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SCOUTING IS NOW SAFER THAN EVER BEFORE

On Tuesday, February 18th, the national organization of the Boy Scouts of America filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy to achieve two key objectives: equitably compensate victims who were harmed during their time in Scouting and continue to carry out Scouting's mission for years to come. The W. D. Boyce Council has not filed for bankruptcy. Our local Council is legally separate, distinct and financially independent from the national organization.

Scouting is now safer than ever before. Over the years, Scouting has developed some of the strongest expert informed youth protection policies found in any youth serving organization. The Boy Scouts of America has developed a "two deep leadership" rule, in which an adult cannot be alone with a Scout; a minimum of two registered adult leaders are required for all Scouting activities and outings. This policy has been in effect for several years. "I can also assure you that our volunteers and employees take youth protection extremely seriously and understand our responsibility to help keep kids safe," said Lee Shaw, Scout Executive/CEO at the W. D. Boyce Council. "We also complete background checks and have mandatory youth protection training for volunteers and employees".

Scouting programs will be uninterrupted and go on as normal. Scouting adventures and countless service projects will continue and allow Scouts to make lasting memories and lifelong experiences. Scouting has been and will continue to be what teaches our youth to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the Scout Oath and Law.

If you have questions, please contact Lee Shaw Jr., Scout Executive/CEO for the W. D. Boyce Council at 309-673-6136 x 127 or email lee.shaw@scouting.org.

The W. D. Boyce Council, Boy Scouts of America has two service centers - one located at 614 N.E. Madison Avenue, Peoria and the other at 203 E. Locust Street, Bloomington. The council currently serves over 10,000 kids in 14 counties spread across central Illinois. The W. D. Boyce Council is divided into four districts - Crossroads, Heartland, Lowaneu and Wotamalo, which all serve their own counties in central Illinois. ScoutREACH is the council's outreach effort dedicated to reaching youth of all circumstances from within the Council. For more information about the W. D. Boyce Council, visit www.wdboyce.org.

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