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# WHAT'S UP

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# Embracing GERMANY

## Alpine Cattle Drives

By Stacy Roman

Cattle drives invoke images harkening back to the Old West. Lone ranchers sporting a ten-gallon Stetson attempting to lasso a stray cow while riding a trusty steed across vast miles of arid, cacti-riddled landscape a la John Wayne, or the less-glamorous “City Slickers.” However, if you ask your friendly German neighbor about cattle drives, you’ll likely get a much different answer. The “Almabtrieb” or “Vihscheid” is the annual Alpine cattle drive which takes place in the high altitudes of the Bavarian mountains. It’s an event you won’t want to miss.

### WHAT EXACTLY IS “ALMABTRIEB” AND “VIEHSCHIED?”

“Almabtrieb” and “Vihscheid” are basically the same thing — an Alpine cattle drive. In the Allgäu region of Bavaria, it’s referred to as “Vihscheid” or cattle separation. Near Berchtesgaden as well as in Austria and Switzerland, it’s more commonly known as “Almabtrieb.” Dating back to the Bronze Age, this time-honored tradition is engrained in German culture. Each spring, farmers and ranchers lead their branded cattle up to the higher pastures in the Alps. During the summer, the cows munch and graze their way around these green meadows. Not only does this help feed the cattle, but also helps reduce mountain erosion.

As the leaves begin to change and fall rears its head toward the end of September, it’s time to bring the cattle back down the mountains. Farmers dressed in traditional Bavarian garb (think Lederhosen, Dirndls and fedoras) lead their herd back to town. To celebrate, the cattle are often adorned with stunning floral headdresses, wreaths and gigantic metal bells which clang incessantly as they make their way home. Once the cows make it to the final destination, it’s time to start the party. Festivals with local fare, plenty of frosty beverages and traditional music are held. It’s quite similar to Oktoberfest, only a little rowdier.

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

“Almabtrieb” and “Vihscheid” are subject to changes and cancellations, so you’ll want to check the visitor websites to be sure of the dates and details. In light of the recent pandemic, this year’s events may be smaller or may not be held at all. Also, if even just one cow meets an untimely demise or is severely injured during the summer months while up in the mountains, the procession is usually held without the fanfare and festival out of respect. If the cattle drive takes place, it usually occurs mid to late September. Most popular in the Tyrol, Allgäu and Berchtesgaden regions, each “Almabtrieb” carries its own distinct flare. In Schönau, the cows are herded onto a boat which takes them across the crystal-clear waters of Königssee. In some areas, other animals such as goats or sheep may join in the long walk home.

While the notion of cattle drives is considerably different from what we’re used to in the States, it’s no less spectacular to witness at least once while you’re stationed in Germany. They don’t party until the cows come home — they party because they came home. ■





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## GERMANY'S HIGHLIGHT

# Fall Colors

By Amanda Palumbo



Grab your  
pumpkin-spice latte  
and Banana Republic scarf  
because it is the season that  
gives us the reason  
to live: fall.



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Jokes aside, what we love about Germany in spring and summer, its lush green vegetation, is why we fall in love all over again come September. The temperature starts to drop, the air becomes crisper and the leaves evolve into new hues. There really isn't a bad view in Germany during autumn, but there are a few key places to snap that Instagram-worthy photo of all those bright #fallcolors.

## Karlstal Gorge

Karlstal Gorge makes a lot of our lists and for good reason: it's great for families, easily accessible and gorgeous all year long. Nestled in the Palatine Forest, these moss-covered rocky walls take on a magical new persona as the leaves change. Its architect, Friedrich Ludwig von Sckell, said it best when he described it as, "One of the most beautiful valleys of this type that I have seen." Friedrich enhanced its natural beauty in the 1780s and it's drawn thousands of visitors each year ever since.

The designer created a trail filled with wooden bridges leading to a gazebo perfectly placed next to a running stream. In the spring, the gorge is bursting with a bright range of green as the sun reflects off the gazebo's moss-covered roof. As the air starts to chill and the leaves change, Rheinland Pfalz's treasured gem metamorphosizes into a fall fairytale. What makes this place so unique is that while the leaves change into a range of oranges, yellows and browns, the moss maintains its chartreuse color. It's the perfect spot to snap a quick family photo that will be the Christmas card envy of your family.

