

SAFEGUARDING YOUTH



NEWSLETTER

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to intentionally reflect on our shared responsibility to protect and uplift young people. This year, our Council is showing its commitment by placing a banner on our front lawn. The blue flag represents the ongoing efforts of Scouts and their leaders to prevent child abuse. These blue flags are a symbol of our promise to create environments where youth feel safe, supported, and empowered to speak up when something doesn't feel right.

For Scouts, safeguarding is more than a policy — it is a lived value rooted in trust, leadership, and care for others. Every flag represents a unit actively choosing to foster awareness, education, and accountability within its programs. Together, these flags tell a powerful story to our Scouts, families, and community: Scouting is committed to prevention, protection, and partnership in ensuring every young person can learn, grow, and thrive in a culture of safety.

-Emily Whittle-Perkins; Council Safeguarding Officer

TO THE RIGHT IS A CPC SCOUT'S MESSAGE ON ABUSE

I'M PAULO*

A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD LIFE SCOUT ENROLLED AS A JUNIOR AT NORTH SALEM HIGH SCHOOL AND INVOLVED IN THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM. I ALSO PLAY THE TRUMPET AND ENJOY PROGRAMMING!

*THE ARTIST BEHIND THE FLIER

ALT Text: Handwritten poster titled "ABUSE" defining abuse and listing five types: physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, and financial. It encourages anyone experiencing abuse to tell a trusted adult.

ABUSE

What is it?

- Any type of action between two individuals that is forced and makes one party uncomfortable
 - Five types:
 - Physical abuse is when one person hurts another on purpose.
 - Emotional abuse is when someone purposefully and repeatedly hurts your feelings.
 - Sexual abuse is any unconsensual sexual action.
 - Neglect is when your basic needs are not met.
 - Financial abuse is when someone close to you exploits you for money.
- If you experience any of these, tell a trusted adult!

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE WITHIN SCOUTING?

Youth safety is our highest priority. If you suspect abuse or receive a disclosure from a Scout, you do not need proof or certainty to act — reasonable suspicion is enough. Stay calm, listen carefully, thank the youth for telling you, and reassure them that they did the right thing. Do not promise confidentiality and do not attempt to investigate or ask leading questions. Your role is to receive the information and report it promptly.

All Scouting volunteers are expected to report concerns in accordance with both legal requirements and Scouting policy. If you suspect abuse, contact your state's child abuse reporting hotline or local law enforcement immediately, as required by law. After making the report, notify the CPC's Council Safeguarding Officer (contact information below). Reporting is not an accusation — it is a protective action. When we report concerns quickly and appropriately, we reinforce a culture where youth safety truly comes first.

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? CONTACT ME!