



December 19, 2019

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To: All Greater Yosemite Council, BSA Members and Supporters  
From: Sonya Greene, Scout Executive & CEO  
Regarding: News Stories on National BSA

Dear Members and Supporters,

I am sharing a summary and gathered facts with you regarding the recent news articles speculating that National BSA is filing for bankruptcy and other implications around sexual abuse lawsuits.

**BSA has conducted conferences with all Council Scout Executives and shared,**

- National BSA is committed to communicate transparently. There are no imminent actions or immediate decisions expected by BSA in light of the news stories. Options are being explored and they will share information when able. All potential paths under consideration will ensure that BSA has a long and bright future and that all local and national programming will continue uninterrupted. BSA Assets are specifically structured to ensure council investments and assets remain with councils' regardless of what happens to the National BSA.
- BSA reaffirms its focus on keeping children safe and stresses that at no time in 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. 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. 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 needs only make a request.

**There is no impact on local Scouting. Some items of information from our local perspective at Greater Yosemite Council (GYC),**

- The strength of Scouting for over 100 years has been its local domain. Each unit is owned by its charter partner typically a place of worship or service group. Each Council is locally incorporated. GYC is a 501(c)(3) entity incorporated in California. Our Facilities, Volunteer Service Center, Bank funds and investments are owned and controlled by the GYC.
- 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.

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- Council's receive no funding from the National BSA; in fact, we pay fees to BSA as a part of our charter agreement and for specific services. We receive value back from National, 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, Youth Protection and more, inclusive of HR services for employee benefits such as healthcare and retirement that are funded by each council but through programs controlled and operated by National BSA.
- Today, the Greater Yosemite Council is operating and standing in good fiscal health, increasing program quality, board and volunteer and staff dedication and growing talent and leadership.

#### **What does this mean for financial contributions to Greater Yosemite Council?**

- Your financial contributions to our Council are secure. All Friends of Scouting (FOS) and other financial contributions to our Council always stay with our Council -- none of that money goes to National BSA. Contributions to our Council go to support our Council's own operating costs and liabilities, not those of the National BSA; they support delivery of our own Council's program and services to our own Scouts at GYC.
- Contributions to our Council are made to accounts in the name of "Greater Yosemite Council, Boy Scouts of America"; they are not filtered through accounts of the National BSA. Our Council receives no funding from the National BSA, so any weakening of the National BSA's financial situation would not itself create a gap in the Council's budget; therefore, contributions to our Council would not be indirectly supporting the National BSA's own liabilities.

I hope you can join me in sincere hope and prayers that National BSA can continuously overcome and persevere in an ever-changing society and with increasingly complex issues that youth serving organizations face. In Central Valley, Greater Yosemite Council will work steadily towards increasing high-quality programs. Our mission at GYC will remain preparing youth for their futures and staying focused on what really matters: delivering the Scouting program to youth in our communities. May God Bless Boy Scouts of America.

Yours in Scouting,

Sonya Greene  
Scout Executive & CEO

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