

Boy Scouts of America file for bankruptcy; local councils not affected by announcement

February 25, 2020



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Regional activities for Boy Scouts troops will continue unaffected by the national organization filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy Tuesday.

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) announced Tuesday that the national organization filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code to “equitably compensate victims who were harmed during their time in Scouting and continue carrying out its mission for years to come,” according to a press release by the BSA.

The BSA also intends to use the Chapter 11 process to create a Victims Compensation Trust that would provide “equitable compensation to victims.”

James Westfall, Scout Executive for the Crater Lake Council, the district office for Scout activities in both Crescent City and Brookings, said in a press release the Crater Lake Council has not filed for bankruptcy.

“Meetings and activities, district and council events, other Scouting adventures and countless service projects are taking place as usual. In short, there should be no change to the local Scouting experience,” Westfall said.

“The national organization of the Boy Scouts of America is the only entity involved in the Chapter 11 filing. The Crater Lake Council — which provides programming, financial, facility and administrative support to local units and individual Scouts in our area — is separate and distinct from the national organization. Our camps, properties and all local contributions are controlled by our council.”

The BSA promised “to maintain its commitments to its members, families, volunteer leaders, employees, retirees, donors and alumni to the fullest extent permitted by bankruptcy laws. The organization also will pay its vendors and partners for all goods and services delivered from today forward.”

“The BSA cares deeply about all victims of abuse and sincerely apologizes to anyone who was harmed during their time in Scouting. We are outraged that there have been times when individuals took advantage of our programs to harm innocent children,” said Roger Mosby, President and Chief Executive Officer. “While we know nothing can undo the tragic abuse that victims suffered, we believe the Chapter 11 process — with the proposed Trust structure — will provide equitable compensation to all victims while maintaining the BSA’s important mission.”

Read additional information about the BSA’s multilayered safeguards, its commitment to support victims and efforts to be part of the broader solution to child abuse online at www.scouting.org/youth-safety.

Read the BSA’s open letter to victims online at www.bsarestructuring.org/an-open-letter-to-victims-from-the-boy-scouts-of-america.

More information and updates about the restructuring are available online at the BSA dedicated restructuring website www.BSArestructuring.org. Victims, as well as vendors and other potential creditors who have questions about their claims, may contact BSA at Restructuring@scouting.org or 1-866-907-BSA1.