

# ***The Three R's of Youth Protection***

The "three R's" of Youth Protection convey a simple message to youth members:

- **Recognize** situations that place you at risk of being molested, how child molesters operate, and that anyone could be a molester.
- **Resist** unwanted and inappropriate attention. Resistance will stop most attempts at molestation.
- **Report** attempted or actual molestation to a parent or other trusted adult. This prevents further abuse and helps to protect other children. Let the Scout know he or she will not be blamed for what occurred

## Second Class

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### **Requirement 8b is new.**

It reads: "**Explain the three R's of personal safety and protection.**"

Be aware of the three R's to help ensure your personal safety and to help protect yourself.

**Recognize** that anyone could be a child molester. Child molesters can be very skilled at influencing children, so be aware of situations that could lead to abuse.

**Resist** advances made by child molesters to avoid being abused. Just say no, and don't be embarrassed to run away, scream, or cause a commotion.

**Report** any molestation or attempted molestation to parents or other trusted adults. Anytime someone does something to you that your instincts tell you is wrong, or that makes you feel threatened or uncomfortable, tell someone you trust. It's OK to ask for help.

Most relationships with others can be warm and open. That is because they are built on trust. A pat on the back, a hug of encouragement, or a firm handshake are ways we can show people we care about them.

However, it is a sad fact that some adults and teenagers use their size and their power over others to abuse them. You need to know about abuse so that you will understand what to do if you are ever threatened.

Those who abuse young people know they are doing something wrong. They usually try to keep their actions a secret from other adults. They might frighten their victims to prevent them from telling anyone what is happening. They might try to make the abused person feel that he or she is to blame.

No one should live in fear of abuse. You do not have to let people touch you in ways you find uncomfortable. If you are ever asked to do something you know is wrong, you have the right to refuse.

***Protecting Yourself From Sexual Abuse*** Most sexual abuse can be prevented if young people know and follow these three R's:

Recognize.

Resist.

Report.

**Recognize.** Recognizing a situation that could become sexual abuse can help you get away before you are in serious danger.

People who sexually abuse young people are called molesters. Most often, the molester is known by his or her victim. The molester might be anyone--a family member, schoolteacher, religious leader, or youth group leader.

An adult attempting sexual abuse might begin by touching you in ways that are confusing. He or she might try to touch your groin area and pretend it was an accident. You might be asked to pose for photographs in your underwear or swimming suit, and then in no clothing at all.

Some adults or older youths might try to use your natural curiosity about sex as an opportunity to attempt sexual abuse. Sex is a normal bodily function you need to understand. Be on guard around anyone who makes it seem dirty or secretive.

**Resist.** If anyone ever attempts to do something to your body that makes you feel bad or that you know is wrong, you have the right to stop them. Run, shout, or make a scene in public to protect yourself. Faced with resistance, most molesters will back off.

**Report.** Anytime you believe that someone has tried to abuse you or someone else, report it. Talk to a trusted adult or call an abuse hot line--you can get the number from the phone book or by dialing an operator. Abuse is an adult-sized problem. By talking about it with adults, you can let them solve it.

For more information on dealing with abuse, you and your parents or guardian can read together the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*, found inside the cover of your [Boy Scout Handbook](#).

*This requirement is described on pages 108 and 378-379 of the 2008 edition of the [Boy Scout Handbook](#).*