

The Black Swamp Area Council helps prepare the next generation of professional, community and volunteer leaders for life by providing character development, citizenship training, and growth in physical, mental and spiritual fitness.

The impact of BSA programs goes beyond the Scout and their family to have a significant positive impact on our communities.

- In 2018, over 6,000 Black Swamp Area Council Scouts and their families participated in a total of 20,180 hours of community service.
- On average, each Black Swamp Area Council scout completes 3 ½ hours of community service annually.
- 1,832 dedicated volunteers helped provide Scouting, Exploring to the youth of our community.

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BE A YOUTH PROTECTION HERO. WHAT DO I DO IF I SUSPECT ABUSE?

1. Ensure the child is in a safe environment.
2. Child abuse or medical emergencies? Call 911. Contact the Ohio Child Protective Services at 1-855-OH-CHILD (1-855-642-4453) if abuse is in the home or family.
3. Notify the Scout Executive at (419) 581-9680.

Questions? Call the Scouts First Helpline at (844) 726-8871.

Want more Information? Visit www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/



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QUICK FACTS & INFORMATION



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Youth Protection is our number one priority in BSA programs, and we are continuously taking proactive measures to safeguard youth.

- Boy Scouts of America has some of the strongest barriers to child abuse found in any youth-serving organization. We require two registered adult leaders on all trips and outings, and we do not permit one-on-one contact between adults and youth members.
- The Council conducts background searches on all adult volunteer applications and requires approved volunteers to complete youth protection training every two years.
- BSA policy requires members and volunteers to immediately report any suspicion of abuse to law enforcement or the Ohio Department of Child Services, and notify the Council or National Scouts First Helpline.

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If the National BSA Council decides to file Chapter 11 Reorganization bankruptcy, our local Council will be minimally affected as we are locally incorporated and funded.

- The National BSA Council is considering all financial options to ensure the programs of BSA continue for future generations to come.
- These financial issues are primarily due to youth protection lawsuits (90% of which are cases from 1965-1985) and the refusal by BSA insurance carriers to cover claims.
- The Council owns our camps, service centers, bank funds and investments. All donations to Black Swamp Area Council stay local and directly support the delivery of our programs and services in Northwest and West Central Ohio.
- This consideration would allow for a fund that would help continue to support all past victims of abuse.

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Full Family Decision

- After years of requests from families that wanted the iconic Boy Scouts of America programs for their daughters as well as their sons, the Council is excited to welcome girls into its traditional youth programs and allow families to participate in Scouting together. Exploring, Venturing and STEM Scouts have always been co-ed.
- Single gender dens and troops offer the opportunity for individual learning and exploration. In addition, units can also come together to collaborate on projects, build connections and create friendships with people from all backgrounds.
- Cub Scouts first welcomed girls in the spring of 2018 and Scouts BSA (*formerly Boy Scouts*) launched in February 2019.

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