

Grand Canyon Council BSA

8840 E. Chaparral Road, Suite 200 | Scottsdale, AZ 85250

www.grandcanyonbsa.org | 602-955-7747



July 8, 2021

Grand Canyon Council Scouters,

Last week Boy Scouts of America (BSA) passed a major milestone in its Chapter 11 Bankruptcy case when it filed an amended Restructuring Settlement Agreement announcing that they have come to an agreement with the Coalition for Abused Scouts, Tort Claimants Committee, Future Claims Representative, the Ad Hoc Committee for Local Councils, and the BSA to fund a Settlement Trust that will provide compensation for the victims of historic sexual abuse.

While BSA is not fully out of the woods yet, this agreement is an important step forward and may pave the path toward a successful exit from bankruptcy. The plan must still be voted on and approved by creditors, approved by the court, and withstand potential legal challenges, but the agreement provides reason to be optimistic about a successful exit from the court's protection.

Included in the agreement is an aggregate contribution of \$500 million from the BSA's 251 local councils. Grand Canyon Council is required to contribute just over \$7 million for the settlement trust. A successful exit from bankruptcy will result in what has been called a 'global settlement' with local councils receiving a channeling injunction, protecting them from any future claims arising from past instances of sexual abuse.

Our council has been actively engaged with the Ad Hoc Committee for Local Councils and our Executive Board's Special Legal Committee has been closely following developments in the case. This week our GCC Executive Board took action to commit to funding our portion and determined the pathway to fund it.

In determining how to best leverage the \$7 million obligation against our mission of delivering program and outdoor adventures to Scouts, we gathered information on each camp and how each contributes programmatically and financially to Scouting in Grand Canyon Council. This process began more than two years ago with the Properties Assessment Team and recently culminated with a feedback session involving more than 50 unit and district Scouting representatives from throughout our council.

The process has been difficult and at times emotional, as everyone has strong ties to our various camps, and each is loved for its own special characteristics.

Several options were reviewed and ultimately the best option emerged – we will contribute Camp Geronimo and sell approximately 10 acres of the eastern portion of the Heard Scout Pueblo.

This option leverages the high net value of Camp Geronimo and the rising real estate values in Arizona against our program needs; we will retain the most-used portion of the Heard while giving up the portion under-utilized by us yet highly valued to others. In addition, we will move our summer camp operation to Camp Raymond, a home to Summer Camp for many years (until 2019). This option allows us to also retain R-C Scout Ranch, which is critically important to our Cub Scout camping programs and many training events.

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Final details, including timing, are not confirmed and this process may ultimately take many months to complete. We will continue to keep you updated on developments as they arise.

I know you may have additional questions about our plan moving forward, and so we will host three Zoom "Fireside Chats" for interested Scouters next week:

1. 7:00pm, Monday, July 12:
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81861873591?pwd=RStSU284Um5DWkZYNjdZzNlVTAyUT09>
 - Meeting ID: 818 6187 3591
 - Passcode: 248260
2. 7:00pm, Tuesday, July 13:
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88291357834?pwd=UC9jZ0pBeXFBeDdhMUJleGY3T2RwQT09>
 - Meeting ID: 882 9135 7834
 - Passcode: 715732
3. 7:00pm, Wednesday, July 14:
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89725149814?pwd=b0s2RWFZVHI2a2hYYUJ2d1MvWmwvZz09>
 - Meeting ID: 897 2514 9814
 - Passcode: 815016

Again, feel free to share this message and the Zoom invitations with other interested Scouters.

Thank you for everything you do to support Arizona youth and Scouting in Grand Canyon Council. Together, we will get through this and come out stronger as we look to the future to build a better, brighter Scouting for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy".

Andy Price
Scout Executive/CEO

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FAQ: GCC Contribution to BSA Chapter 11 Proposed Settlement Trust

- How much will Grand Canyon Council contribute to the trust?
 - To receive the benefit of a court channeling injunction, which will clear a path forward for Grand Canyon Council to continue to provide Scouting to today's and tomorrow's youth, a total of \$7,007,972 must be contributed by GCC to the proposed Settlement Trust. GCC will accomplish this by contributing Camp Geronimo and cash from selling a portion of the Heard Scout Pueblo.
- Why is GCC required to contribute to the trust?
 - Like every council in America, Grand Canyon Council has had a number of claimants indicate they were sexually abused during their time in Scouting. BSA and GCC have two dual goals – to appropriately compensate victims of past abuse and continue to provide Scouting for today's and tomorrow's youth. GCC's contribution, along with contributions from 250 other local councils and a significant contribution from BSA, will allow Scouting to continue.
- How will this impact our use of the Heard Scout Pueblo?
 - GCC's proposed plan to fund its portion of the Settlement Trust will result in a portion of the Heard Scout Pueblo property, specifically the northeastern ±10 acres, being sold. This is the least-used portion of the camp yet the most commercially valuable; this allows us to leverage program use against financial considerations and retain the most-used parts of camp for continued Scouting programs.
- Will GCC continue to offer Summer Camp?
 - Yes, of course! Cub Scout camping programs offered at R-C Scout Ranch are not impacted and our Scouts BSA Summer Camp at Camp Raymond will resume operations. GCC had previously offered Summer Camp at Raymond for many years but ceased operations after the 2018 season when we consolidated operations at Camp Geronimo. Camp Raymond was long the preferred camp for high adventure programs and has better proximity to the Grand Canyon Council and other exciting program features.
- How will this impact our use of Camp Geronimo?
 - Within 30 days of BSA's exit from Bankruptcy, Camp Geronimo will be listed for sale. GCC will retain ownership during the listing and will continue to operate the camp until it sells or for three years, whichever comes first. Once sold, the new owners will determine how the property is used.
- Will the cost of this contribution be passed on to parents, units, or charter organizations?

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- Grand Canyon Council has no plans to pass on any costs associated with the Settlement Trust to parents, units, or charter partners.
- When will this all happen?
 - Preparation for listing and sale of the eastern portion at the Heard Scout Pueblo will begin immediately and is expected to take 8-12 months. Camp Geronimo will be listed for sale immediately after BSA exits Bankruptcy.
- Will Summer Camp occur at Camp Geronimo next year?
 - Our Program volunteers and staff will be reviewing scheduling and planning against the possible sale of Geronimo and will determine soon how to handle this situation. We may plan on Geronimo but notify all troops of the caveat that camp may be moved to Raymond if Geronimo sells before summer 2022. More details will be communicated as they are available.
- Is this final and complete? Subject to change?
 - The amended RSA gives everyone involved in the case optimism that BSA will successfully exit Bankruptcy and the agreement among the three plaintiffs' groups, BSA, and the Ad Hoc Committee, is a big step forward. This said, the process is far from over and could potentially change.