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Research: Teens Victimized in Boy Scouts' Police Explorers Program

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Posted on **June 25, 2003 9:52:40 AM PDT** by [DannyTN](#)

At least a dozen teenagers assigned to work with police departments as part of the Boy Scouts' Law Enforcement Explorers (search) program have allegedly been sexually abused by officers during the past year. In the past five years, such molestations number at least 25, according to criminologists' research being released Wednesday.

Sponsors have promised reforms to the program, which attracts tens of thousands of teens annually.

Among recent cases:

-- The East Ridge, Tenn., police department suspended its Explorer program after Officer Keith Maynard, 31, was charged with two counts of statutory rape and two counts of aggravated child molestation, accused of having sex with a 15-year-old girl in the program. He is awaiting trial.

-- In Haltom City, Texas, former police officer John Ross Ewing, 28, was indicted by a grand jury in March on charges that he sexually assaulted two male Explorer scouts, ages 15 and 16, at his apartment.

-- In San Bernardino, Calif., Freddie Lee Johnson, 34, pleaded guilty in April to having sex with a 16-year-old girl on a scout-related camping trip. According to court records, the girl woke up in her tent and found the officer on top of her. He was sentenced to 60 weekends in jail.

"I was scared that if I said anything, I would get into trouble and I would have to leave the sheriff's department," the victim said in a statement at the sentencing hearing.

Her mother added: "We trusted him. How could we not? He was a law-enforcement officer. He was our daughter's (Explorer) adviser. He was invited to our daughter's graduation dinner at our home. ... He shook our hands, gave me hugs, and all of the time, he was betraying our trust."

Law Enforcement Explorers is a co-ed program affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America (search). The broader scouts Exploring program also places 14- to 20-year-olds with firefighters, medical providers, lawyers and others to learn about those careers.

In 2002, about 43,000 Explorers were assigned to police and sheriff's departments around the United States.

Boy Scouts of America officials said they were surprised and concerned to learn of the incidents.

"One child, 12 children, it's always one too many," said Boy Scouts of America national spokesman Gregg Shields.

"I really don't understand why this is happening," said John Anthony, executive director of the Learning For Life program, which oversees Explorers.

Anthony's office is reinforcing youth protection guidelines with all law enforcement Explorer programs and requiring supervisors to go through training about how to protect participants from abuse.

The extent of the abuse is detailed in research that will be released Wednesday by University of Nebraska criminal justice professor Samuel Walker (search) and his colleague Dawn Irlbeck, who study police sexual abuse of women.

Almost half of the reported teenage victims of police sexual abuse in the past decade were enrolled in police Explorer programs, they found, with the rest abused during arrests, traffic stops and in other situations.

"When you have repeated incidents across the country, a new one every month, that's a real problem," Walker said.

Even where abuse is not alleged, critics have faulted some programs for endangering teens.

Explorers have been used on undercover pornography stings in which they enter adult bookstores and purchase materials banned for their age group. In other cases, scouting officials said, they have been allowed to drive marked patrol cars, which could expose them to harm from gang members and drug dealers.

"Stings are prohibited and always have been prohibited," said Shields, the Boy Scouts spokesman. "These are juveniles and it's just not proper."

The Explorer program's own written guidelines discourage the practice of allowing teens to drive patrol cars, noting, "This is potentially putting inexperienced (immature) youth in harm's way."

Under those guidelines, unsupervised, one-on-one contact between Explorers and officers is banned, with one exception -- during certified law enforcement ride-alongs. But this is when many of the reported cases of abuse have taken place, the research found.

"I think it's a program that allows inappropriate contact between the officers and the kids without the proper supervision," said attorney Todd Walburg, who represents a former Explorer alleging in a lawsuit that David Kalish, who ran for Los Angeles police chief last year, sexually abused him while in the program during the 1970s. Kalish, 49, has been suspended as deputy chief, pending grand jury action.

But others emphasize the benefits of the program.

Sgt. Rick Martinez of the Anaheim, Calif., police said he was inspired by his experiences as Explorer 30 years ago to join the force.

