

A letter from Bryan Feather, Scout Executive/CEO, Mayflower Council, BSA

To: Mayflower Council, BSA Scouting Community

Re: Update to Wall Street Journal News Article- December 13, 2018

Earlier this week, the Wall Street Journal printed a news Article titled:

Boy Scouts of America Considers Bankruptcy Filing Amid Sex-Abuse Lawsuits... Nonprofit has hired law firm Sidley Austin for assistance in a possible chapter 11 bankruptcy filing

Please note- this article is about the National BSA (BSA) and not the Mayflower Council, Inc.

In a communication released yesterday, BSA reaffirmed its focus on keeping children safe and delivering our nation's foremost program of character development and values-based leadership training. For a copy of that statement, [click here](#)

BSA stated its commitment to the social and moral responsibility to fairly compensate victims who suffered abuse during their time in Scouting, and the deep care and concern for all victims of child sex abuse and the proactive steps to help victims heal and prevent future abuse. BSA stresses that at no time in BSA 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.

In a conference with all Local Council Scout Executives, BSA committed to communicate transparently and stated there are no imminent actions or immediate decisions expected by BSA in light of the Wall Street Journal news story. In other words, the BSA has NOT filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. The BSA has hired a law firm to advise and work with the BSA on matters

related to litigation amid Sex-Abuse Lawsuits.

I have assembled a few items of information from a Mayflower Council perspective that may be helpful while considering the news story.

- The strength of Scouting for over 100 years has been its local domain. Each Scouting Unit (Troop, Pack, Crew, Post) is owned by its chartered partner which is typically a place of worship, service club, community organization or educational institution. Each local Scout Council is incorporated in the specific state where it operates.
- The Mayflower Council, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) entity incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Our Camps, Volunteer Service Center, bank funds and investments are owned or controlled solely by the Mayflower Council, Inc. Contributions and funds provided to the Mayflower Council, Inc. stay in this area and are used to support program delivery in the 62 cities and towns we serve.
- The nature of the relationship for a local 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.
- The Mayflower Council continues to offer Scouting and Learning for Life programs of the highest caliber to the greatest number of young people possible. We do so in a safe environment with a commitment to background screening of all staff and volunteers as well as a mandatory Youth Protection Training. <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection>
- Council's receive no funding from the national organization; in fact, we pay fees to BSA as a part of our charter agreement and for specific services. We receive value back from the national organization, but

we operate as a financially independent not-for-profit organization.

- Areas where we partner with BSA, for business purposes, include several insurance programs, services for IT and expertise related to camping, Youth Protection and so on. Also, important to note is employee benefits such as healthcare and retirement are funded by each Council but through programs controlled and operated by National BSA.
- The Mayflower Council is one of the strongest Councils in the BSA from perspectives of fiscal health, program quality, board and volunteer dedication and staff commitment.

We have great confidence the National BSA can navigate the difficult waters that it, and many other long serving institutions, face with over a century of service to our nation. The Mayflower Council will continue our primary focus of bringing high-quality Boy Scouts of America programs to over 11,000 Scouts in the 62 cities and towns we serve.

Scouting is thriving in this area! This is due in large part to you with your contribution of time, talent and treasure.

You are welcome to call or email with thoughts or questions.
Thank you

Scouts BSA Information Session

Join our Facebook live Scouts BSA Information session on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 7PM on Mayflower Council's Facebook page.

Fellow Scouters interested in starting a Scouts BSA girl troop, finding a troop for their female Venturers looking to start on the path to Eagle, or Webelos leaders looking to visit troops are welcome to attend!

This meeting is intended to help connect Scout leaders from troops, crews and packs to network, gather information, exchange ideas, answer questions, and brainstorm.

Here are some topics to be covered at the meeting:

- Starting a successful unit
- Recruitment ideas and suggestions
- Planning and executing fun camping trips

Have You Checked-Out the BSA Brand Center?

Download and customize a wide variety of brand-approved assets from the BSA Brand Center. Items available include email templates, fliers, postcards, posters, social media images, pictures, videos, web banners, and more.

