



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

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Many of our congregations are Charter Organizations for one or more Boy Scout troops. This means that you have been authorized by your local Boy Scouts of America (BSA) council to operate, sponsor, or otherwise support one or more Scouting units. As most of you are aware, BSA has filed for bankruptcy protection. The bankruptcy proceedings are in large measure designed to help manage the more than 80,000 sexual abuse claims filed against the organization.

Chartered Organizations each have charter agreements with local Boy Scout councils. While Chartered Organizations are not automatically part of the bankruptcy proceedings, the results of the bankruptcy proceedings may affect the handling of any future claims of abuse that are made against Charter Organizations as a result of the actions of Boy Scout leaders.

As part of the bankruptcy proceedings, a lengthy document has been sent to Chartered Organizations. The document asks each Charter Organization to select one of three options as to participation in a proposed compensation fund for abuse victims. If a Charter Organization has previously filed a formal claim in the bankruptcy proceedings, it will also have the opportunity to vote on the plan proposed in the document. The time frame for taking any action is described in the portion of the document labeled: *"Summary Regarding Chartered Organization's Options Under the BSA Chapter 11 Plan"*. Many of you have received this document in the past couple of weeks. The first deadline for response is December 14, 2021, for those Charter Organizations that have filed claims, but there is also a deadline in early January for Charter Organizations that want to elect an option as to participation in the compensation fund.

While the Synod cannot represent the legal interests of individual congregations, we would like to try to answer general questions about the process and to discuss best practices in working with BSA or any other organization that meets in your church building.

**We have two purposes for writing to you today: first, to ascertain how many of our churches operate or sponsor a Boy Scout Troop and, second, to determine if you would like to participate in a Webinar to discuss questions related to the BSA bankruptcy and best practices when working with organizations who meet in your facilities.**

Please email your responses to me directly at: [Jane@cahillwolfgram.com](mailto:Jane@cahillwolfgram.com)

Sincerely,

Jane Cahill Wolfgram,  
Vice-President  
South-Central Synod of America