yellow and Orange Cards clearly outline how we expect adults and Young Leaders to behave, leaders should also use common sense and professional discretion to ensure their team are acting appropriately and in the best interests of young people at all times.

Should you have any Safeguarding questions before the event please contact your County Safeguarding Awareness Co-ordinator.

If you would like any additional copies of the Yellow or Orange Cards please ask at Event Reception upon arrival.



What to do if...?

If a young person is at immediate risk of significant harm contact the police and then inform on-site Centre Management.

If you are concerned about a young person's safety, well-being or there is a concern, complaint or allegation about an adult or yourself please follow the procedure as outlined on the Yellow / Orange Card.

Similarly, if a young person tells you they are at risk of or being abused in any way please follow the procedure on the Yellow / Orange Card.

During Scarefest, Centre Management will act as the first point of contact for all referrals.

They will liaise with the Duty Safeguarding Officer and advise accordingly.

Everyone in Scouting has the right to report concerns or suspicions about another member in confidence and free from any negative consequences.

You **must** refer any concern or complaint to Centre Management. **Never** investigate the matter yourself.

If you are in any doubt about what to do please contact Centre Management.

Before Scarefest

- Share best practice document with all leaders
- Young people to devise a Code of Conduct
- Send Code's of Conduct to parents
- Discuss potential issues with young people (Including drugs, alcohol, weapons, consent, safety & response to fear)
- Agree contingency plans with leaders
- Agree the leadership supervision plan
- Revisit Yellow / Orange Card
- Add Centre Management number to phone contacts

Upon arrival

- Familiarise yourself with the site
- Collect Yellow/Organge Cards & Safety leaflets
- Find out where Centre Management are located
- Remind young people of Code of Conduct

Stay safe at Scarefest

Do you feel unsafe?

Are you worried about someone on-site?

Have you seen or experienced something you don't like or feel uncomfortable about?

If so please speak to Centre Management immediately

GILWELL PARK

Farm Reception

07885 765 074

scouts.org.uk/join
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