



# 2021 Frequently Asked Questions



Updated 03.10.2021

## ***Why are we having a State of the Council Meeting?***

We felt that it was necessary and timely to discuss the state-of-affairs for Suffolk County Council, BSA. 2020 was a very difficult year for the council due to impacts of COVID19 and the National Bankruptcy. We want to have a frank conversation and be transparent as possible. As we determine our plans forward, we need input from our Scouting community.

## ***What is the purpose of the BSA's amended Plan?***

The amended Plan outlines the BSA's proposed strategy to provide equitable compensation to victims of past abuse and address the BSA's other financial obligations so that Scouting can continue to serve youth for years to come.

## ***Is the Plan final? What are the next steps?***

No. It's important to understand that this Plan is not final and that specific numbers within it are preliminary. There are still many aspects that all parties are working through in the ongoing mediation. In the coming months, supplements to the Plan will include a more detailed breakdown of the process to compensate survivors and more details about how local councils will support this effort.

Ultimately, the claimants in the BSA's Chapter 11 case will have the opportunity to vote on the Plan. We expect a hearing will be held in April to receive Bankruptcy Court approval to solicit votes to approve the Plan. Once voting has concluded, the Plan can be presented to the Bankruptcy Court for confirmation. We are hopeful that all parties can come to a resolution that is in everyone's best interest by this fall.

## ***Will our council contribute to the Trust? How much?***

Local councils are involved in ongoing mediation in order to determine how they can meaningfully contribute to a Trust to compensate survivors. As part of the Scouting Movement, the Suffolk County Council will continue to have a voice in the BSA's Chapter 11 process, through the Ad Hoc Committee of Local Councils, and a role in working toward a global resolution that will appropriately fund a Trust to equitably compensate victims and ensure the future of Scouting.

Our council's specific involvement and contribution has not yet been finalized—but be assured that we will continue to keep the best interests of our Scouting families at the forefront of our decisions as this process moves forward. Without a global resolution, our council, and all councils, would be susceptible to financial obligations that would threaten Scouting programs across the country. By working together as one Scouting Movement, we will enable Scouting's invaluable mission—locally and nationwide—so that it can continue to benefit today's youth and future generations.

## ***Will donations I've made to our council go toward the Trust?***

Restricted donations can only be used for their designated purposes. The law protects donor-restricted assets, and we are legally prepared to enforce and defend all restrictions to ensure donations—past, present and future—are used as the donor specified. In addition, Friends of Scouting (FOS) donations go straight to supporting Scouting in our communities today. These donations are critical to maintaining local operations and are being used to do so in real time.

## ***Will chartered organizations contribute to the Trust?***

Certain chartered organizations are involved in ongoing mediation and mediated discussions regarding chartered organizations' role in a global settlement are ongoing.

***What happens if parties to national BSA's bankruptcy don't approve the Plan?***

It is too soon to speculate on potential outcomes in the event that a Plan is not approved. The BSA remains focused on working with claimants and creditors to its case to come to a resolution that is in everyone's best interest, including victims.

***Has our council filed for bankruptcy?***

**No.** The Suffolk County Council—which provides programming, financial, facility and administrative support to local units and individual Scouts in our area—has not filed for bankruptcy and remains as committed as ever to delivering Scouting's unparalleled experiences to young people throughout our communities.

As part of the Scouting Movement, the Suffolk County Council will continue to have a voice in the BSA's Chapter 11 process, through the Ad Hoc Committee representing local councils, and a role in working toward a global resolution that will appropriately fund a Trust to equitably compensate victims and ensure the future of Scouting in our area and throughout the country for many years to come.

***Was our council named or involved in any past abuse claims filed in national BSA's bankruptcy?***

Claims of historical abuse involved every state and every council. It is important to note that while one instance of abuse is too many, the overwhelming majority of claims against the BSA relate to abuse that occurred more than 30 years ago—before our modern youth protection measures were in place.

***What will SCC contribution be to the National Bankruptcy Settlement?***

We do not have a final number at this time but we anticipate it will be a significant number, which is why we have made the very difficult decision to sell our council headquarters building in Medford. Interested parties can contact Ben Howard at 516.937.1000 of Hunt Corporate Services, Inc. The firm is handling this transaction pro-bono.

***How do SCC finances work?***

Our budget is approximately \$2.3 million, which is what we need to run the program and serve our youth. Every year we raise those funds from scratch. We have a generous board, hold several fundraisers, and we make good revenue from our camp, which runs a year round program. However, in 2020 we experienced a significant loss of revenue primarily because of the loss of revenue from fundraisers and restrictions placed on camp activities.

