



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## OLD NORTH STATE COUNCIL

1405 Westover Terrace, Greensboro, NC 27408

[www.bsaonsc.org](http://www.bsaonsc.org) • 336 378-9166

*A Community Partner with the United Way of Greater High Point and the United Way of Randolph County*

Dear Scouting family,

This is an exciting time to be part of the Scouting adventure in the Old North State Council, Boy Scouts of America! We are proud to serve 6,200 young men and women ages 5 to 20. With the commitment of families and volunteer Scouting leaders like you, our youth are building self-confidence; making new friends; learning leadership and life skills; and traversing an exhilarating, challenging path from adolescence to adulthood.

Thank you for choosing Scouting. We hope the quality moments you share with your sons, daughters, grandchildren or other youth you lead will be treasured today and for years to come. We want your family to grow closer and stronger through Scouting as each of our families has.

As we begin a new year of Scouting adventures (discover more at [www.bsaonsc.org](http://www.bsaonsc.org) and look for the calendar section to the right), we believe it is important to update you on the status of our BSA National organization.

As you may have learned through the media over the past year and through additional coverage lately, BSA National is exploring a potential Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing and reorganization. BSA National has asked each of the 260 independent local Councils like Old North State to consider participating in related negotiations and planning.

The ongoing process has two key objectives: to equitably compensate victims who were harmed during their time in Scouting and to continue to carry out Scouting's mission for years to come.

***It is important to know that nothing is changing at this time, and no decisions have been made regarding a potential bankruptcy filing at BSA National. We remain as committed as ever to delivering Scouting programs in Old North State Council, and to supporting our dedicated volunteers and Scouting families like you.***

***Your regular Cub Scout Den, Cub Scout Pack, Scouts BSA Troop, Venturing Crew, or Sea Scouts Ship meetings and activities will continue as usual. Further, Scouting geographic district events and Old North State Council events will also continue. Please be assured that all options under consideration by BSA National, including a potential Chapter 11 filing, will ensure that Scouting continues at all levels.***

***Also, there is no scenario under consideration in which our independent Old North State Council would file for a Chapter 11 financial restructuring.***

Old North State Council's top leadership (Council Board President Bob Paxton, Council Board President-elect Rev. Nathan Finin, Council Scout Executive/CEO Ed Martin) has been briefed on the current legal and financial status of BSA National and will meet with Officers of the Council's Executive Board on January 21 and the full Executive Board of Directors on January 30.

Our Board is committed to following the sound governance and financial models in place at Old North State Council. Our Council has no debt; owns all properties outright (no mortgage on any camps nor the Council Service Center); has a clean annual audit; and continues to operate with a balanced budget.

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Regardless of any future decision by BSA National, please be assured that your Friends of Scouting (FOS) donation and all other annual donations to Old North State Council continue to be used for day-to-day expenses critical to the delivery of local Scouting programs and services. Additionally, any restricted donation (i.e. James E. West endowment, camp donation, scholarship for Scouts/families in need) you have made or plan to make to Old North State Council can and will be used only for its designated purpose. Per the guidelines of our 2017-2021 Strategic Objectives (enclosed), we will operate under the highest level of financial and leadership integrity.

You may also be wondering why BSA National is considering these financial options now. BSA National is facing mounting financial strain from a significant increase in litigation related to past instances of abuse. One instance of abuse is one too many, and we are heartbroken that any child was ever harmed while participating in Scouting. It is important to note the vast majority of these cases date back decades ago, some as far back as the 1940s, but are surfacing now due to recent changes in numerous states' statute of limitations laws.

As members of the Old North State Council's local Scouting family, please know the safety of your child/children in our programs is our absolute top priority. Over many years, we have developed some of the strongest expert-informed youth protection policies found in any youth-serving organization. From mandatory youth protection training to policies like two-deep adult leadership, no one-on-one interaction between youth and adults, and mandatory reporting of any suspected abuse, our Scouting volunteer leaders, summer camp staff, and year-round Council employees take youth protection policies and procedures seriously and do their part to help keep all our children safe.

In addition to local Old North State Council youth protection trainings, online trainings, and vigilance from volunteers and Council staff, the 24/7 Scouts First Helpline (1-844-SCOUTS1) and email address ([scouts1st@scouting.org](mailto:scouts1st@scouting.org)) are available to assist you in reporting suspected abuse or inappropriate behavior. You can view all safeguards and watch the youth protection training course (mandatory for all volunteers and employees) at [www.scouting.org/youth-safety](http://www.scouting.org/youth-safety). In fact, this is a resource we invite you to share with friends and family interested in understanding what the BSA is doing to keep kids safe. Additional youth protection information can be found on the home page of the Old North State Council website at [www.bsaonsc.org](http://www.bsaonsc.org)

We know you may have additional questions about these issues and stories you see in the news. We created the enclosed FAQ to address as many of those questions as possible. If your question has not been answered in this letter or in the FAQ, please feel free to reach out to the Old North State Council office at 336-378-9166. We will do everything we can to provide helpful, transparent responses and ensure your Scouting experience continues to be a positive one.

We want to help grow your family closer together through Scouting and offer positive, life-changing experiences you cannot find anywhere else.

Thank you for your ongoing support and participation in local Scouting programs in the Old North State Council.

Yours in Scouting,

Council Board President, Bob Paxton

Council Board President-Elect, Rev. Nathan Fynn

Council Scout Executive/CEO, Ed Martin

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