Abuse is "a rare and unfortunate instance," he said. "But keep in mind there are thousands of kids who go through this program without abuse, exposing them to career options and teaching them to help their communities."

Even so, Martinez is all too aware that problems can happen.

He resumed his position as the program's adviser last year after the former leader, 31-year-old officer Jason David Rosewarne, was charged with having sex with a 17-year-old female Explorer.

Rosewarne, who resigned, was charged Oct. 25 with one felony count of oral copulation with a minor.

But the married father of two may never go to trial. Rosewarne, who was born in Britain and has dual citizenship, recently moved with his family to the London area. Prosecutors initially said they would seek extradition, and a judge issued a warrant for his arrest. But because the age of consent is 16 in Britain, he will not be returned to the United States.

Even when officers are convicted in this country, sentences are often light, records show.

For example, in March, a judge reduced charges against former Woodlake, Calif., police officer Eric Martinez from three felony charges to a misdemeanor after the officer, in a plea deal, admitted he had sex with a 17-year-old girl in the Explorer program. He was ordered to perform community service and was placed on probation.

TOPICS: [Culture/Society](#); [Government](#)

KEYWORDS: [boyscouts](#); [bsa](#); [gay](#); [homosexual](#); [pederasty](#); [police](#); [sexualabuse](#); [sexualassault](#); [teens](#)

Yikes, hate to be the bearer of bad news.

1 posted on **June 25, 2003 9:52:40 AM PDT** by **DannyTN**

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **DannyTN**

Do we have some reference?? Research by??? Articles??

2 posted on **June 25, 2003 10:00:38 AM PDT** by **steplock** (<http://www.spadata.com>)

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To: **DannyTN**

It's sad when things like this happen because it casts an eye of suspicion on anyone who works with children, even if they have nothing but the best intentions and truly want to be a mentor to young people.

3 posted on **June 25, 2003 10:06:12 AM PDT** by **tdadams**

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To: **steplock**

From Google....

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-06-25-boy-scouts-abuse_x.htm

4 posted on **June 25, 2003 10:10:10 AM PDT** by **pilgrim**

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To: **pilgrim**

Thnax - I was putting the info on one of my web sites, but needed the source.

Some people are getting picky about that - like Left-wing radicals who hate seeing their ilk in the news negatively.

5 posted on **June 25, 2003 10:12:59 AM PDT** by **steplock** (<http://www.spadata.com>)

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To: **tdadams**

Amen. I've seen posts criticizing parents as being dangerously negligent for leaving their children in the care of *any* non-related male.

If we can't trust police officers not to rape teenagers, we are all in a great deal of trouble.

6 posted on **June 25, 2003 10:13:33 AM PDT** by **ChemistCat** (Transformers look just as good by morning light as they did the night before.)

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 3](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **steplock**

like Left-wing radicals who hate seeing their ilk in the news negatively

Since when are boy scouts the "ilk" of left-wing radicals?

7 posted on **June 25, 2003 10:14:27 AM PDT** by **Dilly**

[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 5](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **DannyTN**

If only the Pope would permit the ordination of women, no Boy Scout would ever be molested by a police officer.

8 posted on **June 25, 2003 10:16:21 AM PDT** by **wideawake** (God bless our brave soldiers and their Commander in Chief)

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To: **Dilly**

Sorry - I wasn't clear on that.

I was refering to the pedophile rapists and other left-wing radicals screaming "prove it!" when they see an article derogatory to their causes.

9 posted on **June 25, 2003 10:20:46 AM PDT** by **steplock** (<http://www.spadata.com>)

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To: **DannyTN**

Lets lower the standards for cops even lower....

10 posted on **June 25, 2003 10:53:01 AM PDT** by **joesnuffy** (Moderate Islam Is For Dilettantes)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **DannyTN**

"-- In San Bernardino, Calif., Freddie Lee Johnson, 34, pleaded guilty in April to having sex with a 16-year-old girl on a scout-related camping trip. According to court records, the girl woke up in her tent and found the officer on top of her. He was sentenced to 60 weekends in jail.

