

Safety Week

October 20-26, 2013



It starts with Scouts.

Day 5

Bullying and Verbal Abuse

Learning how to deal with bullying and verbal abuse is part of growing up, but with the stake as high as we know they can be, adults need to educate youth on how they can address these issues effectively—or better yet, prevent the problem in the first place.

BEAVER SCOUTS

Tips to share:

- Remember the Beaver Scout motto: Sharing! Sharing! Sharing!
- Cheer on your friends in games and competitions.
- Show some sportsmanship. Don't run up the score in a game just because you can, and don't taunt the other side.

Scouters Tip:

Discuss any concerns with your fellow Scouters. Be a team; help each other to monitor and address the chemistry among the youth.

Resources and Program Ideas:

- Learn about [fair play](#).
- Help Beaver Scouts to [make new friends](#).



CUB SCOUTS

Tips to share:

- If you're being bullied or know of somebody who's being bullied, tell an adult.
- Let your friends know when you've seen them doing something well. Everybody likes to hear "Good job!" once in a while.
- Be a good sport when you lose in a competition. Compliment your opponents after a game.

Scouters Tip:

Always be encouraging. Even when telling youth no, find a silver lining.

Resources and Program Ideas:

- Share this [online video game](#) that teaches Cub Scouts how to avoid violence (a refreshing change for a video game).



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Scouts

Tips to share:

- Ignore a bully. Bullies are encouraged by big reactions.
- Stand up for yourself. If you do as bullies tell you to do, they will keep bullying.
- Run away if you have to.

Scouters Tip:

Be aware of tensions among youth. Be a voice of reason when teams (such as Patrols) are being made up.

Resources and Program Ideas:

- [Bullying and Verbal Abuse Jumpstart](#)

VENTURER SCOUTS

Tips to share:

- Be aware that words and expressions can be hurtful, even if they're not intended that way.
- If you're being bullied, don't bully back. Escalating a conflict will probably make it worse.
- Avoid fighting. Anything can happen in a physical fight. You could get seriously hurt, or you could wind up in serious trouble if you hurt somebody else.

Scouters Tip:

Have an explicit "No Bullying" policy for the Company. Encourage a discussion through the youth leadership early in the Scouting year.

Resources and Program Ideas:

- Listen to Rick Mercer rant and [get fired up \(in a good way\)](#).
- Listen to Rick rant some more, and [get even more fired up](#).
- Learn what [more can be done](#).



ROVER SCOUTS

Tips to share:

- Be sensitive to the values and beliefs of others.
- Don't laugh at an inappropriate joke just to fit in. Let others know when a [joke is unacceptable](#).
- Be sure that themes for events are inclusive.

Scouters Tip:

Include Section members when addressing instances of bullying. Having a couple of senior Section members talk to a bully can be more effective in resolving a problem in the long run.

Resources and Program Ideas:

- Try some conflict resolution games; there are heaps online, and more than a few should be right for your Crew. You can also research communication and team-building games to help foster a healthy dynamic in your Crew.