## Moselle Valley

If you're an avid Stripes reader, and I know you are, last month we featured the Moselle River Valley as a prime wine country spot. Come late September, all those vineyards put on a theatrical display exploding with color along Mother Moselle's rolling riverbanks. The area is normally chalked full of wine festivals and carnivals in the fall, however, the current pandemic has canceled all of them. The good news is, you can still enjoy what this area has to offer by visiting its quaint villages like Bernkastel-Kues and Cochem.

Moselle River cruises run year-round and offer a perfect and relaxing way to take in the artisanal autumn colors. Imagine sipping a glass of fine Riesling grown and produced from the very vineyards you're admiring as your boat sails down the river. Tickets start at just 11 euros.

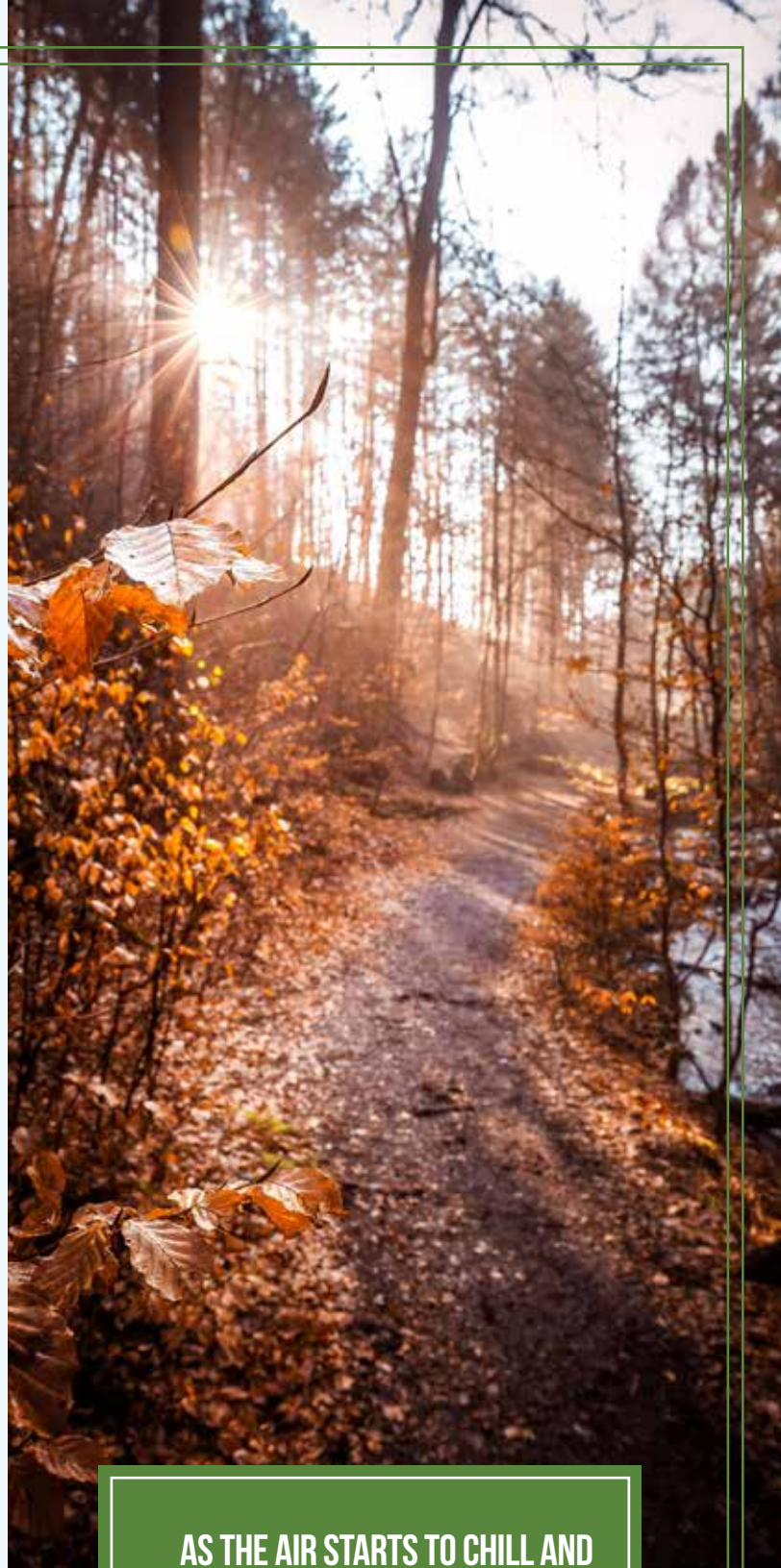
## Rhine Gorge

This scenic 65-kilometer stretch along the Rhine River between Bingen and Koblenz has provided breathtaking views for centuries. There are so many reasons why this area is so special, from its rich history of a long-popular shipping route to its microclimate giving a home to species not found anywhere else. But, what this area does in the autumn months is a sight that no photo could possibly do justice.

The prime fall color spot is Loreley, or Lorelei, a rock formation towering 433 feet in the air, overlooking St. Goarshausen and the River Rhine. Hundreds of trees put on their greatest performance, presenting a kaleidoscope of colors begging to be photographed. Also visible from this lookout point is Burg Katz, a castle constructed in the 14th century, snuggled amongst trees providing a striking backdrop as it sits on a ledge overlooking the river. Some lucky soul calls that castle home, as it is privately owned and not open to visitors.

## Good to know:

Autumn officially starts on September 22nd. Fall colors are usually at their peak around mid-October. While out admiring all the colors, make sure to have a jacket and an umbrella handy. Germany's weather can be very unpredictable in the fall. ■



**AS THE AIR STARTS TO CHILL AND  
THE LEAVES CHANGE, RHEINLAND  
PFALZ'S TREASURED GEM  
METAMORPHOSIZES INTO  
A FALL FAIRYTALE.**



# *Rediscover Enchanting* **GERMANY**

By Stacy Roman

