Dear Midnight Sun Council Scouters, Scout Families and Supporters,

Now that you may have either received the email from our National Council’s Chief Scout Executive, Mike Surbaugh, or saw something on the news channels, internet or newspaper about the National Council, BSA considering filing for bankruptcy over the numerous lawsuits related to child abuse. We understand that this may have raised questions of our local Midnight Sun Council and we would like to address these issues.

We recognize that, first and foremost, we are a youth-serving organization in our community. The Midnight Sun Council wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season!!

Stephen, Tasmine, Jack, C.J., Stacy, Drexel, & Richard
Sun Council takes child abuse seriously and will, along with our National Council, support those victims during and after the abuse. We as an organization have been, and continue to be, in the forefront of child protection and child advocacy. We have stressed 2-deep leadership in all of our programs since the late 1980's and require all of our leaders to complete Youth Protection Training before we allow them to register to serve our youth. In fact, the BSA Youth Protection Training is often used by other organizations due to its quality and effectiveness. Two-deep leadership means that a minimum of 2 adults need to be present at all meetings and activities. One on One contact is not allowed.

Regarding the reports of possible bankruptcy, it should be made clear that it is the National Council, BSA, not the Midnight Sun Council, that is the subject of the rumors of a possible bankruptcy restructuring. We are an affiliate of the National Council, BSA. We participate in an external annual audit by a third-party auditor. Funds raised in our Council stay in our Council and are used to further the mission of the Midnight Sun Council, BSA here in the Interior and North Slope. The Midnight Sun Council, BSA prides itself on having a balanced budget for years and substantial reserve funds to support the Scouting Programs for the families served by the Midnight Sun Council.

While the media articles state that the National Council, BSA is considering bankruptcy, it has not filed for bankruptcy. Decisions on dealing with the costs of litigation and claims have been, and continue to be, discussed by the National Board. Bankruptcy, while never taken lightly, is a financial restructuring, not a demise of the organization.

Programs of the Boy Scouts of America will continue uninterrupted here in the Midnight Sun Council, around the country, and overseas where the Boy Scouts of America serve.

We look forward to keeping you updated as news develops on our National Council's challenges.

Sincerely,

Robert Groseclose  
Council President

Stephen Smith  
Scout Executive

F. Lawrence Bennett  
Council Commissioner

***IMPORTANT INFORMATION***

Position-Specific Training Updates

Position-specific training courses for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts (Scouts BSA) are being updated and will be available January 2, 2019.

Any progress on current training materials will not carry over to the new learning plan so be sure to complete any in-progress training before December 31, 2018.
Charter Certificate Printing Requirements***

The BSA is committed to streamlining basic operations by putting tools in the hands of volunteers. For several years now, individuals and unit key 3 have had access to print membership cards through my.Scouting. In addition, functionality will be added to my.Scouting by January 1, 2019, to enable members of the unit key 3 to print their unit Charter Certificate.

This "self-service" functionality allows volunteers to print membership cards and the unit charter certificate in a timely manner and enhances the onboarding experience for new youth and adults.

Effective January 1, 2019, councils will no longer be required to print and mail membership cards to council and district volunteers and traditional Scouting units. This is a change to the council membership validation requirement. In addition, councils will no longer print and deliver unit charter certificates.

For Learning for Life groups, Exploring Posts and Clubs, as of January 1, 2019, this will no longer be a membership validation requirement.

Units should be prepared to print their unit membership cards and charter certificate for the current renewal period.

For those who have difficulty in printing membership cards and charter certificates, please contact the Midnight Sun Council Office at 907-452-1976 and we will assist you.

Roundtable

The Delta Roundtable will be held on December 19, 2018 starting at 5:45 pm followed by the Bush District Meeting at 6:45 pm, Mt. McKinley Bank, Delta Junction.

The next Tanana Valley Roundtable will be held on January 3, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Earl and Pat Cook Service Center.

***FROM THE REGISTRAR***

I would like to remind all the leaders to make sure that the youth and adult applications have all the information (to include the leaders position) and signatures before turning them into me. This will save a lot of time.

The January 19th Merit Badge day will be here shortly.
Dec 26-31 Scout Shop Closed for Inventory

Jan 1, 2019 Scout Shop and Office Closed - New Years Day

Jan 14, 2019 Scout Shop and Office Closed - Staff Training

YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING ON DVD

The Midnight Sun Council has DVD videos to check out for Youth Protection Training.

