



VOLUNTEERS AND BACKGROUND CHECKS

Criminal Background Checks An Update

As dedicated BSA volunteers, you understand the importance of keeping our youth safe in the Scouting program. To ensure Youth Protection, our organization has conducted criminal background checks on all new volunteers since April 2003. Because some volunteers have been continually registered in the program before April 2003, some have not had a criminal background check. In the next few months, we will be communicating with those volunteers on this issue.

Volunteers who have not had a background check will receive a letter from Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca. The letter will explain the need for consent to conduct a criminal background check and direct volunteers to a Web site. The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act mandates that organizations must have a signed authorization from the individual to conduct a CBC. 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.

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.

The letters with the Web site information are scheduled to be mailed by June 2, 2008. The Web site address is www.bsacbc, and the site will be active from June 1 until August 1, 2008.

On the site, volunteers will be asked to:

- Review a disclosure and authorization statement
- Click “Agree” to proceed
- Enter information necessary to conduct the CBC, such as their Social Security number
- Verify and submit the information

Volunteers who choose to decline the authorization for a background check will lose their BSA membership. A new BSA application (or Exploring adult roster form) will be required (with CBC authorization) in order to renew their membership status, and at that time, a criminal background check will be conducted.

Volunteers who receive the Chief's letter, but do not complete the Web site process by August 1, 2008, cannot renew their registrations at recharter time without completing a new BSA application.

