

National BSA Chapter Eleven Email to Volunteers and Parents (Via e-Newsletter)
September 1, 2020

About BSA Ads You May See or Hear

We are constantly impressed by the dedication of our Scouting Movement and the way we band together as an organization in challenging circumstances. Amid these great difficulties, Scouting has continued to build character, confidence, leadership, and hope in families and communities across the country, and your local efforts have helped make some incredible things possible:

- Scouting for Food raised over \$16K in funds to support local food shelves.
- We conducted Samoset Camping programs, modified for COVID, that provide Scouts an amazing experience (in some cases their only chance to get outside the house) with **no** positive COVID incidents.
- With the commitment of great Scout leaders, Scouting in Samoset is continuing to make a difference in the lives of youth through virtual meeting and in-person activities conducted in a safe manner

Now more than ever, families are looking for what Scouting offers. When asked what they want from youth-serving organizations this fall, parents overwhelmingly said they want to give their children a sense of normalcy, as well as something to do as a group, even if socially distant, or something productive to do with peers, even if it's online. Scouting delivers what parents are asking for. Together, we need to stand ready to bring Scouting to even more youth and families this year.

As we promote Scouting in our communities, some people may have questions about our youth protection policies and how we keep kids safe. It is important to emphasize that the safety of children in our programs is our absolute top priority. That's precisely why, over many years, the BSA has developed some of the strongest expert-informed youth protection policies found in any youth-serving organization.

If you are a volunteer, you've taken youth protection training, undergone a criminal background check, and play an integral role in the BSA's commitment to keep kids safe. At Samoset, and at all councils across America, adhering to and upholding these policies is a duty we take very seriously. I encourage you to view and share this [video](#) and [infographic](#) about the BSA's youth protection measures and resources that make Scouting safer than ever before.

Conversations about safety will be especially relevant over the next several weeks when those in Scouting and other members of the public will likely see and hear print, TV, social media, digital and radio advertising from national BSA's Chapter 11 noticing campaign. Although **only** the national organization has filed for Chapter 11, not Samoset, you likely come across these ads in the coming weeks, so I wanted to make sure you knew their purpose and had the necessary information to address questions or concerns they may raise for you or others.

These noticing ads are different than those many people have seen so far that have been sponsored by plaintiffs' attorneys trying to solicit clients. The BSA's ads are instead designed and sponsored by national BSA to ensure that victims have the opportunity to come forward and apply for compensation from a proposed Trust by filing a claim by the November 16, 2020 deadline set by the court. This advertising effort underscores the BSA's commitment to the dual objectives of its bankruptcy proceeding: **equitably compensate victims of past abuse and continue the mission of Scouting.**

If you would like additional information about the BSA's outreach to victims of past abuse, see this [FAQ](#). For questions about local Scouting, please contact John Overland, Scout Executive at John.Overland@Samoset.org or 715-355-1450.