



# STAY SAFE AT THE WOOLLY JUMPER CAMP

best practice advice for leaders

## YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST

Safeguarding in Scouting

## Note:

Document reproduced from Gilwell 24's 'Stay Safe at Gilwell 24 – best practice advice for leaders' – a document produced in conjunction with The Scout Associations Safeguarding Team.

## The Woolly Jumper Camp

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# Keeping Young People Safe

With a large number of participants and leaders onsite for the Woolly Jumper camp, we wanted to provide practical advice for leaders on helping to keep their young people safe.

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

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

This guide will help you to think about some of the potential situations which could arise during the Woolly Jumper and help you and your team to plan for and mitigate these risks.

It also outlines the help and support available to you and your group in the unlikely event that something does go wrong.

Please share and discuss this guide with all adult volunteers prior to attending the Woolly Jumper. Should you have any safeguarding questions before the event please contact your Regional Safeguarding Awareness Coordinator or the camp admin team.

We look forward to having you and your group with us in April for the Woolly Jumper camp.

# Setting Ground Rules

Setting clear boundaries with young people can help stop situations occurring or escalating. It is important to have conversations with young people about ground rules and sanctions **before** coming to the Woolly Jumper.

Engaging young people in setting their own code of conduct promotes a shared responsibility and prevents any negative feeling of adults imposing rules. A good place to start is with the question “Imagine you were going to stay at a friends’ house – how would you behave?”

A good code of conduct should be in keeping with Scouting Values. Asking young people what they feel are appropriate sanctions for rule-breaking can also work well but make sure none of the sanctions could be seen as belittling or bullying.

Once these ground rules have been agreed by the group it is your responsibility to ensure they are upheld. Sending a copy of the code of conduct to parents and asking them to discuss it with their child can also help to encourage positive behaviour.

It is worth revisiting your code of conduct once onsite and reminding young people of their shared responsibility.



# Promoting Positive Behaviour

It is your responsibility to ensure that young people are acting appropriately whilst at the Woolly Jumper.

Everyone onsite must adhere to the terms and conditions of the Woolly Jumper at all times. Any breach of these terms may result in your group being asked to leave.

Upon arrival, familiarise yourself with the site. Where are the hotspots where young people may congregate or try to sneak off to? Where is the camp reception located in relation to your campsite?

If you feel there are young people in your group who may wander off it is maybe worth agreeing a rota with your team, before camp, so that leaders know when they are responsible for monitoring behaviour.

Introducing yourself to the leaders of neighbouring groups allows you to de-escalate any rivalry which may arise between young people and to have backup nearby should you need it.

While the vast majority of groups have a positive and safe experience at the Woolly Jumper it is worth discussing with your team ahead of time what your plan is if something does go wrong. Do you have an exit plan if you need to remove a young person or call in specialist support?

If you need support in dealing with a situation or have any questions, please contact the camp reception.

# Discussing Consent

Empowering young people to have the confidence to say **no** 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 contact helps to enforce a culture of mutual respect.

Discussing consent promotes the Scouting Values of Integrity & Respect. While this may seem daunting, you may be the first person to have ever told a young person that they have the right to say no.

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

- to enter someone else’s tent
- to offer someone a hug
- to share someone’s food
- to hold hands
- to drink alcohol
- to give out your number

Facilitate a discussion around which cards the young people have raised and why. It is important to emphasise the point that no means no – even if everyone else is saying yes.





# 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.

Sleep deprivation can also lead to heightened emotions and leaders should be mindful of this.

No topic is off limits for young people and you should discuss as a team how you could respond to potentially difficult questions.

When giving advice remember to offer multiple options and enable young people to make informed choices. All advice should be in line with Scouting Values and adults should always be within sight and hearing of another adult when speaking to an individual young person.

If you don't know, or are unsure of the appropriate answer it is ok to say you don't know but if you offer to seek advice ensure you follow up with the young person in question.

If a young person's question gives you cause for concern over their welfare please speak to the camp reception team who will be able to advise accordingly.

For more information on issues young people face, please visit: **[themix.org.uk](https://themix.org.uk)**

# Remember the Yellow Card

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

All adults onsite will be provided with a Yellow Card on arrival and asked to adhere to it at all times.

It is worth re-visiting the Yellow Card regularly with your team and particularly ahead of trips and events.

While the Yellow Card clearly outlines how we expect adults 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 Regional Safeguarding Awareness Coordinator.

**Young people first**  
Safeguarding – a code of practice  
This card contains essential information for all adults  
in Scouting. Please keep it with you at all times

Version 7. Nov 2018  
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# What do I do if...?

If a young person is at immediate risk of significant harm contact the police and then inform the onsite reception team.

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

During the Woolly Jumper camp, the camp organising team 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 harassment.

You must refer any concern or complaint to the camp organising team. **Do not** investigate it yourself.

If you are in doubt about what to do please contact the camp reception team.

# Before the Woolly Jumper

- Share best practice document with all leaders
- Design Code of Conduct with young people
- Send Code of Conduct to parents
- Discuss potential issues with young people
  - Including: drugs, alcohol, consent, appropriate relationships, weapons and safety
- Agree contingency plans with leaders
- Revisit Yellow Card

## Upon Arrival

- Familiarise yourself with the site
- Introduce yourself to neighbouring groups
- Collect Yellow Cards
- Find out where the camp reception team is based
- Remind young people of Code of Conduct



# Stay Safe at The Woolly Jumper

Do you feel **unsafe**?

Are you **worried** about someone onsite?

Have you experienced  
**something you don't like**?

If so please contact the camp reception team  
immediately