Please call the BSA office and we will be glad to reserve a DVD for you and your unit.

Remember that the Unit can HOST at Youth Protection Training on any night and many members can view the DVD Youth Protection Video as a group.

Send the BSA a list of those BSA volunteers and adults who have taken the course and we will credit your account.

Summer Camp Promotion

Summer Camp Promotion will take place at Merit Badge Day on January 19, 2019 at 12:30 and will be available to view ONLINE and/or to call in for those in outlying areas.

You can register ONLINE at meritbadge.info

Summer Camp Staff

The Midnight Sun Council is looking for Summer Camp Staff to work at the Lost Lake Camp in 2019!

If you are interested in getting outdoors and working with today's youth, please click on and follow this link: http://www.midnightsunbsa.org drop down to "Camp Staff" under the Lost lake tab and open the staff

District Award of Merit and Silver Beaver Award Nominations

We are still accepting nominations for Silver Beaver and District Award of Merit.

Nomination forms can be sent to the BSA office at 1400 Gillam Way, attention Jack Daly.

The District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver Award, will be awarded at the Council Recognition Dinner on February 2, 2019.

Click here for 2019 Annual Dinner Flyer and RSVP Please RSVP by January 25, 2019.

District Award of Merit nomination form can be found here: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33720.pdf

The Silver Beaver nomination form can be found here: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/92-103.pdf

2018 Distinguished Citizen Banquet

The Council held its 36th Annual Distinguished Citizen Banquet
Pioneer Park Fairbanks Alaska Rentals

Pioneer Park has rental space available for pack/troop events, and they take reservations up to 24 months in advance with a paid deposit.

If you are interested, please email pioneerpark@fnsb.us or contact the Park Office by phone at 907-459-1087.

Contact Sandy Harrington at Pioneer Park.

When is Scout Sunday 2019?

The BSA's Calendar of Religious Dates lists Feb. 10, 2019, as "Scout Sunday, interfaith." It lists Feb. 17, 2019, as "Scout Sunday, United Methodist."

But those are just guidelines. The BSA says a local church may celebrate "on the Sunday most acceptable to the pastor and congregation." So check with your chartered organization representative or faith leader.

Depending on your faith organization, Scout Sunday could be held any Sunday in February. It could be Feb. 3, Feb. 10, Feb. 17 or even Feb. 24.

In the past, Scout Sunday was always held on the Sunday before the birthday of the BSA on Feb. 8. Realizing that each chartered organization has a unique schedule of worship, the BSA no longer uses that guideline.

When is Scout Sabbath 2019?

The BSA's Calendar of Religious Dates lists Feb. 8 and 9, 2019, as Scout Sabbath.

Scout Sabbath (also called Scout Shabbat), for Jewish Scout units, begins at sundown on Friday, Feb. 8, and continues into the next day.

Though the National Jewish Committee on Scouting has designated Feb. 8-9 as Scout Sabbath for 2019, some councils or units will celebrate the occasion on other days.

You're advised to check with your

2018 Distinguished Citizen Banquet Sponsors

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Jim Lund  
Mt. McKinley Bank  
Northern Star  
Resources Limited  
Riverboat Discovery & Gold Dredge #8  
University of Alaska System  
Wells Fargo Bank  
Wilson & Wilson

2019 Tanana District Merit Badge Day

When: January 19, 2019
Cost is $10 and includes lunch/patch.

The 2019 Tanana District Merit Badge Day will take place on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at the LDS Stake
When is Scout Jumuah 2019?

Scout Jumuah is **Feb. 8, 2019**, but units may adjust this date to best meet their needs.

Scout Jumuah offers a chance to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting within the Muslim community.

Find BSA Products on Amazon

Amazon customers who are fans of the BSA can now find fully licensed BSA merchandise on a dedicated Amazon store site: [www.amazon.com/boyscoutsofamerica](http://www.amazon.com/boyscoutsofamerica)

There, customers will find items like shirts, Scout pocket knives, cast-iron cooking implements and more.

Boys and Girls in Scouting Presentation

Boys and Girls in Scouting/ Presentation by: Patti Meritt/ Eagle Mother/Former Scoutmaster and Early Childhood Development expert at UAF/CTC.

The presentation will take place on Merit Badge Day, January 19, 2019 at 0830 in the LDS Chapel.

