SAC Myth Buster: Myth – Scouting is dictated by Council staff

FACT: The policy of maintaining Scouting as a volunteer movement finds full expression in the organization and operation of the Council. Its members, officers, executive board members, and committee members are all volunteers with the exception of the Scout Executive. Within the limits of BSA national policy, they, the Executive Board, carry responsibility for formulating and executing the plans necessary for promoting Scouting in their area. They determine membership goals, budgets, camp facilities and programs, leadership training programs, professional staff needs, and other details of local Council operations. The Executive Board expects and holds the Scout Executive accountable for the day to day operations and meeting the goals and financial needs of the council that they have set. Scouting in the area prospers in proportion to the stature, vision, and enthusiasm of volunteers who plan and carry out the local Council program. One condition for granting a charter to a local Council is the employment of an adequate number of professional Scouter's. These professionals serve as coaches and coordinators. They provide the administrative guidance that shapes the work of many volunteers into a coordinated, efficient pattern to get the greatest results from the volunteers' investment of time and effort. They serve as advisors to all officers and committees.

Four major functions help a Council deliver the Scouting program: Membership/Relationships, Finance, Program, and Unit Service. These four functions and all other responsibilities are accomplished in the Shenandoah Area Council in a manner that is influenced by local conditions and circumstances. How the Shenandoah Area Council organizes to carry out the plan in the most efficient way is determined by size, resources available, present structure, and other local factors.

For more details or to become a Friend of Scouting, please contact the Council Service Center at 540-662-2551 and speak with either Stuart Williams or Mark Pennington. You may also contact George Tabb, VP of District Operations; Mike Spory, VP of Programs; Chip Bennett, Council Commissioner. Always feel free to express your concerns, or send in your myth question directly to me, Wilborn Roberson, Council President.