

Dear Scouting Family,

I am sharing with you the Wall Street Journal article stating that National BSA has hired a bankruptcy attorney considering the costs of defending sexual abuse lawsuits. The purpose of potential bankruptcy is financial restructuring under court supervision and not a liquidation of the BSA. The National BSA office is committed to communicate transparently and stated there are no imminent actions or immediate decisions expected considering the Wall Street Journal news story. However, the organization is exploring all options available to ensure that the programing of the Boy Scouts of America continues uninterrupted.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/boy-scouts-of-america-considers-bankruptcy-filing-amid-sex-abuse-lawsuits-11544649657>

In a communication released on Wednesday, the National BSA reaffirmed its focus on keeping children safe and delivering our nation's foremost program of character development and values-based leadership training. I anticipate learning additional information from the National office during the first quarter of 2019.

BSA stated its commitment to the social and moral responsibility to fairly compensate victims who suffered abuse during their time in Scouting, and the deep care and concern for all victims of child sex abuse and the proactive steps to help victims heal and prevent future abuse. BSA stresses that at no time in BSA history has the organization knowingly allowed a sexual predator to work with youth and will always seek to act swiftly when alerted to abuse allegations.

As an organization, we must be vigilant in our efforts to protect our youth and our leadership. Education and training translate into empowerment for our youth to make good decisions and recognize inappropriate situations.

Please understand, that the safety and the welfare of our Scouts and leaders is paramount to our organization. The Youth Protection program is a set of standards, guidelines and training developed by the Boy Scouts of America to eliminate opportunities for the abuse of our youth members. As a reminder, especially during the recharter season, ALL leaders must be registered and complete Youth Protection Training in order to submit an Adult Leader Application. Some of the standards of the BSA's Youth Protection include:

- ALL leaders must be registered and the BSA will perform a background check.
- ALL leaders must complete the Youth Protection Training.
- The BSA teaches the three R's...Recognize, Respond, Report
- Mandatory reporting...leaders MUST report reasonable suspicion to law enforcement.
- Two deep leadership ALWAYS.
- Privacy of youth and adults must be respected always.
- Always report any suspicion of abuse or inappropriate behavior to the 24/7 Scouts First Helpline: 1-844-SCOUTS1 or 1-844-726-8871

I have included a few links for quick reference regarding Youth Protection and Bullying Prevention.

- <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>
- [Download the Bullying Prevention Guide](#)
- [Youth Protection Info-graphic](#)

I would like to conclude by leaving you with a few items of information from a Piedmont Council perspective that may be helpful considering the Wall Street Journal news story.

- The strength of Scouting for over 100 years has been its local domain. Each unit is owned by its charter partner which is typically a place of worship. Each Council is locally incorporated in the specific state where it operates.
- The Piedmont Council is a 501(c)(3) entity incorporated in North Carolina. Our Camps, our Volunteer Service Center, our bank funds and investments are owned and controlled by the Piedmont Council.
- The nature of the relationship for a council with the national BSA organization is that our council is the holder of a charter to conduct the Boy Scouts of America programs in our defined territory.
- Council's receive no funding from the national organization; in fact, we pay fees to National BSA as a part of our charter agreement and for specific services. We receive value back from the national organization, but we operate as a significantly financially independent not-for-profit organization.
- Areas where we partner with National BSA, for business purposes, include several insurance programs, services for IT and expertise related to camping, Youth Protection, literature, and so on. Also, important to note is employee benefits such as healthcare and retirement are funded by each council but through programs controlled and operated by National BSA.
- Financial support to the Piedmont Council through our annual Friends of Scouting Campaign stays local in the communities we serve, and we will need your continued support moving forward.
- The Piedmont Council is a strong council from perspectives of fiscal health, program quality, board and volunteer dedication and staff commitment. However, we only remain strong through your continued support as volunteer leaders, financial support from all our communities and continued improvement of our programs at all levels.

It is our hope that the national organization can navigate the difficult waters that many organizations face over a century of existence. In the Piedmont Council, we will stand ready to help - and we will continue our primary focus on bringing high-quality Boy Scouts of America programs to the more than 10,000 Scouts we serve through volunteers and community support.

Please know that you are welcome to email or call me with youth thoughts or questions.

Yours in Scouting,

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