BSA BRAND CENTER LINK

Here's how to welcome girls into Scouts BSA

Use These Guidelines to Help You Know the Right Way to Refer to Scouts BSA and the Girls Who Will Join

Time To Renew!

To date, nearly half of the units in the council need to log onto the Internet Rechartering System to review and submit their charter renewals for 2019. It's important to finish this process soon to avoid any lapses in registration and ensure all members are registered properly. Need assistance.....

If your unit needs assistance and/or its access code, please contact your unit commissioner, district commissioner or district executive.. You can always email, Council Registrar John Fortini for assistance. Thanks!

For More Information on Internet Rechartering

Health and Medical Records

We hear this question often "Is a medical form required for this activity?" The answer is yes! All Council and District activities like Camporees, Klondikes, Chuckwagons, etc are required to collect a medical form for every youth and adult participant. These forms are filed by unit and returned to

the unit leader or designee at the end of the event.

The Boy Scouts of America and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts require that we retain health forms collected for summer camp up to 36 months. These forms are maintained in a secure, offsite facility.

As a rule, all units should collect an Annual Health and Medical Record for all youth and adult members as well as parents who are regular participants. These should accompany the unit on weekend outings and field trips. These forms should be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

See the attached for more information regarding this policy as well as the link to determine which form is appropriate based on your activity.

Mayflower Council and BSA National Health and Medical Records

December Training Newsletter

Click on image to download

Thanks for a Strong Year of Training

- Please join us in a big "thank you" to...
 - More than 300 adult leaders in our council who took the time to take our new position-specific or supplemental training during 2018.
 - Many more who have provided excellent training online.
 - All of you who attend youth classes to counsel like BSA's Den-Chief training and Venturing SLC's highly effective who's-holding-the-line all leaders in 2018.

Our goal for 2019 is to get even more leaders trained. It's an investment that pays off for every youth we serve.

Registration Open for Wilderness First Aid: Don't be Left Out

Registration is now open for wilderness and wilderness first aid (WFA) with offerings 4 times in early 2019:

- January 12-13 at Redrock Reservation
- February 18-19 at Camp Rowan
- March 24-25 at Redrock Reservation
- April 5-6 at Camp Rowan

The 16-hour course is for adults and youth ages 14+. It will include a Red Cross certification that's good for two years. You can also use this course to qualify, if you're taking a high-adventure trip next year, please plan to attend it in May with the April 5-6 Redrock Reservation Red Cross certification class. Seats at a higher price.

Each course will be capped at 20 participants, so sign up online www.bsa.org/training/courses as soon as you can to reserve your spot. You need current CPR certification in order to attend (see courses at night).

Intro to Backpacking

Are you interested in boosting your backpacking skills to prepare for an upcoming trail? Whether the trail is located in April or winter, working on developing a new route that will provide ample hands-on learning to build your skills and confidence to move beyond our local camping.

Head-Up About Online Training

The BSA will update the entire position-specific training course for Cub Scout and Day Scout Scouts USA leaders in January 2019. It will be available through the modules for your leaders. Train them in December! Digital programs will not only lead to the new version, it will be already trained. There's no need to worry.

Youth Protection Training (YPT)

The BSA released a new YPT program in February 18. All registered adults must take the version of YPT in order to be registered as a leader in 2019. If you haven't done it yet, this is coming out. Please go to www.bsa.org/youth-protection and take a look. You can speak to a person 7/11 for you if your town has a large group of leaders who are need YPT. We'll contact you before and please give us ample notice to get a substitute leader.

Upcoming In-Person Training

* A prerequisite required. ** An online registration option. *** A second round later. **** Prerequisite for adults.

