

STATEMENT ON DISTRICT REALIGNMENT

On May 20, 2021, the Executive Board of the Norwela Council voted unanimously to realign the Caddo and Cherokee Districts into one District. This will become effective July 1, 2021. There are many reasons for this decision including:

- Grow in-school Scouting through Scoutreach
- Grow overall membership
- Improve youth and unit retention rates
- Streamline fundraising efforts in Caddo Parish
- Streamline and share volunteer resources
- Churchill Plan compliance

What does this mean for our units and volunteers in these Districts?

The Scoutreach Division will continue to serve in-school Scouting units while expanding its reach throughout all nine parishes of the Council as it was originally intended to do. Traditional Scouting units in the current Caddo and Cherokee Districts, along with the volunteer leadership, will now be realigned into one new District.

This new model will re-establish a new Scoutreach footprint, strengthen serving traditional units, allow for the hiring of more Program Aides to deliver Scouting in outlying parishes, strengthening both the Scoutreach and new District program delivery, and provide for stronger District operations and program delivery within Caddo Parish.

Other benefits and outcomes will include a more visible and vibrant presence Council-wide, broader volunteer and donor pools, increased collaborative partnerships, closing service gaps in overlapping areas and avoiding duplicity, and more efficient manpower; both volunteer and staff.

With this new beginning will come creating a new District and District operations. Units will continue meeting as they have been. The District Committees and Commissioner staffs will begin working cooperatively to strengthen support to the units. And youth will continue receiving the Scouting program. Volunteers within Caddo Parish will soon have the opportunity to vote on a new District name which will keep in the tradition of honoring Native American tribes indigenous to northwest Louisiana as the other Districts in Norwela do. More details and possible names to consider will be forthcoming.

Change is both constant and inevitable. Look at a Scout Handbook from 1910 and the current edition. They're nothing alike but both provide the tools for successful Scouting. We, as both a

Council and movement, must continue to grow and evolve to provide our programs to as many young people and their families as possible.

We hope that the Caddo and Cherokee volunteers will embrace this opportunity for growth, opportunity, better service, and most importantly, providing quality Scouting experiences for more young people and their families as Scouting continues to grow and evolve.