



**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA\***  
NATIONAL COUNCIL

March 13, 2019

To: All BSA Vietnamese Scouting Leaders

Re: BSA National Vietnamese Scouting Committee (NVSC)

It has come to our attention that there continues to be some confusion amongst Vietnamese Scout leaders and units regarding how Vietnamese Scouting works in the United States. I'm hoping this letter helps clarify that BSA's only official voice on Vietnamese Scouting in the USA is the National Vietnamese Scouting Committee (NVSC).

Please know the BSA National Council wants to support and grow Scouting in the Vietnamese community. BSA strongly supports cultural heritage in our Scouting programs and Vietnamese Scouting traditions have enriched Scouting experiences in the United States, especially where Lien Doan Scouting units are operating. BSA is also mindful that Vietnamese Scout units share common bonds and needs such as heritage, culture, language and social experiences which collectively help make Vietnamese Scouting units strong.

The International Central Committee on Vietnamese Scouting (ICCVS) is not a committee of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The committee, positions, purpose, and operational procedures for the ICCVS established at a meeting held in Costa Mesa, California, on July 2-3, 1983, are no longer valid. Many Vietnamese Scout leaders and parents believe that the ICCVS is connected to the BSA, but it is not.

The BSA extended an invitation to some members of the ICCVS/HDTU-HDVN leadership to join the BSA's National Vietnamese Scouting Committee at a meeting held on June 7, 2018, in Santa Ana, California. The only Vietnamese Scouting committee that is actually a part of the Boy Scouts of America and is allowed to speak on behalf of Vietnamese Scouting in the USA is the BSA National Vietnamese Scouting Committee (NVSC), (see attached committee charter). Mr. De Tan Nguyen serves as staff advisor to this committee and has the responsibility for the Vietnamese Scouting program in the U.S.A., and the current chair is Mr. Hui Nhat Ly from Buena Park, California.

All Vietnamese-American families are encouraged and welcome to join local Vietnamese Scouting family units (Lien Doan), and the service functions are the responsibility of the local councils. The members of Vietnamese Scouting family units—Cub Scout packs, Scouts BSA troops, and Venturing crews—who are registered with the Boy Scouts of America enjoy the

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same benefits that are entitled to all members of the BSA. This includes participation in local council and national council events/activities that comply with the BSA policies and standards.

Vietnamese Scouting national and international events are the responsibility of the BSA National Vietnamese Scouting Committee (NVSC). These events include the Vietnamese International Jamboree; Vietnamese Scouting culture and traditions; Venturing Super Camps; Wood Badge; and any others that are supported and sponsored by the BSA national council.

Please address all questions or concerns to De Tan Nguyen, at 214-505-1328 or [detan.nguyen@scouting.org](mailto:detan.nguyen@scouting.org).

Yours in Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PWS', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick W. Sterrett  
Assistant Chief Scout Executive  
National Director of Field Service

Attachment: BSA National Vietnamese Scouting Committee Charter

cc: De Tan Nguyen, BSA Staff Advisor, NVSC

## **NATIONAL VIETNAMESE SCOUTING COMMITTEE CHARTER**

**Date:** September 6, 2018

**Purpose of the Committee:**

- To assist local councils in the expansion of Scouting to members of the Vietnamese communities, helping to promote Scouting and form new units where needed.
- To assist in organizing a Vietnamese Scouting Committee in each council where needed.
- To work closely with the Vietnamese Scouting community to better communicate the needs of the community to the National Council.
- To be serve as the channel of communication between the National council and the Vietnamese Scouting Community in the United States.
- To foster understanding of the Vietnamese culture in the hearts and minds of other Scouters.
- To help preserve and promote appropriate Traditional Vietnamese Scouting and Vietnamese culture.
- To promote world Scouting brotherhood and fellowship by participating in various local councils as well national and international events.
- To promote the earning of various awards and recognition by youth members and adults.
- To promote and provide leadership training opportunities for both youth and adults.
- To promote and provide activity opportunities for both youth and adults.
- To help develop evaluate bilingual literature (English/Vietnamese).

**Reports to (committee or person):** Membership and Relationships Committee

**Staff Advisor:** Mr. De Tan Nguyen, BSA Training Director

**Committee Chair and Members:**

- Committee Chair – Mr. Hui Nhut Ly
- Committee Executive Board Members – Mr. Ron Coleman
- Committee Member at Large – any BSA registered adult leaders (see roster)

**Final Approval Authority of Committee (delegation of authority):**

Approve through proper channels.



**Annual Action Plan Items:**

Work with local councils in Northern California; Southern California; Houston, Texas; Washington, D.C.; Seattle, WA; Portland, OR; and other areas where Vietnamese populations are concentrated to organize new Scouting units and invite Vietnamese families to join Scouting.

To assist local councils to organize a Vietnamese Scouting Committee in each council where needed.

Plan and execute Scouting training events (nationally) with a Vietnamese emphasis, namely BSA Wood Badge, Vietnamese Venturing Super Camp, Outdoor Leadership Trainings for Vietnamese Scout Leaders.

**Committee Meeting Dates:**

The National Vietnamese Scouting Sub-Committee will meet once or twice a year and/or as needed. In addition, the executive board members meeting will coincide with the BSA Annual Meeting and National Executive Board meetings.