"I was scared that if I said anything, I would get into trouble and I would have to leave the sheriff's department," the victim said in a statement at the sentencing hearing. "

Had it been anyone but a police officer, he'd be doing real time, not just weekends in jail. This bites.

11 posted on **June 25, 2003 11:21:40 AM PDT** by **MineralMan** (godless atheist)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **steplock**

I'm sorry it looks like I forgot to post the link. This was from Foxnews. The article didn't have any further links. It referred to "criminologist's research".

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,90345,00.html>

12 posted on **June 25, 2003 11:37:38 AM PDT** by **DannyTN** (Note left on my door by a pack of neighborhood dogs.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 2](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **MineralMan**

"Had it been anyone but a police officer, he'd be doing real time, not just weekends in jail. This bites. "

There was a time when the more responsibility you had, the harder the judge hit you for something like this.

13 posted on **June 25, 2003 11:41:03 AM PDT** by **DannyTN** (Note left on my door by a pack of neighborhood dogs.)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 11](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **tdadams**

It's sad when things like this happen becuae it casts an eye of suspicion on anyone who works with children, even if they have nothing but the best intentions and truly want to be a mentor to young people.

Folks who work with children should not put themselves in a position where they would have the opportunity to abuse children. Either you need two adults present at all times, or you need some policy that prevents extended private contact with individual children.

14 posted on **June 25, 2003 11:49:57 AM PDT** by **js1138**
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To: **Do the Dew**

Anthony's office is reinforcing youth protection guidelines with all law enforcement Explorer programs and requiring supervisors to go through training about how to protect participants from abuse.

BSA Youth Protection Guidelines

Two deep leadership is the key. Don't let your children get involved in a unit that does not enforce this simple rule. Better yet, volunteer to help with the pack/troop/crew/post.

As an adult, for your own protection, don't take a leadership position in any unit that doesn't take this seriously. It may be called youth protection, but it is also for the leaders protection.

Safety/Liability issues have probably already stopped most of the ride along programs for Explorers under age 18. I would imagine the larger municipalities have addressed this, but in some smaller cities, this obviously is still allowed. It would be difficult to have two adults present in a ride along program with the PD, unless someone is going to ride in the cage. EMS and FD crews don't operate solo, so the one-on-one situation wouldn't be as difficult to prevent in Fire Dept. Explorer Posts.

Scouting takes another PR hit, and the Exploring program suffers due to reduced training opportunities.

15 posted on **June 25, 2003 1:22:24 PM PDT** by **ConservativeByChoice**
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **wideawake**

Clearly the entire Policeman's Benevolent Association encouraged this behavior and is, in fact, one giant breeding ground for pedophiles. Every Police Commissioner in every city is equally responsible for this epidemic.

16 posted on **June 25, 2003 2:35:09 PM PDT** by **presidio9** (RUN AL, RUN!!!)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 8](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **presidio9**

It's not just the commissioners - every single policeman in America is a disgusting pedophile. And everyone who considers himself a law-abiding citizen is just a mindless sheep who believes their Policist lies.

17 posted on **June 25, 2003 2:47:50 PM PDT** by **wideawake** (God bless our brave soldiers and their Commander in Chief)
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To: **presidio9; RedBloodedAmerican**

Ah. More Catholic apologetics.

The main differences here are that 1) most of the cases involved heterosexual interest in middle teenage girls by men who hadn't taken vows of celibacy, 2) that the girls were old enough to fight back, 3) that when they involved boys, they were old enough to fight back and 4) that it was dealt with quickly.

That's a little different from Fr. Sissypanities terrorizing a 12 year old boy, then getting shuffled around by Bishop O'Queen who figures it's just a little bitty sin for a priest to want to get him some of that.

18 posted on **June 25, 2003 2:55:18 PM PDT** by **Chancellor Palpatine** (ziggy zoggy, ziggy zoggy, HOY HOY HOY!!!!)

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To: **Chancellor Palpatine**

This is so ridiculous. How can someone excuse this behavior? Unless of course they have similar skeletons in their closets? Any ideas?

19 posted on **June 25, 2003 3:04:45 PM PDT** by **RedBloodedAmerican**

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