



## **Unit's First District Alignment Committee**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **General**

**Q: Will district names be changed? If so, how will they be chosen?**

A: New districts have been formed within the Simon Kenton Council. New district committees will solicit proposed district names from local Scouts through May 30, 2021. Those submissions will be reviewed and voted upon by the new district committees at the June 2021 Business Meeting.

**Q: Aren't the customs, traditions, and close affiliations of districts with a long history more important than any benefit to be obtained by realignment?**

A. Customs, traditions, and close affiliations are very important. However, realignment to increase growth and to deliver Scouting to more youth must be our priority. We know from experience that new districts will soon develop new customs and traditions. We also know that working for the common benefit of our youth in our community will cause us to establish new and strong affiliations while maintaining our old affiliations through our camping and our honor camping programs.

**Q: Did the Alignment Committee consider keeping existing District structures in the South? (Chief Logan and Tecumseh)**

A: Yes, the committee considered leaving the southern districts in our Council aligned with the current district structure. The committee evaluated in depth the best use of the council resources after significant budgetary and membership impacts from 2020. The committee believe that multiplying the professional staff through a single district will allow that staff to support the southern district units in the Simon Kenton Council at a higher level than in prior years.

**Q: It is hard to find enough volunteers now to fill District Committees. Won't it be harder to fill committees in larger districts?**

A: Recruiting volunteer leaders is always a challenge and an ongoing process. This is true in both in a large district and in a small district. People are more likely to take on small jobs versus large ones; people are more likely to volunteer to benefit their local area/community versus neighboring communities. BSA provides us an excellent model for recruiting volunteers that has been proven successful for many years. The publicized creation of new district positions for volunteers will open opportunities to bring new volunteers to help relieve those who have labored for years in the same positions. The creation of new positions will also signal to prospective volunteers that there is a need for their service, a need not often apparent in older established districts where the same volunteers are routinely in charge.



**Q: I have volunteered on the district level for many years in a certain district. I have many friends and affiliations to that district and do not want to change districts. Realignment changes the district that I am in, what can I do?**

A: The fellowship of Scouting is very important and the reason many volunteers stay in the program long after their children leave the program. As a district volunteer, you are welcome and encouraged to volunteer in the district that you choose best to fit you regardless of where you live or where your “home unit” is located.

### **Program**

**Q: What will happen with programs that are currently being planned, including camporees, Day Camp, adult leader trainings, etc.?**

A: All programs that are on the “legacy district” calendar for 2021 are recommended to still happen through the legacy districts. Activities for the fall of 2021 are suggested to happen through new combined committees that begin planning as soon as the April 1, 2021 launch of the new district structure.

**Q: How will redistricting impact 2021 Day Camp?**

A: It will not. Most day camps happen in June, prior to when the redistricting proposal would take place. For those districts with day camp in July, the “legacy district” structure will still support day camp.

**Q: What will the 2021 District Dinners and District Award of Merits look like?**

A: The 2021 district dinners will most likely be one of the final activities conducted by the “legacy districts”. Legacy district advancement and recognition committees will select, approve, and present 2021 District Award of Merits.

**Q: How will the district realignment proposal impact Order of the Arrow chapters?**

A: The Lodge Leadership is reviewing the realignment proposal and will be discussing plans at upcoming meetings of the Lodge Executive Council.

**Q: As a Unit Commissioner, how will this impact the units I serve?**

A: It is important that we maintain the highest level of unit support possible during the transition process. In rare cases, the units that a particular unit commissioner serves may end up in more than one district. As new districts are put together, new District Commissioners will review commissioner staff assignments and make unit assignment changes as necessary. During the 3-month transition phase, we ask that Unit Commissioners continue to serve units as previously assigned by the “legacy” District Commissioners.

### **Finance**

**Q: How will redistricting impact the 2021 Friends of Scouting Campaign?**

A: Our council goal is to have 2021 FOS campaign wrapped up by May 31, 2021 and no later than June 30, 2021. The FOS campaign will be complete prior to official launch of district operations July 1, 2021.



**Q: How will 2022 goals Friends of Scouting goals be set?**

A: Starting July 1, 2021, past prospects/donors will be moved into the new district structure and history for new districts will be formed. Goals will be set off that history. The council strategic plan calls for an increase in FOS annually.

**Q: How will 2021 popcorn sale be affected?**

A: The 2021 popcorn sale will be supported by the “new” district structure and goals will be set accordingly based on history.

**Q: How will this impact the 2021 and 2022 Budget?**

A: 2021 events and activities will still be supported under the “legacy district” budgets. The 2022 budgeting process will be supported by the new district structure.

**Membership**

**Q: Why is school district alignment so important?**

A: In the days of open school access, it was not. Our recruitment model was to hand out flyers, conduct Scout talks, and invite youth to join. Different strategies are needed to invite families to join Scouting with more and more school districts limiting school access, only allowing electronic flyers, and/or not allowing Scout talks. Aligning our BSA districts with school districts permits the development of more effective strategies to promote Scouting in the local communities, while avoiding a conflict that can arise when two different BSA districts split a school district. With only one BSA district creating a strategy of recruitment of youth in an area, we have a cohesive recruiting plan for each given area/school district.

**Q: Because districts are now aligned by school district’s, what if I attend school in one school district and want to attend a unit in another?**

A: No problem. Just as now, a person can join any unit they choose. All units are listed on BeAScout.org so a family can find a unit most convenient to them regardless of school district.

**Q: Can a unit “choose” what district they are in, especially in area of heavy crossover of youth between school districts?**

A: No. District alignment is based on the address of the charter partner and the public-school district in which the charter partner is located. This is for district service purposes only. A youth can join any unit they wish regardless of location.

**Q: How will district realignment impact re-chartering in 2022?**

A: The council realignment will have no impact on the charter renewal campaign for 2022. Once recharter begins in October 2021, all units will recharter in their “new” districts. We will still need unit leaders and unit commissioners do not stay focused on getting charter renewal packets complete and turned in on time.