



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and BSA's Youth Protection Month each year. The *Guide to Safe Scouting* recommends the following:

The BSA has bilingual, age-appropriate videos for all youth age groups to address the problems of sexual abuse...The video for Boy Scouts, *A Time to Tell/Hora de Contarlo* (No. AV-09DVD04), introduces the "three R's" of Youth Protection, and should be viewed by troops annually. *Personal Safety Awareness/Concientización Sobre la Seguridad Personal* (No. AV-09DVD27) is the video for Venturing-age young people.

For LDS units, a parent(s) should attend the showing of the videos with their son. Parents should also be invited to preview the video their child would see before the group showing. These are good suggestions for any unit.

BSA provides invitation letter templates that can be used as a starting point, information on the videos, and discussion guides to be used for leading a discussion with the youth at points during the showing of the videos. This, of course, assumes the discussion leader has seen the video, read the discussion guide, and is prepared to lead the discussion.

These videos are effective. They are blunt, uncomfortable to watch, specific without being gratuitous, and provide our youth with the information they need to protect themselves. We only fool ourselves and do a disservice to our youth if we think these problems do not exist in our community or that the youth in our units do not need this information.

Resources for these videos and information on Youth Protection from the BSA are located at <http://www.scouting.org/YouthProtection>. These include the following:

A Time to Tell (ages 11-13) with meeting (facilitator's) guide, sample invite letters, video info, links to online adult YP training, etc.

Personal Safety Awareness (ages 14-18) with meeting guide, links to online adult YP training, etc.

Here's a sample agenda for holding one of these meetings:

- I. **Opening Ceremony**
 - a. Scout Oath
 - b. Scout Law
 - c. Opening prayer
- II. **Introduction**
- III. **Video and Discussions**
- IV. **Scoutmaster's Minute (suggestion: *Be Prepared - For Any Old Thing*)**
- V. **Close**
 - a. Conclusion – Three R's
 - b. Resources
 - i. For youth
 - ii. For parents
 - c. Closing prayer

Please make this a priority in your units for April. Our youth are worth it.