You can register ONLINE at [meritbadge.info](http://meritbadge.info)

2019 Friends of Scouting Orientation Training

**When**: January 19, 2019

The 2019 Friends of Scouting orientation training for adults in scout units and district/council volunteers will take place on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at the LDS Stake Center, 1500 Cowles St, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

This one-hour training will begin at 10:00 am with a continental breakfast.

All Scout units are asked to send one Adult volunteer from their Scouting program to be trained for the upcoming Friends of Scouting Finance Campaign.

There is no cost for this training, but please call the Council office at 907-452-1972 to register.

Contact Jack at [john.daly@scouting.org](mailto:john.daly@scouting.org) or Bill Wright at [bill.wright@unitedwayTV.com](mailto:bill.wright@unitedwayTV.com) now to schedule your unit for an FOS presentation.

Friends of Scouting Presentation at 10 am will be available to view ONLINE and/or to call in for those in outlying areas.

For more on Friends of Scouting: [https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/10/16/what-is-friends-of-scouting/](https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/10/16/what-is-friends-of-scouting/)
Training Committee Wants YOU!

The Midnight Sun Council is seeking knowledgeable volunteers to work on the Training teams for Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Venturing and Exploring.

As the Scouting programs open their doors to the opportunity to serve more youth, including the addition of young women into the BSA program, it is important we prepare for the influx of new leaders who will want to learn about Scouting and lead our youth.

Join the team and make an impact, contact Jack Daly at the Council office 452-1976 or via email at john.daly@scouting.org

ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE!

The Midnight Sun Council is looking for some volunteers to be on the advancement committee. We are looking for a motivated individual to chair the committee as well as 3 to 6 people to participate in the committee and represent the different levels of scouting (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts & Venturing).

These roles will help build a strong scouting program as well as strengthen the advancement to Eagle Scout or the Summit award for Venturing (the highest rank Scouts or Venturers can earn).

Volunteers are a vital part of any scouting organization. As everyone is aware, more hands make less work and even more hands make the small amount of work even easier. If you are interested in helping the youth of tomorrow and giving back to the scouting organization, email CJ at Clinton.Stewart@Scouting.Org or call the council office at (907) 452-1976

2019 Tanana District Den Chief Training

When: January 19, 2019

Interested youth/Scouts and Adult Den Leaders can attend Den Chief Training on January 19, 2019.

This training will be held in conjunction with the Merit Badge Day and will occur during the first Merit Badge Day session beginning at 08:30. Scouts can attend the Merit Badge Session #2 or afternoon session after lunch.

Cost is $5.00 and payable at the BSA office. If a scout is attending the Merit Badge Day and wants to participate in Den Chief Training and the afternoon session of the Merit Badge Day, cost will be $10.00 (includes lunch)

Adults are encouraged to participate. Registration is found at Meritbadge.info

For more info contact Course Director Derek Grabelski at (907) 625-1382 (text/voice) or via email at DGRABE03@gmail.com

Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills at Lost Lake Scout Camp:

When: April 26-27, 2019

From the Course Syllabus: Specifically, this hands-on program gives adult leaders a practical introduction to the patrol method of a Scout-led troop by teaching many of the practical outdoor skills they need to lead Scouts in the outdoors. In addition, the teaching methods, activities, and games model the variety of teaching used in effective and engaging Scouting programs.

Participating troop leadership should include the Scoutmaster, all assistant Scoutmasters, interested troop committee members, and new adult leaders from Webelo's graduation and round-ups (see website/training/registration)

This course is REQUIRED to be considered fully trained in a Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster position, in addition to the specific leader training for your position.

Cost is $45.00 and includes all course materials, food,
Nominations for the 2019 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year are open. Nomination packets must be received by each applicant's respective American Legion department (state) headquarters no later than March 1, 2019.

The nomination packet judged best by each respective American Legion Department (state) Selection Committee, along with a list of the members serving on that Selection Committee, must then arrive to American Legion National Headquarters no later than April 1, 2019.

Click here to view/download complete info on applications, scholarships, contact email addresses ....

Congratulations to our 2018 Eagle Class

David Inman
James Hill
Troop 1
Rotary of Fairbanks

Jonathon Putnam
Tristan Cole Wyman
Troop 14
LDS Ward

Benjamin Davis
Troop 15
LDS Ward

The new High Adventure Council Patch is Here! This Stunning patch is great for uniform wear and an excellent addition to any patch collection.

Click here to find out more about patches, sales, and...
Thank you to all of our 2018 Golden Eagle Sponsors

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
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