

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 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. 2-deep leadership means that a minimum of 2 adults need to be present at all meetings and activities. 1 on 1 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 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