

## **Messages to Use When Responding to Questions Regarding BSA Financial Future**

As of 12/13/2018

### Setting Up the Success of Scouting in the Future

We have an important duty, and an incredible opportunity, to focus as an organization on keeping children safe, supported and protected, while preparing youth for their futures through our nation's foremost program of character development and values-based leadership training.

To ensure our ability to continue preparing youth for their future through the Scouting, we are working with experts to explore all options available to ensure that the local and national programming of the Boy Scouts of America continues uninterrupted.

Our motto is 'Be Prepared,' and we are doing just that. We are working with internal and external experts to explore all options available and will share information when we are able to do so.

All potential paths under consideration will ensure that the BSA has a long and bright future and that all local and national programming will continue uninterrupted.

### Council Impact

Our Council is an independent non-profit incorporated in our area. We own and control our camps, council service centers, bank funds and investments.

It is important to understand that the structure of BSAAM was specifically designed to ensure that council investments remain ours. They are ours regardless of what happens to the national organization. The same is true for our other council assets.

The nature of the relationship between our council with the national BSA organization is that we are the holder of a charter to conduct the Boy Scouts of America programs in their defined territory.

Our Council receives 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. Councils receive value back from the national organization, but we operate as a financially-independent not-for-profit organization.

We partner with the national organization for shared services, including several insurance programs, services for IT and expertise related to camping, youth protection and so on. Importantly, employee benefits, such as healthcare and retirement, are funded by each council but through programs offered by National BSA.

### Future of the Boy Scouts of America

We have an important duty, and an incredible opportunity, to continue to focus as an organization on preparing youth for their futures through our nation's foremost program of character development and values-based leadership training.

As an organization, our focus must be to:

- 1) Build upon the momentum we have already experienced this year with new members,
- 2) Plan and implement a successful launch of Scouts BSA to welcome boys and girls into the program in February, and
- 3) Support our fundraising efforts to ensure our continued ability to deliver Scouting to our communities

## About BSA's Commitment to Youth Protection

Nothing is more important than the safety and protection of children in our Scouting programs— It is our top priority.

Many years ago, we adopted some of the strongest barriers to child abuse that will be found in any youth serving organization, and we take the responsibility to uphold those barriers seriously. From completing our youth protection training, to adhering to policy and reporting the suspicion of abuse, we all are vital in helping keep kids safe.

We are committed to helping abuse victims heal. We sincerely apologize to anyone who was harmed during their time in our programs. We have always taken care of victims – we believe them, we believe in fairly compensating them, and we have paid for unlimited counseling for abuse victims and their families. We care deeply about all victims of child sex abuse and we are steadfast in our belief that one incident of child abuse is one too many.

At no time in our history have we knowingly allowed a sexual predator to work with youth, and we always seek to act swiftly when alerted to abuse allegations.

## FAQ

### **Q: Has the BSA declared bankruptcy?**

No. We are working with internal and external experts to explore all options available. All potential paths under consideration will ensure that the BSA has a long and bright future and that all local and national programming will continue uninterrupted.

### **Q: What would happen if the BSA does decide to file for bankruptcy?**

I want to reemphasize that no decision has been made. If we do decide to pursue a restructuring, you can be sure that our life-changing Scouting program will go forth uninterrupted.

### **Q: How will this impact our Scouts and leaders?**

Our Scouts and leaders will not be impacted by this decision. Every possibility being explored will ensure that the local and national programming of the Boy Scouts of America continues uninterrupted.

### **Q: What does this mean for our council assets?**

Councils are independent non-profit organizations that . We own and control our camps, council service centers, bank funds and investments.

### **Q: What should we be doing now?**

Our job today is exactly the same as it was yesterday. We have an important duty, and an incredible opportunity, to focus as an organization on keeping children safe, supported and protected, and preparing youth for their futures through our nation's foremost program of character development and values-based leadership training. Keep the momentum going and stay focused on what really matters: delivering the Scouting program to youth in our communities.

### **Q: What is the BSA doing to protect Scouts from abuse?**

Nothing is more important than the safety and protection of children in our Scouting programs— It is our top priority. Many years ago, we adopted some of the strongest barriers to child abuse that will be found in any youth serving organization, and we take the responsibility to uphold those barriers seriously. From completing our youth protection training, to adhering to policy and reporting the suspicion of abuse, we all are vital in helping keep kids safe.

The BSA is also committed to helping abuse victims heal. We have always taken care of victims – we believe them, we believe in fairly compensating them, and we have paid for unlimited counseling for abuse victims and their families by a provider of their choice, regardless of the amount of time that has passed since an instance of abuse. We require no proof; a victim need only make a request.

**Q: What is the future of our national high adventure bases?**

Properties are where the program is delivered. This is just as true of our national properties as it is of your local properties. We consider our national high adventure bases to be of paramount importance and a pivotal part of Scouting's future.

**Q: What is the future of the BSA?**

All of the options under consider ensure that the BSA has a long and bright future and that all local and national programming will continue uninterrupted.