

# Boy Scout Troop 33



June 2019

## Troop 33 BSA Youth Protection Response from Troop Committee & Takoma Park Presbyterian Church

Dear Troop 33,

You may have recently received a letter from the National Capital Area Council (NCAC). A copy of the letter is attached. At the 6/17/19 Troop Committee meeting, we discussed this letter, in depth, and have also consulted with leaders of Takoma Park Presbyterian Church. The Troop Committee shares the following statement in response to the letter.

- 1) Troop 33 salutes efforts to communicate with parents and the community at-large that the Boy Scouts of America, NCAC and Troop 33 take youth protection very seriously. Parents need to be completely confident that they can entrust their children to us. It's good to say what we have done, what we do today, and how each and every parent can and should participate in the process to strengthen Youth Protection. To that end, Troop 33 leaders believe the NCAC parent and scout letter are adequate. In Troop 33, we are vigilant about protecting scouts from any adult behavior that violates policy. We are also vigilant about protecting scouts from other scouts, e.g. bullying. And we are vigilant about Cyber Chip training which protects scouts online.
- 2) As far as taking responsibility for past inaction, this letter is inadequate. The letter does not take responsibility for past issues, even though NCAC joins the BSA in extending deep sympathy. It is our belief that the BSA needs to state that boys in their charge were abused, express deep regret and remorse, and state that the actions of not reporting violations of law was wrong and profoundly at odds with the Scout Oath and Scout Law. This candor is a prerequisite for any authentic journey of truth, healing and reconciliation that the Boy Scouts of America are undertaking in an effort to transform its culture, reputation, and impact on youth development.
- 3) We believe that sending a letter stating, in essence, "everything is fine, all systems are working as intended," without acknowledging the real harm that was done, risks sugarcoating a chapter of scouting history that needs to be acknowledged and learned from, in order to prevent it from ever repeating.

In Troop 33, 100% of all registered leaders have completed mandatory Youth Protection training. But that is not enough. We encourage every parent and caregiver to complete [Youth Protection training](#). It is as simple as registering with an email and password and completing the online training. Your certificate of completion will automatically be sent to troop leadership. Doing so will ensure greater vigilance and safety for our scouts by teaching all adults in our troop (especially drivers and other event volunteers) to recognize, respond, and report activity that potentially endangers scouts.

Thank you for helping us "Be Prepared" to ensure scout safety at all times.

In scouting,

Howie Schaffer  
Committee Chair, Troop 33

Interim Pastor James L. Reisner  
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church  
Executive Officer, Troop 33