

Frequently Asked Questions: Boy Scouts of America Claims

Why is the Susquehanna Conference setting a deadline of Nov. 10, 2020, to receive church requests for help with forms?

The court's deadline to receive proof of claim forms is Nov. 16. The Susquehanna Conference will process requests and submit them to a law firm that is also working the Western Pennsylvania Conference on this matter. The Nov. 10 deadline enables the conference staff as well as the law firm to complete the filing on time.

Where can I find my GCFA number?

Your church's GCFA number appears on your Ezra account (where you supply your church's data to the general church). You may also contact the conference office.

What is the cost to file?

The Susquehanna Conference is paying the filing cost for each church that requests our help. This is one of the benefits of The United Methodist Church's connectional system. If the possibility of additional fees arises, the conference office or your district superintendent will contact you to discuss it.

What is the difference between hosting a Boy Scout Troop and chartering a Boy Scout Troop?

Several United Methodist congregations have agreed to be the chartering organization for a Boy Scout unit. Churches that are chartered organizations sign an [annual agreement](#) with the local Boy Scouts of America (BSA) council. Some churches have not signed a charter agreement but have allowed BSA units to meet in the building. In either case, we recommend that the church file a proof-of-claim form.

I sent my church's information to the district office last week. Do I still need to complete the online request?

If you have provided your district office your church information with the request that the conference office can help you file the proof-of-claim form, then you need not resend that information. You may contact your district office to be sure they received it.

Which of my church leaders were sent the bishop's letter and why?

The bishop's letter was sent to district pastor email groups as well as all the trustee chairs, administrative council chairs, and lay leaders for which the conference office has email addresses. Our purpose in sending more than one letter per church was to increase the chances that a church leader would see the letter and act upon it.

My church no longer charters or hosts a Boy Scout unit. OR: I don't know if my church, or any of the churches that merged with ours, ever chartered or hosted a BSA unit. Should we file?

We urge you to check your church's files and archives, including those of churches that merged with yours. Many of the sexual abuse cases facing BSA are related to actions that happened at least 30 years ago. Even if you are currently unaware of any potential claims against a BSA unit that met in your church, we strongly advise you to file a proof-of-claim form.

Is our insurance policy adequate for such claims?

Your insurance policy may not necessarily cover a claim in this situation. Should your church be sued, the proof of claim would allow the church to seek reimbursement from the bankruptcy funds set aside for future claims.

May our church file its own proof-of-claim form without the conference's help?

Your church may do so. The deadline for the court to receive your form is Nov. 16.

What about the victims of sexual abuse that occurred in Boy Scout settings?

Incidents of sexual abuse are significant and devastating for the lives of the victims. The United Methodist Church supports just treatment of all sexual violence victims, including persons in these situations. BSA has set-up victim compensation funds with participation of their insurance carrier.

What is the relationship of The United Methodist Church with the Boy Scouts of America?

The General Commission on United Methodist Men's [Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting Ministries](#) promotes congregations' relationships with groups such as the Boy Scouts.