



Exploratory Merger Frequently Asked Questions

This is a list of the most common questions the council has received in light of the exploration for a possible merger with Oregon Trail Council. If you have additional questions, please email clcbasa@scouting.org.

1. Is this truly a merger or a takeover?

Both Councils are considering the issues, pros, and cons of a merger. Oregon Trail was approached with the concept; OTC is not instigating a “hostile takeover” as has been rumored.

2. What will happen to our properties?

Currently, we are sharing information with Oregon Trail on our properties, as they are sharing the same information on their properties. A decision would be made by the newly combined Councils at a later date to determine if it makes sense to keep all properties that would be part of a new council. Some of the properties have specific restrictions on use or lease terms, and all of that will need to be factored in.

3. How does a merger affect me as a unit volunteer?

As a unit volunteer, our expectations with a merger is the opportunity to reallocate some of our assets to add more District Executives to the field. This means more professionals to help best serve all the units, the Scouting program and the larger community. Our focus will continue to be high quality customer service to our units, so you may continue to share the best Scouting program to our youth.

4. What are the current issues/gaps that each council has that could benefit from merging?

The number of active Scouts combined would be closer to a feasible number to continue to conduct a Council to best serve youth in our programs. We have duplicated overhead such as Executive leadership and back office functions. One idea is to reallocate resources to better serve units. This may include having more Scouting professionals in the field to better serve our existing and new units.

5. What strengths to our Scouting program do we gain by merging?

The reallocation of staff resources would best fit our needs of the units we serve. Higher quality customer service would be feasible with more staff to help spread the workload to a more manageable level. It could also give all our volunteers better access to services such as promotional materials, scout shops, council and district activities, and trainings.

6. As a unit volunteer, I don't feel supported now; how would a merger help with that?

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A consideration is to put staff in each of the major areas we serve. Having a local Scouting professional helps with quality customer service, including better service to our existing units and helping create new units where Scouting is not locally available. Having more support staff will help volunteers better direct their questions to the right person and get prompt answers.

7. What about the Order of the Arrow?

BSA allows one lodge per Council. A merger of the two Councils would necessitate the merger of the Lodges into one.

8. There are already not enough program opportunities offered for our units to participate in? How would merging help with that?

A merged council offers the opportunity to participate in other events that may not have originally been on our council radar. It also means additional people resources to help support additional events, from promotion and set up to running the event.

9. Communication is an issue and the visibility of staff is slim. What measures will be taken to improve this?

In any company, communication is key and constantly something that needs to be worked on. The potential to reallocate funds to put more Scouting professionals in the major communities will increase the opportunity for more units to engage in a positive manner with representatives of the council office, which in turn is better customer service to our units to make sure they have the needed support to make their Scouting program run. Having a larger support staff could also enhance the experience of the volunteers and get needed answers quicker than what is currently being experienced.

10. Why is Oregon Trails Council interested in Crater Lake Council? What's in it for them? Would they consider us a financial burden?

The Crater Lake Council and the Oregon Trail Council potential merger would be mutually beneficial. Both councils are similar in membership numbers. Merging as partners would get rid of some redundancy in resources and give us a chance to reallocate funds to better support our local Scout volunteers and units, including the hiring of more District Executives to serve our local communities. Having more support staff could also mean higher quality customer service because the workload would be split more evenly among more employees.

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