

# Scouting America

## Connecticut Rivers Council

January 20, 2026

Subject: Potential Council Consolidation

Dear Scouting Families and Volunteers,

We are writing to provide an update regarding a potential Council consolidation currently being explored and to outline the anticipated timeline and next steps.

At our respective meetings, the Executive Boards of both Housatonic and Connecticut Rivers Councils voted to authorize the formation of a joint exploratory committee to evaluate a potential consolidation, consistent with guidance from the Scouting America National Council. The purpose of this committee is to conduct due diligence and determine whether consolidation would strengthen program delivery, fiscal sustainability, governance, and service to units and volunteers.

The exploratory committee will begin its work in January 2026. Areas of review include program support, Council operations, financial position, properties and assets, staffing, and governance structure. The committee is expected to present findings and recommendations to both Executive Boards in the following months.

During this exploratory period, there will be no changes to unit operations, volunteer leadership roles, district alignment, or program delivery. Any recommendation to move forward would require formal action by both Executive Boards and subsequent review and approval by the National Council.

As next steps, the committee will continue its evaluation and may seek input from volunteers as appropriate. Additional updates will be provided as key milestones are reached, and opportunities for feedback will occur before either Executive Board considers any proposed action.

We appreciate your continued dedication to Scouting and your commitment to delivering a safe, high-quality program to youth. Thank you for your patience and support as this important work proceeds.

Yours in Scouting,

Sincerely,

**WILLIAM SHEA**, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

**ROBERT SANFORD**, COUNCIL COMMISSIONER

**MARK SWITZER**, SCOUT EXECUTIVE

---

## **Scouting Council Merger Exploration – Family Q&A**

### **Q: What does it mean that the councils are “investigating” a merger?**

**A:** It means council leadership is exploring whether joining together could better support youth, families, and volunteers in the future. No final decisions have been made. This phase is about gathering information, listening, and evaluating options.

---

### **Q: Why are the councils considering a merger?**

**A:** Councils periodically review how they deliver Scouting programs. Exploring a merger helps leaders determine whether combining resources could improve program quality, financial stability, and long-term sustainability—while continuing to serve youth well.

---

### **Q: Does this affect my child’s Scouting experience right now?**

**A:** No. All programs, meetings, activities, and events continue as usual. Units will operate the same way during this evaluation period.

---

### **Q: Will my child’s unit be required to change or move?**

**A:** No changes are being made at this time. If a merger were to happen in the future, the goal would be to keep units meeting where they are and preserve unit identity and traditions.

---

### **Q: Will camps, activities, or events be cancelled?**

**A:** No. All scheduled camps, activities, and events will continue as planned. Exploring a merger does not mean programs or properties will close.

---

### **Q: Will this affect registration fees or fundraising?**

**A:** There are no planned changes to fees or fundraising during this exploration phase. Any future changes—if a merger were approved—would be communicated clearly and well in advance.

---

### **Q: Who is involved in evaluating the merger?**

**A:** Council volunteer leaders and professional staff from both Councils are working together, following guidance from Scouting’s national organization. Input from volunteers and families is an important part of the process.

---

**Q: How will families be informed if decisions are made?**

**A:** Families will receive updates through Council communications such as emails, newsletters, meetings, and the Council website. Transparency and timely communication are priorities.

---

**Q: What are the potential benefits for families and youth?**

**A:** While no outcomes are guaranteed, possible benefits could include:

- More program opportunities and events
  - Stronger camp and activity support
  - Improved volunteer training and resources
  - Greater long-term stability for Scouting in the region
- 

**Q: Could anything change if a merger eventually happens?**

**A:** If a merger is approved in the future, some administrative processes may be streamlined, but the focus will remain on providing safe, fun, and meaningful experiences for youth.

---

**Q: What should families do during this time?**

**A:**

- Continue participating as usual
- Ask questions if you have concerns
- Watch for official updates
- Support your unit leaders and youth

Your involvement and trust are important as our Councils carefully consider what is best for Scouting's future.

---

**Q: Who can I contact with questions?**

**A:** Families are encouraged to speak with their unit leaders or reach out directly to the Council using the contact information provided in official communications.

---