



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
ERIE SHORES COUNCIL

December 20, 2018

TO: Erie Shores Council Volunteers and Supporters

FROM: Ed Caldwell, Scout Executive/CEO

RE: What leaders need to know regarding media speculation about the BSA's financial situation

Dear Scouting Friends,

As we learn more about the financial discussions underway at our national organization, it's important to note that Scouting in the Erie Shores Council is as strong financially and programmatically today as it's been in many years. As our council is a separate non-profit 501c3 corporation based in the state of Ohio, the Erie Shores Council should not be impacted by the recent news stories regarding issues that affect the National Council BSA and its operations based in Texas. We are a separate legal entity providing program through an annual charter with BSA National Council, and so while these issues concern local council operations, the specific assets of Erie Shores would not be directly involved with such an exploration. Because this is nevertheless a significant issue for local operations, and Scouting in general, I have assembled a few items to provide perspective.

- The strength of Scouting for over the last 100+ years has been its local program delivery. Each Scouting Unit (Troop, Pack, Post, Crew and Ship) is owned by a local charter partner which is typically a place of worship, service club or educational institution. Each Council is locally incorporated in the specific state where it operates.
- The Erie Shores Council is likewise a separate Ohio nonprofit corporation, and a 501(c)(3) public charity. Our programs and services will continue uninterrupted. Our Camps, Volunteer Service Centers, our bank funds and investments are owned and controlled by our local council, under the authority and leadership of the Erie Shores Executive Board and Endowment Trustees.
- Erie Shores Council delivers Scouting as a program under one-year renewable contracts with the BSA National Council, charged with the exclusive power and responsibility in our defined territory, to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.
- Our Council receives no funding from the National Council; in fact, we pay fees to National BSA as a part of our charter agreement and for specific services. We receive value back under the terms of this contract, but we continue to operate as an autonomous financially independent nonprofit organization.
- National BSA provides support for a fee in important areas, such as insurance, IT services, training protocol, expertise related to programs such as camping, Youth Protection and so on. Employee benefits such as healthcare and retirement are funded by each local council, but through programs operated and controlled by National BSA.
- The Erie Shores Council is proud to be part of what Scouting offers to young people and the community, and we continue as a strong organization from the perspectives of fiscal health, program quality, board and volunteer dedication, and staff commitment ... locally for over 100 years.

I am positive that our National Council will navigate the difficult waters ahead. We will stand ready to help - and we will continue our primary focus on bringing high-quality BSA programs to over 5,700 Scouts registered to more than 220 Packs, Troops, Crews & Posts in each of the communities we serve.

Erie Shores Council is blessed to have more than 2,500 caring and compassionate adult volunteers that make our Scouting programs possible. I remain highly optimistic about the future of Scouting, and I implore you to join our staff as we continue to inspire confidence in Scouting as a local program. Together, let's demonstrate the utmost leadership within our ranks and in the community, to achieve the Mission and Vision of Scouting. We have recently embarked on many new journeys. For example, we have welcomed over 1,200 new Scouts and their families since August 1st, celebrated 50 years of Camp Frontier - Pioneer Scout Reservation, and organized 15 new Units – Packs, Troops, Crews and Posts, to expand our reach of serving more youth in Northwest Ohio. We must continue this momentum and stay steadfast in our strategic direction.

Finally, it is now more important than ever that we maintain community and donor confidence, so that those who trust us to deliver Scouting by funding our programs will understand that their funds remain local, and that we are committed to being good stewards. Please join me in this next challenge, as we build character, develop strong leadership skills locally, and guarantee that the Boy Scouts of America will be here for the next 100 years.

Please know that we are grateful for all you do on behalf of our children in Scouting. You are welcome to call or email with thoughts or questions. To continue to follow National BSA updates, please [click here](#).

Have a blessed holiday season,

Edward A. Caldwell | Scout Executive/CEO

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A well-planned program, delivered by a trained leader, with a strong outdoor program, supported by a good Commissioner, attracts and retains youth.

The safety of our members is our first priority. All Scouting volunteers must complete Youth Protection Training every two years to remain registered as a volunteer in the Boy Scouts of America. Please visit <http://www.scouting.org/youthprotection/> to get started.

In the State of Ohio, it is the responsibility of any individual who witnesses or suspects abuse and/or neglect to make a report to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services by calling 1-855-642-4453. After you have filed your report, call me so that we can take any additional precautions in order to ensure the safety of all youth in Scouting.