***Are we receiving money from National?***

No! This is a common misconception. On an annual basis, we send more than \$200,000 to the National Council or 10% of the budget. All registration fees, except for the Council service fee, go to the National Council.

***SCC is a separate 501(c)3 organization. So why does National bankruptcy affect us?***

We are not part of the bankruptcy and are not being sued individually and it is not likely that an individual council can be sued. However, National is the parent organization, so if they have trouble; we have trouble. Many things are interconnected. There is a total of 253 councils who are working through an ad-hoc committee of councils for the purpose of the bankruptcy process.

***What assets does the Council own?***

The Council Service Center building in Medford and the Baiting Hollow Scout Camp are the two primary assets owned by Council. It should be noted that a significant portion of camp is encumbered by a conservation easement making it a less attractive asset. The Council also has Restricted Funds (funds identified for a specific purpose or use) and Endowment Funds which generate income and the principal cannot be used.

***What are restricted funds?***

Donations that we receive are either unrestricted and can be for general or restricted use which means these funds are designated for a specific purpose. A great example is the McMorris Lodge. If someone designates their donation for the McMorris Lodge, the funds can only be used for the McMorris Lodge.

***What has SCC done to address concerns financial concerns due to COVID-19 and National Situation?***

Our financial issue is almost completely related to COVID19 closures. Revenue has been significantly reduced but expenses have not. We have worked hard to reduce expenses, moved out project dates, froze hiring, and pulled back investments. We have cut all possible expenses, including a reduction in force of 2 persons.

***How many employees do we have?***

Currently we have 14 employees. During the summer, we add part-time staff to assist with summer camp.

***Is SCC eligible for funds through the Cares Act?***

Yes! We did receive funds through the Cares Act, Paycheck Protection Program. We just received funds from the second Paycheck Protection Program, which gave us coverage for operational expenses for approximately 6 weeks.

***Are we going to end up merging with Theodore Roosevelt Council (Nassau County) or another Council?***

There are no plans today for that to happen. It would not be our choice if it was to happen. If National decides that they want to have fewer councils, the National Office can do that. Scouting in Suffolk County is incredibly strong, and stories of our scouts is truly impressive. We can take steps to avoid it. We need to be financially strong which should allow us to remain independent.

***Any possibility that we would have to sell BHSC?***

Very unlikely. The DEC restrictions on the property actually help us because it makes it very difficult to develop.

***Is unit equipment at risk?***

No unit equipment is not at risk. Technically, the equipment and any funds belong to the Chartering organization.

***What was our scouting enrollment last year?***

As of December 2020, we served over 9,426 Scouts

***What does all of this mean for Camp?***

Observing all New York State and Health Department guidelines, we are planning to have a normal summer camp program. We are excited to host all of our units back to residential camping. As well as numerous specialty camps.

***What, if any. Long-term debt does the Council have?***

Currently we do not have any long-term debt. However, securing a mortgage on property may be one solution to emerging from the bankruptcy situation.

***What do we need in Suffolk County Council to sustain our Program?***

It is all about resources. Human, Financial and Network. We have approximately 3,500 volunteers, we need your thoughts and support. Network resource, who do you know that is philanthropic in nature, that can assist us. Donations of any size will help. Donations can be made at <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/SCC>

***How can we donate and support the Suffolk County Council?***

Help us Secure the Adventure of Scouting in Suffolk County by visiting. <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/SCC>

### ***Is Scouting safe?***

Scouting is safer now than ever before. It is important to note that while one instance of abuse is too many, the overwhelming majority of claims against the BSA relate to abuse that occurred more than 40 years ago—before our modern youth protection measures were in place.

Today, the BSA has some of the strongest youth protection policies found in any youth-serving organization, which are informed by experts in the fields of child safety, law enforcement, and child psychology. We can assure you that our volunteers and employees take these measures extremely seriously. Our policies include:

- Mandatory youth protection training for volunteers and employees. Suffolk County Council requires our adults to complete Youth Protection Training on an annual basis
- A leadership policy that requires at least two youth-protection trained adults be present with youth at all times and bans one-on-one situations where adults would have any interaction alone with children—in person, online, or via text
- A thorough screening process for adult leaders and staff including criminal background checks
- And the prompt mandatory reporting of any allegation or suspicion of abuse to law enforcement

For more information on our efforts to keep kids safe, please visit [Scouting.org/YouthSafety](https://Scouting.org/YouthSafety).