

Golden Empire Council Parents, Leaders, and Friends of Scouting:

Thank you for helping develop youth into leaders through the Boy Scouts of America. As a valued member of our Scouting family, our goal is to help you understand recent media coverage about the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Please know that Scouting is strong in the Golden Empire Council. **All local Scouting programs are continuing as usual.** We remain as committed as ever to delivering a safe and impactful Scouting program in northern California.

On February 18, 2020 National BSA filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. This Chapter 11 financial reorganization is at the National level and will have no affect at the local level in the Golden Empire Council. Our Scouting programs will continue unaffected. The Boy Scouts of America wants to support victims and provide for them while continuing to deliver the Scouting program and experiences to millions of youth nationwide. The recent filing proposes a reorganization by National BSA to create a Victim's Compensation Fund. The BSA is outraged there have been times when individuals took advantage of our programs to abuse innocent children. We know even one case of abuse is one too many.

I think you would agree that nothing is more important than the safety and protection of children.

- Over many years, the BSA has developed some of the strongest expert-informed youth protection policies found in any youth-serving organization including mandatory criminal background checks for all leaders, required training in youth protection, mandatory reporting, and two-deep leadership.
- Every instance of suspected abuse is reported to law enforcement.
- We are continually updating and sharing these best-in-class practices throughout our community.

This decision by National BSA will have no effect on Scouting in the Golden Empire Council.

- The Golden Empire Council is a separate 501(c)3 operating as a financially separate organization.
- Golden Empire Council camps, the Scout Service Center and finances are owned and controlled by the Golden Empire Council board of directors.
- Friends of Scouting and other annual donations will continue to be used to pay for necessary day-to-day expenses to provide Scouting in our communities.
- With your support, the Council will continue to deliver a safe and high-quality Scouting experience in northern California.

We want to assure you **Scouting will continue throughout our nation** and **Scouting in Golden Empire Council will continue with great strength.**

If you have questions, please contact our Scout Service Center. Thank you for your support of Scouting.

Yours in Scouting,

Key Four

Kelly Brothers, Chairman
Mike Boggs, President
Chris Ishikawa, Commissioner
Chuck Brasfeild, Scout Executive