



Sample Letter to Venturing Parents and Guardians

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Child sexual abuse is so prevalent in American society that one in seven boys might be sexually abused before reaching adulthood; the percentage of sexually abused girls is even greater. To respond to this growing social problem, the Boy Scouts of America has developed comprehensive Youth Protection training, which addresses the problem of child abuse and, at the same time, helps Scouting continue to provide a safe environment and meet high standards of leadership for our youth members.

At our crew meeting on [date and date] at [time], we will show the video, *Youth Protection: Personal Safety Awareness*. This video was produced by the Boy Scouts of America to educate young men and women 14 to 20 years old. This age group represents the transition period between childhood and adulthood during which youth learn how to fulfill their adult roles. The learning process often creates perilous situations that teens need to recognize and deal with appropriately to avoid harm.

Youth Protection: Personal Safety Awareness is an important part of the BSA's Youth Protection training. Each Venturing crew is encouraged to show the video to its members once a year. The video contains three dramatizations that serve as catalysts for discussion by the audience.

You are invited to attend the viewing of *Youth Protection: Personal Safety Awareness* with your son or daughter. Child abuse professionals unanimously agree that open communication between parents and youth is vital to preventing child abuse. Your viewing of this video will help to provide a common point of reference for subsequent discussions between you and your son or daughter on this topic.

I hope that you will be able to join us on [date].

Sincerely,

Crew Leader