

Opinion

Steve Barnaby editor/477-5450

23352 Farmington Road/Farmington, MI 48024

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O.E. Monday, October 1, 1984

Law suit against Girl Scout leaders arouses many

This week Oral Quarrel asked: "Will the lawsuit against Girl Scout leaders discourage volunteers?" Here are the responses:

oral quarrel

The suit, I quote "There was no supervision leading to the accident," without stating the how the accident occurred. Every girl in the troop was working quietly on a project. There were three adult leaders standing around the table. The mechanical pencil was tossed down, as your paper states.

In my opinion there are too many lawyers looking for work, too many lawsuits, just too many. I should stop all this non-sense back to basic values.

I think this is going to encourage some people to volunteer. I think it is really a shame. A terrible thing to happen and I hope people like that should take care of their own kids and not send them out if they are going to sue.

An ex-Girl Scout leader I know put in a legally liable suit. I think this incident will affect all scouting and volunteer programs.

As a mother of a Brownie at the Elementary School and a paralegal by profession, I found this incident very disheartening to the extent that I have seriously questioned my own career choice. Accidents happen. I feel sorry for the injured child but there are too many lawsuits today. Our society bemoans the fact that no body gets involved and then sues.

those that do. I hope that that is not what all these little girls are going to learn from their scouting experience.

I have been a Girl Scout leader in the past and I wouldn't do it again after this.

Sure it will discourage others. There are enough disincentives already. For most people this is the last straw. This suit has to be thrown out as a matter of public policy or we are looking at the collapse of scouting in volunteer youth organizations in this country.

Of course it will discourage others.

This suit could well be the end of Scouting. There are very few mothers that stay at home now to take care of their children and to volunteer to have programs like Scouting and if the other parents who are not willing to help sue over every incident then the volunteers will just dry up. You cannot mortgage your family's future to volunteer to lead an activity for other people.

Yes, of course it will discourage volunteers.

Of course it will discourage volunteers. It is a sad state of affairs when the money little girls raise selling cookies must go to pay for a lawsuit.

There is definitely doubt the lawsuit against the volunteer leaders will discourage people from volunteering to help in the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. There must be an overall insurance coverage that will guarantee the volunteers are fully covered by the area's council insurance and that individuals cannot be named as defendants or cannot be sued anyone.

I am on the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America and this in no way would disturb me as far as continuing my work with the Scouts.

I am a Girl Scout leader and I have been a Girl Scout Leader for 15 years. No, I do not think it will stop us from volunteering. Very simply if you live in the society, if you own a home, if you walk into the street, you are liable to be sued. This is a litigious society and it is a risk we all take and I'm not about to let the threat of a suit get in my way of doing something that has been very valuable to me most of my life. Absolutely not.

Yes, it certainly will be a Girl Scout Leader for six years and I know how many hours sweat and tears I put into the program. Recruiting good leaders has always been a problem but we who will spend their time at then risk being sued. I think the council stinks in this attitude.

No, I don't think so. I think Girl Scout Leaders will continue to be glad to be of service to the girls in the community.

I was a former Girl Scout Leader

myself. Yes, I think Girl Scout Leaders will be very discouraged to volunteer to help out.

I don't think it should discourage people from volunteering. As a volunteer in everyday life, you can get sued for anything you do. In this society I think people will continue to volunteer in many, many areas.

Of course it will discourage volunteers.

No.

No, I don't think it will make any difference to people who want to volunteer.

No, I don't think it will discourage leaders from participating in Girl Scouts, however, I know that this is an unfortunate situation but this could happen to anyone as has happened to many people when their children are involved they let them participate freely until something happens and then they bombard individuals with lawsuits. That is very unfortunate and it is the sign of our times.

Absolutely no.

No, I don't feel it will affect the volunteering of the leaders.

Leaders should not be fearful. No matter what you do in life there is always a dread of being sued so it should not discourage Leaders from volunteering.

After hearing about the problems with insurance in Farmington I checked with my own council to know their policy. I am a new leader. I am not looking for things to happen but when following all guidelines they still can. If a person believes in Scouting they may take extra precautions but it will not stop them.

I hope this won't discourage volunteers. We need more Girl Scouting in Farmington not less. You can be sued anywhere. In a grocery store or Sunday school. Girl Scout leaders should not be deterred from volunteering. We need Girl Scouting in Farmington.

I think it is absolutely a shame. Yes, I think it will affect a lot of people, not only Girl Scouts but Cub Scouts and all other volunteer organizations will suffer for this. I feel very sorry for the family whose little girl is injured but I am sure it was an accident. The Girl Scouts are a very good and positive reinforcement to so many people, it's a shame it will have to suffer.

No, it will not affect the Girl Scouts in the area. There are lots of suit-happy people in the world so this won't affect them.

Of course it will. I see this as a dangerous precedent for the welfare of Scouting and all volunteer programs. This precedent was made possible by the courts liberal entertainment of nuisance suits.

I certainly hope not. Girl Scout-

ing has been going on for years. If you volunteer for your church or school you are going to have the same liability. Girl Scouting must go on and I think these ladies are being very inconsiderate of the rest of the organization.

Of course not.

No, Girl Scout Leaders become leaders to improve the life of girls and there are risks in everything you do. There will always be women who will be willing to improve the life of girls and become leaders.

Oh absolutely. I would be most careful of any type of volunteerism where I could be possibly sued. My car and house are insured for hundreds of thousands of dollars because of lawyers advertising on TV and having these mental midgets come in and sue, sue, sue.

Yes, regretfully it will discourage Girl Scout volunteers. Unless Michigan Girl Scout Council provide adequate legal liability protection and is willing to take a stand and back up the volunteers during the lawsuit. I am certain finding Girl Scout volunteers in this area will be difficult.

Yes, it would discourage me from being a leader when you don't have the backing of Metro Detroit Council as far as liability.

I feel it is a shame that my daughter's troop has lost all its leaders and so therefore it looks like this year she will not be able to be a Brownie.

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