Scout Leader Skills

- Dec 2018 Den Chief Training (online)
- Jan 5-6 Scoutmaster Position-Specific/Counseling (online)
- Feb 2018 Scouting Position-Specific/Assistant PM (online)
- Mar 2-3 PM Scoutmaster Position-Specific/Assistant PM (online)
- Mar 30-31 Cub Leader Position-Specific/Assistant PM (online)
- Mar 31-1 PM Scoutmaster Position-Specific/Assistant PM (online)
- Apr 15-16 K-12 for Female BSA/Venturing Programs (online)
- Apr 20-21 BSA for OSC Leaders (online)
- Apr 27-28 Intro to Backpacking (Plummers)
- May 1-4 Scoutmaster Position-Specific/Assistant PM (online)
- May 21-22 Den Chief Training (online)
- May 28-31 BSA/OSC for Cub Leaders (online)
- May 18-19 Leave No Trace Trainer (online)
- Jul 28-30 Trail Trail-Camp Training (BFLT) (Plummers)
- Aug 11-12 Trail Trail-Camp Training (BFLT) (Plummers)

First Aid

- Dec 2018 CPR/AED (online)
- Jan 12-13 Wilderness and First Aid (Redrock)
- Feb 18-19 CPR/AED (online)
- Feb 24-25 Wilderness and First Aid (Redrock)
- Mar 24-25 Red Cross First Aid (online)
- Mar 27-28 CPR/AED (online)
- Mar 31-1 Wilderness and First Aid (Redrock)
- Apr 5-6 CPR/AED (online)
- Apr 24-25 Wilderness and First Aid (Redrock)
- Apr 27-28 Red Cross First Aid (online)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact us online: www.bsa.org/training and contact our training specialist at training@bsa.org. Or call us at 1-800-352-2673. We'll be happy to help you get the training you need.

EVERY LEADER NEEDS TRAINING

Headwaters Roundtable Handouts December

If your Unit was not able to attend our December 6th Roundtable, do not worry. We are making all the event flyers, training newsletters and other information available!

Click here for PDF of all December Roundtable Handouts

Check the PDF for Nomination Forms for the District Award of Merit and other District Awards! All of these are due by February 8th 2019.

Our December Roundtable featured:

- Upcoming Klondike Derby in February
- Summer Camp Opportunities for Packs and Troops
- Breakout sessions for Packs to discuss what makes a good Blue and Gold Dinner and Troops to learn about opportunities for Youth

Leadership Training

- District leadership and Commissioners remind everyone to reach out if you have any rechartering questions or paperwork to turn in. To get in touch email: Headwaters@mayflowerbsa.org
- Our Chapter of the Order of the Arrow, Taunkacoo Chapter, held their Chapter meeting

Questions, comments, or ideas for the District's leadership?

Send an Email to: Headwaters@mayflowerbsa.org

Our next District Roundtable will be:

January 3rd at 7:00 pm at Milford High School, 31 W Fountain St
Milford, MA 01757

December Roundtable Handouts

The handouts from this month's Roundtable meeting:

Mayflower Training News – December 2018

District Award of Merit Nomination Form

District Awards Nomination Form

2019 Webelos Klondike

2019 Klondike Derby

2019 Mountain Man

2019 Order of the Arrow Lodge Banquet

2019 Merit Badge University

2019 Program Expo

Museum of Science Overnights

Providence Bruins Popcorn Recognition Night

Adult Leader Applications

Mayflower CORI Form

Youth Member Applications

Thanksgiving

The Marlborough and Canton Service Centers will be closed on Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd in honor of Thanksgiving.

Headwaters

November

Roundtable Handouts

If your Unit was not able to attend our November 1st Roundtable, don't worry. We are making all the event flyers, training newsletters and other information available!

[Click here for PDF of all November Roundtable Handouts](#)

Our November Roundtable featured:

- Our Council Key Three came by for a fire-side chat with our District leaders. We all discussed the Council Executive Board's goals for the future and what matters, concerns and questions are facing our Pack and Troop leaders right now.
- A presentation was made about the Rechartering Process!
 - What can your Unit be doing right now to start? Check your youth roster and registered adult positions and training
 - Get your questions answered and get started at our Council Recharter Webpage
 - Two recharter workshop and turn-in days have been scheduled
 - November 27th
 - December 5th

If you need to get in contact with your District Leadership, email us at Headwaters@mayflowerbsa.org

Our next District Roundtable will be:

December 6th at 7:00 pm at Milford High School, 31 W Fountain St

Milford, MA 01757