



Tips for Discussing the BSA's Restructuring with Youth

Youth in our programs may have questions about the Boy Scouts of America's financial restructuring and what it means for their Scouting experience. Below are some tips on how to answer likely questions.

Tips for Speaking with Younger Children:

NOTE: In conversations with youth, "BSA" may be replaced with the specific program, pack or troop the child knows for clarity.

- Clearly state that meetings and activities, district and council events, other Scouting adventures and countless service projects they enjoy will continue as planned.
 - Reassure them that the BSA "has enough money" to keep these programs going.
- Remind youth that a Scout is always prepared and tell them that the senior leaders at the BSA ("head Scouting leaders") are trying to set a good example. Explain that:
 - The BSA owes money to some people and needs to make a plan to be sure everyone gets paid.
 - There are special laws ("rules") to help organizations ("groups") like the BSA make sure the plan is fair.
 - The BSA is following these laws ("rules") and making its plan.
 - You don't need to be worried.
 - The BSA is a big group, and the part you're in is going to keep doing the same fun things.
 - *If asked why people are saying other things, let youth know that some people who don't really understand these laws ("rules") are worried, but there's nothing to be worried about. A Scout is always prepared, and the BSA is well-prepared.*
- Let youth steer the conversation about the reasons for the Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Be open in addressing their questions but first listen to what they're really asking. Meet them where they are and use it as a teachable moment. For example:
 - If they ask why the BSA is in trouble, restructuring or filing for bankruptcy: Use the above language to explain that the BSA is using the restructuring to make a plan to pay people who are owed money.
 - If they ask why the BSA owes people so much money: "A long time ago, some kids got hurt because certain grown-ups didn't follow the rules that keep Scouts safe. These grown-ups weren't part of your pack/unit and don't do anything with BSA anymore, but the BSA is very sorry that this ever happened. The money will be used to help the people who got hurt."
 - If they ask about abuse in Scouting: "It mostly happened a long time ago and there are a lot more rules to keep kids safe today, but before the BSA had these rules, there were some times when bad people touched kids where they shouldn't or did other things they should not have done. Those kids are adults now. They are being asked to talk about what happened so the BSA can try to help them. It's important that you always tell a grown-up if you think someone is being hurt in any way."
- Reinforce that Scouting is safer than ever before. You can point to the following policies and programs that help protect them:





- All of your leaders have to answer lots of questions before they're allowed to be a part of Scouting, and the BSA uses their answers to be sure it's ok for them to be around kids.
 - If the BSA even thinks a grown-up may have done something bad, that grown-up will not be allowed to be in Scouting.
 - There are lots of rules to keep you safe in Scouting. For example, there should always be two adults that have been taught our rules at any BSA meeting or activity, and you should never be alone with a grown-up who isn't your parent or guardian. If these rules aren't being followed, you should tell me or another grown-up right away.
 - Grown-ups and kids have to keep learning about safety all the time in BSA programs. One key thing everyone has to know is how to tell someone if rules aren't being followed. Do you promise to tell a grown-up if you see anyone not following the rules?
- Emphasize that you think Scouting is a great place to be and get them excited for their upcoming adventures! At the end of the day, while their safety is our top priority, they're in Scouting to have fun.

Additional Resource: To assist in having difficult conversations with children about abuse, you can utilize the ["Protect Yourself Rules" Preview Adventure](#), which was developed to help parents in educating and empowering personal safety awareness in younger children.

FAQ to Help Explain the Financial Restructuring to Older Youth:

NOTE: In conversations with youth, "BSA" may be replaced with the specific program the youth knows for clarity.

I heard that the BSA filed for bankruptcy. Is that true?

- As you know, a Scout is always prepared. The BSA is preparing for its future by creating a new financial plan that ensures Scouting continues for decades to come.
 - Scouting – and all the programs you love – will continue as usual.
- You may hear people talk about a financial restructuring, a Chapter 11 filing or a bankruptcy. These terms describe the process the BSA is using to get to a plan that's fair for everyone involved.
- Some of what you hear may sound scary. (It can be scary for adults who don't understand the process, too.) But the BSA has a team of experts who understand the process really well. They're going to ensure this financial restructuring is a good thing for everyone.

What does this mean for me and other Scouts?

- All BSA programs will go on just like they did yesterday, the day before that and even last year. As a member, you probably won't even know that a new financial plan is being developed unless you hear people talking about it.
- Your normal meetings – and all the activities you've been looking forward to – will continue.

Is the money I've raised by selling popcorn and participating in other fundraisers still there?

- Yes, the BSA is committed to making sure that the money you worked hard to raise is used to support your local Scouting experience.





Why is the BSA restructuring?

- Unfortunately, there were times in BSA's history when bad leaders used their positions in Scouting to hurt children.
- The BSA is very sorry – and very angry – this happened.
- The restructuring is one way the BSA is trying to help those who were hurt. It creates a pool of money (kind of like a new bank account) for the past victims and creates a process that aims to divide the money equitably among them.

What happened to the victims?

- It wasn't the same for all victims, but it was all wrong and hurtful.
- There are stronger barriers that help prevent these things from happening now, but if you think someone isn't following the rules, you need to report what you see or hear right away. It is very important for everyone's safety that you tell a trusted adult.

Is Scouting safe? Could the abuse happen again today?

- Scouting is safer than ever before.
- Many years ago, the BSA adopted some of the strongest rules found in any youth-serving organization.
- For example:
 - All of your leaders have to answer questions before they're allowed to be a part of Scouting, and the BSA uses their answers to be sure it's ok for them to be around youth.
 - If the BSA even thinks an adult may have done something that would make them a bad role model, that adult would not be allowed to be a part of Scouting.
 - There are lots of rules to keep you safe in BSA programs. For example, there should always be two adults that have been taught our rules at any BSA meeting or activity, and you should never be alone with an adult who isn't your parent or guardian. If these rules aren't being followed, you should tell an adult right away.
 - Adults and youth members have to keep learning about safety. One key thing everyone has to know is that you should speak up if you think someone is doing something wrong.

Additional Resource: ["How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide,"](#) which is available in the Scouts BSA handbook.

