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ANNOUNCEMENT

BSA announces Lions as new pilot program for kindergarten boys in select Councils

Lions, a new Boy Scouts of America pilot program for kindergarten boys, will begin in select Councils on a test basis this fall. Those Councils will share feedback with teams of volunteers and professionals for further study.

Last August, BSA Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh shared his vision for a National Membership Initiative that outlined a plan that focused on short, mid and long-term strategies to support Councils in achieving their goals. The 2016 membership plan has four areas of emphasis to help grow membership and program: 1) Exploring Explosion, 2) Build and Adventure (Rocket into Scouting), 3) New Units and 4) Pilot Programs, like Lions.

The Baltimore Area Council participated in the Build and Adventure (Rocket into Scouting) Initiative for our 2015 fall membership drive. Although our membership plan for fall 2015 was already in place, we saw this as an opportunity for our program, and when approached to participate we decided to do so. The rollout was late, but we were able to rally around the initiative and build excitement allowing for a successful fall recruitment drive. We decided to continue with the effort in 2016 since we would have an entire year to plan for it and be able to determine its realistic potential.

For 2016, along with the Build your Adventure (Rocket into Scouting) Initiative, the Baltimore Area Council has agreed to participate in the New Unit and Exploring Explosion Initiatives. These two initiatives as well as the Build your Adventure (Rocket into Scouting) have a proven record of success for select pilot Councils, and we are excited to have been selected to participate in 2016 for the benefit of the Baltimore Area Council.

Due to these current National membership efforts that the Baltimore Area Council is participating in, we will await the results from the Councils participating in the Lions program pilot before making a decision to adopt it here. We hope that the feedback is positive with promising recommendations for how the program should be put into action.

Depending on the success in other Councils, we hope to launch the Lions pilot program in 2017. Should you have any questions, please contact Manny Fonseca, Deputy Scout Executive/COO, at 443-573-2502 or mfonseca@baltimorebsa.org.

Sincerely,

Stephen Martino
VP Membership
Baltimore Area Council