

Richard Fred Swendiman

Richard Fred Swendiman was a Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Scoutmaster in St. Paul, Minnesota, who was placed in the BSA [Confidential Files](#) in 1970, making him an ineligible BSA Volunteer. Swendiman was recommended to BSA for placement in the Confidential Files due to alleged “immoral acts with boys,” according to Swendiman’s BSA Confidential File.

Swendiman, born in 1934, was Scoutmaster of Troop 216 in St. Paul, when he was accused of sexually abusing a boy in his troop during a camping trip to St. Croix State Park in approximately August 1970. Swendiman took the boy into the woods, removed the boy’s clothing and became naked himself, tickled the boy and showed him how to perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, the boy told the Troop 216 Troop Committee, according to the Confidential File. On the way back to the campsite, Swendiman removed the boy’s pants and underwear, held him over his knees, spanked him, and manipulated the boy’s buttocks and penis, according to the Confidential File.

The Troop 216 Troop Committee spoke with other Troop 216 Boy Scouts after the trip and determined that at least one other boy was victimized by similar conduct by Swendiman. On the way to St. Croix State Park, Swendiman told the boys in the troop that they needed to learn to keep a secret as they would possibly do some things that should be kept secret from their parents, according to the Confidential File. Upon information and belief, Swendiman’s conduct with the boys at St. Croix State Park was not reported to law enforcement authorities.

Troop 216 was a member of Indianhead Council of the BSA. At the time of the alleged abuse at St. Croix State Park, Swendiman was 35 and lived at 781 E. 4th Street in St. Paul, according to the Confidential File. According to Swendiman’s resume the Confidential File:

Swendiman was employed as a plant biologist for a landscaping company in 1970. Prior to that, he worked as an assistant group supervisor at the Minnesota Valley Social Adaptation Center in St. Peter, Minnesota. From 1967-69, he was a special schools counselor at the Minnesota Residential Treatment Center, in Lino Lakes, Minnesota, where he worked with emotionally disturbed children. From 1963-66, he was a caseworker for the Roseau County Welfare Department in Roseau, Minnesota. He was in the U.S. Navy from 1954-58, during which time he served at the U.S. Naval Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Illinois, and the Naval Hospital in Newport, Rhode Island as a hospital corpsman. He attended college at the University of Minnesota and St. Cloud State College (1960-67), during which time he served as a summer camp counselor. He also volunteered as an Explorer advisor and playground leader. In addition, Swendiman was previously employed by Heart to Heart Ministries, according to public records. Swendiman died in 2006 at the age of 71.

If you were abused by Richard Fred Swendiman or someone associated with the Boy Scouts of America, we want to help you. If you call us you will have an opportunity to speak to an

experienced sexual abuse lawyer to discuss an action for compensation and justice. We also want you to know that if you decide to take action your privacy will be respected and your confidentiality will be a paramount concern throughout the entire process.