



## Chartering Scouting Organizations

Virginia PTA considers the work done by youth-serving organizations to be of tremendous value. While Virginia PTA supports partnering with Boy Scouts of America and other civic youth groups for shared community projects, local PTA units and councils should **not sign charter or youth group sponsorship or renewal form(s) with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).**

Scouting units will occasionally ask a local unit PTA to be their charter organization because the Boy Scouts of America structure requires each scouting unit (cub scout packs, boy scout troops, etc.) to obtain an outside “Charter Organization” in order to operate. Under the Boy Scouts of America annual charter agreement, the Charter Organization (your PTA) would assume financial and operational oversight for the scouting unit according to Boy Scout of America’s bylaws, rules and regulations, guidelines, policies. This presents the following risks and liabilities for a PTA:

- **Purpose Conflict:** The Charter Organization agrees to use Scouting to further the Charter Organization’s aims and values for youth, and to use the scouting program to accomplish objectives including youth character development, faith-based youth ministry, career skill development, community service, patriotism and military and veteran recognition. Furthermore, the Scouting program must be run consistent with Boy Scouts of America rules, regulations and policies.
  - A PTA representative may not commit a PTA to following the bylaws and regulations of Boy Scouts of America or other 3<sup>rd</sup> party association. The purpose of PTA, as defined in PTA Local Unit Uniform Bylaws Article 1 is also not the same as the purpose of Boy Scouts.
- **Insurance Coverage:** PTA insurance does not provide liability coverage for a PTA leader who is acting as a representative to the scouting council or other organization. Additionally, the insurance provided by Boy Scouts of America only covers approved scouting activities. If the Scout leader has Scouts participate in a non-approved activity, neither the Boy Scouts of America insurance nor the PTA insurance would cover the liability in case of an accident.
- **Financial Conflict:** Charter organizations are required to administer the assets of the BSA Unit, including all funds, real property, and personal property and to authorize the BSA unit to open a separate scouting bank account. A PTA may not give their EIN to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to open a bank account nor should banking transactions to be conducted by individuals who are not elected PTA officers and authorized signers.
- **Background Checks:** The BSA provides a criminal background check of all adult leaders, however, the charter organization (your PTA) is also required to review and sign off on each application, which creates a potential liability for your PTA.
- **Facility Availability:** The Charter Organization (your PTA) is asked to secure safe facilities for the scouting unit to meet. PTAs do not have their own facilities to guarantee meeting facilities. PTAs may advocate for BSA and other non-profit youth-centered community groups to have the ability to reserve meeting space in school facilities.
- **Advertising Conflict:** Charter organizations are to coordinate with the local BSA council to provide annual recruitment opportunities to grow and publicize BSA. Your PTA should not be advertising, fundraising, or recruiting for a 3<sup>rd</sup> party non-profit association as that does not align with PTA’s mission or purpose.