

## Letter to Scouting Membership

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Dear Scouting Families and Supporters,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones in good health and spirits. I'm reaching out today to share important updates concerning the future of the Catalina Council Scout Office and some decisions that are crucial to the long-term sustainability of our programs.

As you may be aware, the council has been facing financial challenges for several years, and our leadership team has been working diligently to navigate these difficulties while continuing to provide the high-quality Scouting experiences that our youth deserve. As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure the future stability of our council, we have made the decision to sell the Catalina Council Scout Office.

I understand that you may have many questions about this decision and what it means for the future of Scouting in Southern Arizona. To provide greater transparency and address any concerns you may have, I've attached a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. This resource outlines the reasons for the sale, how it will impact our programs and operations, and what our next steps will be.

Why am I sending these FAQs?

I believe it's essential for all members of the Catalina Council to have a clear understanding of the decisions we are making and why they are necessary. These FAQs aim to answer the most common questions we've received so far, and they provide insight into how we're working to strengthen our council for future growth and success. Our priority has always been, and continues to be, delivering exceptional Scouting programs while being responsible stewards of our resources.

If you have any additional questions after reviewing the FAQs, or if you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact our office. We are here to answer any inquiries and ensure that our Scouting families feel confident about the future of Catalina Council.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to Scouting. Together, we will ensure that we remain strong, resilient, and capable of serving youth for generations to come.

Yours in Scouting,  
Dr. Shannon Roberts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Catalina Council, Scouting America

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## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the Sale of the Catalina Council Scout Office

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### Why is the Catalina Council selling the Scout Office?

The Catalina Council has been operating at a financial deficit for several years, and selling the Scout Office is a strategic decision to secure the necessary funds to continue operations and program delivery. By converting the building to cash through a sale/leaseback arrangement, we will have the resources to sustain council operations through 2025.

### Has a buyer been identified?

Yes, we are currently in escrow for the sale of the building. This decision is driven by our current cash flow issues, which must be resolved. The sale will provide the necessary resources to allow us to focus on membership growth.

### What is a sale/leaseback arrangement?

A sale/leaseback arrangement allows the council to sell the office building while remaining as a tenant for a defined period. This means that while the council will sell the building, we will continue to operate in the current office space for up to 24 months after the sale, ensuring minimal disruption to operations during this transition.

### How was the sale price determined?

The building was appraised by multiple local real estate professionals, with valuations ranging from \$970K to \$1.15M. The current offer of \$970K is in line with the most comprehensive appraisals and provides a fair market value for the property.

### Will the sale of the office cover all of the council's financial needs?

The proceeds from the sale, combined with existing unrestricted funds, will cover operational needs through 2025. However, ongoing efforts to increase membership, fundraising, and engagement will be essential to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

### Will the sale of the Scout Office affect the camps?

No, the camps are not part of this sale. The focus is solely on the office building. Our camps, particularly Camp Lawton, will remain central to our program delivery. The council is committed to continuing operations and improvements at our camp, Lawton.





## Will the sale impact services provided to Scouts and families?

No, the sale will not affect the services provided to Scouts and their families. The sale is designed to safeguard the council's future and ensure we can continue offering high-quality Scouting experiences for years to come.

## How will the sale impact the council's programs?

The sale is intended to secure operating funds, allowing Catalina Council to maintain staffing and deliver Scouting programs for youth in Southern Arizona. This will help us stabilize our financial position and continue to provide high-quality scouting experiences, including at Camp Lawton.

## What will happen to the Scout Shop?

The Scout Shop will remain operational with the new property owner during the initial two-year leaseback period. While there is no guarantee that the National Scout Shop will stay beyond that, the council will explore options to maintain a presence or provide a more limited Scout Shop in the future.

## How will this sale affect the council's staff?

The sale allows the council to retain and fund essential staff positions, ensuring we have the resources to deliver Scouting programs. This is a critical step toward stabilizing the council and enabling future growth.

## What are the next steps after the sale?

Once the sale is complete, the council will continue to operate out of the building during the leaseback period. During this time, the council will explore new office space options and make plans to ensure a seamless transition.

## Is the sale of the Scout office and the closure of Double V in preparation for a merger with Grand Canyon Council?

The answer is no. As a responsible financial management strategy, we have decided to discontinue services at Double V. This move aims to reduce our overhead and demonstrate our commitment to efficient resource utilization. The utilization at Double V did not justify the cost of operating a camp with low usage.

## Are there plans for Catalina Council and Grand Canyon Council to merge councils?

Please be assured that the Board has not discussed merging the two councils. The board decided to take the necessary steps to improve our financial situation so that we would not have to merge councils. We have committed to focus on membership growth, a key strategy to enhance our council and ensure its continued self-sustenance. However, please understand this does not mean that we will not have to revisit the possibility of a merger in the future.

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## Will the Sale of the council offices allow us to reinstate services offered at Double V?

No, the sale of the office is independent of Double V's operations. While we are still exploring many options at Double V, we will not reinstate services once they are offered.

## How can members of the council and community stay informed?

Updates on the sale and related decisions will be communicated regularly via email, council meetings, and through our website. If you have further questions, feel free to reach out to the council office for more information.

## Closing statement

These FAQs provide an overview of the reasons behind the sale, the impact on the council, and what to expect moving forward. If you have additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Catalina Council Scout office.

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