



Blue Ridge Council Scouting Family:

Over the past few days, there have been media reports that question the financial well-being of the Boy Scouts of America. It is true that under the governance of the National Executive Board, in their efforts of due diligence, the National Council has sought advice from outside sources as to exploring options related to fiscal matters of the Boy Scouts of America. There is no immediate action or decision forthcoming other than exploring these options.

We anticipate receiving more information from the BSA as time goes on and will keep all our Scouters posted on any new developments.

**At the same time, we wanted to take this moment to clarify the relationship between the Blue Ridge Council and the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Please note these important distinctions:**

- The Scouting program has always been focused at the local level. The Blue Ridge Council and each of the 265+ local councils are separate corporations governed by a local Executive Board of community volunteers.
- The Blue Ridge Council is a 501(c)3 entity incorporated in the state of South Carolina. Camp Old Indian, the Volunteer Service Center and all financial assets are wholly owned and controlled by the Blue Ridge Council. This also includes the endowment assets held with the Boy Scouts of America Asset Management, LLC in the Commingled Endowment Fund (BSAAM).
- The Blue Ridge Council received a charter from the Boy Scouts of America in 1923 to organize and operate the Scouting program in the Upstate.
- We receive no funding from the BSA. We do however pay an annual charter fee to the BSA and fees for services such as IT support, insurance programs and general program/membership support.
- All fund raising efforts conducted in the Blue Ridge Council support local Scouting programs and the Blue Ridge Council local operations. This includes Friends of Scouting, Council Special Events such as the Patron Dinner, Auction and Golf Tournament, Endowment and Capital support.
- The Blue Ridge Council stands independent financially from the BSA, maintaining a separate budget approved by the Blue Ridge Council Board with the diligent oversight of the Council Treasurer. All staff members are employees of the Blue Ridge Council. Our employees participate in joint BSA benefits programs for healthcare, retirement and professional development. These are funded by the participating employees and the Blue Ridge Council.
- The Blue Ridge Council is strong in all metrics related to finance, quality of programs and camps, our volunteer leadership, and in our legacy of delivering first class Scouting experiences to the youth of our community. The Blue Ridge Council has consistently been recognized with the Journey to Excellence Award at the Gold or Silver level of achievement.

We will continue to work daily to fulfill the promise of Scouting, doing our best to have a positive impact on the thousands of youth we serve annually in the Blue Ridge Council.

Thank you for your leadership and service to our youth and the Blue Ridge Council.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Mike Butler

Scout Executive

(864) 233- 8363 - [Mike.Butler@Scouting.org](mailto:Mike.Butler@Scouting.org)