

October 22, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Scout Executives, Area Directors, and Regional Directors

FROM: Gary Butler, Deputy Chief Scout Executive and COO

RE: Registration Age Requirements

As you know, the National Executive Board approved a resolution earlier this year to establish consistency in the registration requirements across all programs, regardless of participant age. The purpose of this resolution is to ensure that moving forward, participants who are 18 but not yet 21 register as adults. However, this does not affect their eligibility to participate in programs such as Venturing and Sea Scouting.

The primary purpose of the change is to ensure that all persons legally considered adults meet adult membership requirements, including undergoing a criminal background check and meeting the BSA's Youth Protection requirements and membership standards. The changes are required to allow the performance of criminal background checks in connection with the registration process. The board directed the BSA to implement the change when the required changes to systems and forms were ready. Therefore, the change will be implemented effective March 1, 2015.

Important Information on the Age Change:

1. The decision to require all persons 18 but not yet 21 years of age to meet the adult leadership requirements was to assure a uniform standard for persons considered legally adult regardless of program participation.
2. As a result, beginning March 1, 2015, the BSA will begin the process of ensuring that participants who are 18 but not yet 21 register as adults and meet the same requirements as adult leaders, but may still be participants in applicable programs until age 21.
3. This change affects Venturers and Sea Scouts. As they have always been, Venturers and Sea Scouts, who are 18 but not yet 21 will continue to be tracked and counted as youth members.
4. After March 1, all Venturers and Sea Scouts who are 18 but not yet 21 are required to meet and follow the adult leadership standards.
5. In order to minimize disruption to the program, the BSA will implement the policy in the following manner:

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS BEGINNING MARCH 1, 2015			
Status	Age	Action	Enforcement
Currently registered Venturer or Sea Scout on March 1, 2015	Born before March 1, 1997 (Venturer or Sea Scout turns 18 years old before March 1, 2015)	No action needed as long as the member is continuously registered in the same unit.	No action required on criminal background checks and adult Youth Protection training. The member must meet all adult leadership standards.
Currently registered Venturer or Sea Scout on March 1, 2015	Born on or after March 1, 1997 (Venturer or Sea Scout turns 18 years old on or after March 1, 2015)	Registers as adult and meets all requirements of adult leaders; member is coded as a Venturer or Sea Scout and may still participate in applicable programs.	Criminal background checks and Youth Protection training requirements are enforced at the time of charter renewal after turning 18 years old. If the individual turns 18 within 30 days of charter renewal, enforcement will take place at the next charter renewal. The member must meet all adult leadership standards.
New Venturer or Sea Scout registering on or after March 1, 2015	Born before March 1, 1997 (applicant turns 18 years old before March 1, 2015)	Registers as adult and meets the same requirements as adult leaders; member is coded as a Venturer or Sea Scout and may still participate in applicable programs.	Criminal background checks and Youth Protection training requirements are enforced at the time of application. The member must meet all adult leadership standards.
New or current Venturer or Sea Scout who applies for any adult leadership position, such as camp staff	Born before March 1, 1997 (applicant turns 18 years old before March 1, 2015)	Registers as adult and meets the same requirements as adult leaders as part of the leader application process.	Criminal background checks and Youth Protection training requirements are enforced at the time of application. The member must meet all adult leadership standards.