



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## BALTIMORE AREA COUNCIL

February 18, 2020

### To Our Baltimore Area Scouting Community,

Over the past several months our council has continued to share information regarding a potential financial restructuring by the National Council of the BSA.

Today, the national organization of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy to achieve two key objectives: equitably compensate victims who were harmed during their time in Scouting and continue to carry out Scouting's mission for years to come.

**Importantly, the Baltimore Area Council has not filed for bankruptcy.** Our Council is legally separate, distinct, and financially independent from the national organization. Unit meetings and activities, district and council events, other Scouting adventures, and countless service projects will take place as usual. In short, there will be no changes to the local Scouting experience.

Through the generous contributions from you, our most dedicated supporters, the Baltimore Area Council is well-positioned to continue serving local youth and families for generations to come. Please be assured that restricted donations – made in the past, present, or future – can only be used for their designated purposes. Also, Friends of Scouting (FOS) and other annual donations made to councils will continue to fund necessary day-to-day expenses that are critical to our local Scouting programs. Now more than ever, your generous and ongoing support remains critical to delivering the mission of Scouting in our community.

As the national organization moves forward with its Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing, we want to make sure you know the following:

- **Scouting is safer now than ever before.** Approximately 90% of the pending and asserted abuse claims against the BSA relate to abuse that occurred more than 30 years ago. As you know, the safety of children in our programs is the BSA's absolute top priority. That's precisely why over many years we've developed some of the strongest expert-informed youth protection policies found in any youth-serving organization.
- **Scouting continues.** Scouting programs will continue to serve youth, families, and our communities throughout this process and for many years to come. This is true here in the Baltimore Area Council and across the country.
- **Local councils have not filed for bankruptcy.** Local councils are legally separate, distinct, and financially independent from the national organization. However, the national organization is working diligently to advocate for local councils' interests through this process.

While Scouting will continue as usual in our Council, I know you may still have questions about the national organization's announcement. To provide further information, the national organization has established a dedicated restructuring website, [www.BSArestructuring.org](http://www.BSArestructuring.org).

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This site includes a helpful [Resources page](#), where you will find a short video explaining what Chapter 11 means for Scouting, as well as a FAQ. The site's [Milestones page](#) will be your best source for the latest updates throughout this process.

If you have any questions about Scouting in our Council, please reach out to us or your usual contact directly.

We'd like to express our personal gratitude to you for the generosity and support you have shown the youth in our communities. Your commitment to furthering the Scouting movement in Central Maryland has been instrumental in bringing adventures, values, and lifelong benefits to youth and our communities. Thank you for your trust and support as we continue this important mission.

Sincerely,

Bruce McMillin  
Council President

Jeff Seymour  
Council Commissioner

Kendrick J. E. Miller  
Scout Executive

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