



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## OLD NORTH STATE COUNCIL

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[www.bsaonsc.org](http://www.bsaonsc.org) (336) 378-9166  
A United Way Community Partner

November 16, 2020

Dear Scouting Family,

As the Boy Scouts of America national organization reaches a significant moment in its bankruptcy case, the Old North State Council wants our local Scouting community to know we share in the BSA's heartfelt support for victims of past abuse in Scouting.

Tens of thousands of individuals submitted claims in advance of the November 16, 2020 deadline set by the court in the BSA national organization's Chapter 11 case. We are moved by their bravery. Millions of youth across our country have benefited from Scouting for more than 100 years, but the number of individuals who have been affected by past abuse is devastating.

Now that all claims have been filed, the next step will be for third-party advisors to review the claims in order to uphold the integrity of the process, while the BSA national organization works to develop a plan of reorganization to fund the proposed Trust.

It is important to note that while any instance of abuse is one too many, the overwhelming majority of abuse claims filed in the BSA national organization's bankruptcy case relate to allegations of abuse that occurred before our modern youth protection policies were put in place more than three decades ago.

**We want to underscore what many of you already know: The safety and protection of the children in our programs is our absolute top priority.** The BSA has multi-layered safeguards in place, all of which act as barriers to abuse, and we can assure you that volunteer leaders and staff members take these measures extremely seriously. We encourage you to review our [safety policies and procedures](#) to better understand our commitment to youth safety and ask that you share this information with friends, neighbors, and family members who ask about this topic. Some helpful resources include our [Youth Safety Infographic](#) and [Video](#).

The Old North State Council remains committed to delivering Scouting's unparalleled experiences to young people throughout our communities, and we thank you for your continued support. If you have any other questions about the policies in place to keep kids safe in Scouting today, please feel free to contact us at [ed.martin@scouting.org](mailto:ed.martin@scouting.org) or 336-378-9166.

If you have questions about the recent news regarding the national organization's bankruptcy case, please reference [this FAQ](#).

Yours in Scouting,

*Ed Martin*

Scout Executive & CEO

*Robert Paxton*

President of the Executive Board

*Christy Kirksey*

Commissioner of Old North State Council

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## **Bar Date FAQ**

### **Regarding Past Abuse in Scouting**

**1. When will the BSA know the final number of reported victims?**

We are devastated by the number of lives impacted by past instances of abuse in Scouting and deeply moved by the bravery of those who came forward. Words cannot express how sorry we are to those who suffered abuse. We are heartbroken that we cannot undo their pain. We intentionally developed an open, accessible process to reach survivors and help them take necessary first step toward receiving compensation.

Now that all claims have been filed, the next step will be for third-party advisors to review the claims in order to uphold the integrity of the process, while the national organization works to develop a plan of reorganization to fund the proposed Trust. It is too soon in the claims review process to share specific numbers or details regarding the claims.

**2. How many perpetrators are responsible for abuse in Scouting over the years? Will you be releasing their information?**

It is true that predators used our organization to do the unthinkable, and in the worst of cases, this led to heartbreaking and horrendous acts of abuse. We are deeply sorry.

It is too soon in the claims review process to share specific numbers or details regarding the claims.

While any instance of abuse is one too many, the overwhelming majority of claims filed in the national organization's Chapter 11 case relate to allegations of abuse that occurred before our modern youth protection policies were put in place more than three decades ago. That does not absolve us of what happened in the past, but we hope it demonstrates that keeping kids safe is our top priority.

**3. Will accounts of abuse in Scouting from the claims be reported to law enforcement?**

It is the Boy Scouts of America's policy that all incidents of suspected abuse are reported to law enforcement. In line with this policy, we intend to report incidents described in the claims forms to the extent possible based on the information provided.

**4. What will happen to victims who did not file a claim in time for the bar date? Can they still be compensated?**

We developed an open, accessible process to reach survivors and help them take the necessary first step toward receiving compensation. The BSA launched a comprehensive noticing campaign spanning print, television, social media, digital and radio advertising to encourage all survivors to file a claim in the national organization's bankruptcy case by the November 16, 2020 deadline set by the court. The noticing campaign was designed to reach as many survivors as possible months in advance of the filing deadline to ensure they had ample time to come forward.





Survivors of past abuse in Scouting cannot file claims in this case following the November 16, 2020 bar date.

**5. Does the extent of abuse reports mean that BSA's youth protection policies aren't effective?**

We have learned from our failures and have consistently adopted expert-informed strategies to keep kids safe. While any instance of abuse is one too many, the overwhelming majority of claims filed against the BSA relate to allegations of abuse that occurred before our modern youth protection policies were put in place more than three decades ago.

**Regarding the Claims & Compensation for Victims**

**6. How much money do you expect the Trust to hold? How much will each victim be paid and when? Who decides how much money victims receive?**

Now that all claims have been filed, the next step will be for third-party advisors to review the claims in order to uphold the integrity of the process, while the national organization works to develop a plan of reorganization to fund the proposed Trust. It is too soon to speculate on the financial details, the amount of a potential Trust, or how such funds may be distributed. We are committed to working as expeditiously as possible to develop a plan that will provide equitable compensation to survivors. Ultimately, any compensation distributed to survivors will be determined by a court-approved trustee.

**7. Is my local council contributing to the Trust? Are chartered organizations contributing to the Trust?**

We are committed to working with all involved parties toward a mediated resolution that addresses how the proposed Trust will be funded.

**8. Where will the money come from?**

It is too soon to speculate on the financial details of how the proposed Trust will be funded. We are committed to working as expeditiously as possible to develop a plan that will provide equitable compensation to survivors. Ultimately, any compensation distributed to survivors will be determined by a court-approved trustee.

**9. Does the BSA have enough money to fund the trust?**

We are committed to working with all involved parties toward a mediated resolution that addresses how the proposed Trust will be funded.

**10. Will donations made to Scouts or FOS be used to fund the Trust?**

Restricted donations can only be used for their designated purposes. We are legally prepared to enforce and defend all restrictions to ensure donations – past, present and future – are used as the donor intended. In addition, Friends of Scouting (FOS) donations go straight to supporting Scouting in our communities today. These donations are critical to maintaining local operations and are being used to do so in real time.

**11. Will the volume of claims force BSA to cut programs or increase dues to raise money for the Trust?**

Decisions regarding registration fees or programming, as always, will be made based on operational needs.

