April 30, 2015

To: All Council Executive Boards

From: Western Regional Youth Protection Task Force and Western Region Key Three

Subject: Youth Protection Training Policy Changes and Goals

As a group, the Western Regional Youth Protection Task Force and the Western Region Key Three would like to thank you for all your efforts to bring the benefits of the Boy Scouts of America program to the youth in your communities. We know you share our commitment to make the Boy Scouts of America the premier youth serving organization in the Nation.

There is no more important part of the Scouting Program than the protection of all our youth members.
We know you share our desire to make the Boy Scouts of America the premier youth protection organization in the Nation. Experience has proven the best way to accomplish this is to provide effective training on a continuing basis to all adults involved in Scouting at every level with no exceptions. Only when everyone is involved and trained in youth protection will we have achieved the safe environment that is critical to protecting our youth.

Gary Butler Deputy Chief Scout Executive captured the essence of what we must do when he said, "Youth Protection will become so engrained in the BSA culture that it is second in recognition only to the Scout Oath and Scout Law"

Accordingly, the Western Region Board has adopted the following policy change and goals:

Policy Changes effective immediately:
1. Current Youth Protection Training is ***mandatory*** for all new registrations or re-chartering.
2. Youth Protection Training must be completed ***annually.***

Goals:
1. 100% of all registered adults will be current in their youth protection training. To set an example, 100% of all Council Executive Board members will have current Youth Protection Training completed by June 30, 2015. The Region has led the way. Anyone serving on the Regional Board or any Committee as well as the Leadership of all five Areas and all Area Committee Members are current in their YPT.
2. Every Council will have a policy and plan to attain 100% Youth Protection Training put in place by June 30, 2015.

We know many of you have already achieved a very high level of Youth Protection Training in your Council and we are grateful for your good work. You are setting the example. To help you complete your efforts to get to 100% or to help those Councils still struggling with this important training we are including "How to" instructions and sample policy statements and training letters that you can use or modify to get your Council to 100%.

We realize that these policy changes may appear to create more work for already busy volunteers and professionals. They may at first, but on a continuing basis we guarantee that they will make the entire process easier as Youth Protection Training becomes systematic with registration and re-chartering.

There is nothing more important than protecting the youth in our program. There is nothing more important that adult leaders and professionals can be involved with. We encourage you to move rapidly and see that your Council reaches 100% in Youth Protection Training.