



Bulletin #1

Since April 2003, the BSA has conducted a criminal background check on all new adult volunteers.

There are BSA adult volunteers who have been consistently registered since April 2003 in the same position. These dedicated volunteers have not had a criminal background check (CBC) conducted by the BSA.

Some versions of the BSA adult applications prior to April 2003 did not have a complete authorization and disclosure statement for a criminal background check to be conducted. The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act mandates that organizations must have a signed authorization from the individual to conduct a CBC.

Note: The Boy Scouts of America's criminal background procedures fall under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act. The checks conducted on our behalf by our vendor report criminal activity—not credit or financial history—on an individual.

To continue to provide a safe environment for youth participating in the Scouting program, the National Council will address this situation by providing a vehicle for having a CBC conducted on those volunteers.

The solution: A letter and Web site

Volunteers who have not had a CBC conducted will receive a letter from our Chief Scout Executive, Bob Mazzuca. Exploring volunteers will receive a letter from the director of Learning for Life, John Anthony. The letter will recognize them as valued volunteers and explain the situation with criminal background checks and our continued efforts in youth protection. Those letters are scheduled to be mailed by June 2, 2008.

The letter will include their BSA member ID number, as well as a unique password and contact information for their local council.

The letter will also direct volunteers to a Web site specifically established to give consent for the CBC. The Web site addresses are www.bsacbc.org or www.lflcbc.org, and they will be active from June 1 until Aug. 1, 2008. *The letter will also direct the volunteers to contact their council service center if they do not have Internet access or require assistance.*

On the site, they will be asked to review a disclosure and authorization statement. They must click on "Agree" to proceed. Next, they will be asked for information necessary to conduct the CBC, such as their Social Security number.

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Volunteers who choose “do not agree” or “disagree” when they go to the Web site will have their membership revoked immediately. A new BSA application (or Exploring adult roster form) will be required to renew their membership status. If they complete a new BSA adult application, they will be submitted for a CBC at that time.

Volunteers who get a letter and do not complete the Web site process by Aug. 1, 2008, will not be able to renew their registration at recharter time without completing a new BSA application. This “natural expiration” of their registration will mean that the recharter paperwork or Internet Rechartering roster printed after Aug. 2, 2008, will not display that volunteer’s name.

As part of this process, Scout executives may view the list of affected volunteers from their council by clicking on a link located on the SE Only page on MyBSA. This information is scheduled to be available April 15. This offers Scout executives an avenue to personally contact long-tenured volunteers, valued donors (who are also registered), or executive board members to discuss the coming letter.

Look for more details on this project in Bulletin #2.