August 9, 2019

Dear Scouter,

Child sexual abuse continues to be a significant topic of our national conversation, and we need you to know and share three important messages on that subject:

First, child sexual abuse is a societal issue that extends beyond any one institution or organization. The statistics are startling. According to the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention, one in six boys and one in four girls will be victims of some form of sexual abuse before they turn 18 and 80-90% of offenders are family members or close family friends. There were 5,049 reports of child sexual abuse in the most recent “Wisconsin Child Abuse & Neglect Report, 2017” (one involving Scouting).

Second, Scouting is committed to being part of the solution and we are in a position to help. Child safety experts have repeatedly called Scouting’s youth protection policies and practices the “gold standard” for youth-serving organizations. Nationally and locally, Scouting shares its expertise with a wide variety of other organizations. Scout leaders and parents make all kids safer as they apply our youth protection training and practices in other parts of our community.

Third, parents of our members and prospective members need to know their kids are safer in Scouting than not. We have always had a strong record compared to the larger community, but since the implementation of two-deep leadership in 1987, sexual abuse has been practically eliminated in Scouting. We work diligently to ensure that our programs incorporate the latest and best youth protection practices.

No harm to a child is ever acceptable anywhere in our community. Scouting is playing a leading role in combating child sexual abuse, but we all need to work together to deal with what is indisputably an unacceptable public health and safety problem.

We hope you’re willing to take the initiative in sharing these messages, in your unit and in our community. Here are some resources to help:

- **Wallet Card** – A folded version is enclosed. Ten additional copies are included in each unit’s Fall Program packet (in flat form so can be easily copied) and more can be ordered.
- **Dedicated Webpage** [www.Samoset.org/Youth-Protection](http://www.samoset.org/Youth-Protection) which includes the latest information, policies, practices, statistics and sources, as well as links to our online training which is available as a resource for everyone.

Thank you for everything that you are doing for children through your support of Scouting.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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