This time of year in Germany is almost magical. There's a chill to the air, the days grow shorter and festival season is usually in full swing. However, this year is a little different. While the leaves transform into brilliant shades of red and orange, most of the social landscape has changed. With the cancelation of festivals—including the world-famous Oktoberfest—it can feel a bit deflating. Don't let it get you down! Now is a fantastic time to rediscover how amazing our host nation truly is. From breathtaking scenery and bustling cities to time honored traditions and a bit of deep-fried goodness, there are plenty of reasons to fall in love with Germany.



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## FULL OF WONDEROUS SIGHTS

There is no shortage of spectacular places to see. Castles dating back hundreds of years can be found everywhere. Even just driving on the autobahn, you're likely to spot them from afar. Nestled in valleys or perched atop a hill overlooking towns and rivers, some such as the timeless Schloss Heidelberg stand as testaments to their former glory. Others like Neuschwanstein and Burg Eltz boast unparalleled vistas and harken back to fairy tales from childhood.

In the north, the isolated wind-swept island of Sylt offers miles of sand dunes and pristine coastline. In the west, vineyards line the vast rolling hills along the Mosel and Rhine rivers. Fall is my favorite time to visit, as the changing leaves set the hillsides ablaze with crimson and gold. The Black Forest is a favorite for many. With hiking trails and charming villages, the region is also known for intricately carved handmade cuckoo clocks. Bordering Switzerland and Austria are the majestic mountains. Filled with jagged peaks, crystal clear lakes, deep ravines and gorges, the Alps are simply breathtaking.



Eibsee Lake,  
Bavaria



## VIBRANT METROPOLISES

Even if you're not fond of busy urban centers, Germany's cities are wonderfully eclectic and unique. Housing the European Central Bank and the German stock market, Frankfurt is a burgeoning financial powerhouse. Along with its skyscrapers and blossoming businesses, Frankfurt is home to plenty of traditions. Each year it hosts the Buchmesse—the world's largest book fair. It also has its share of culinary favorites with "Apfelwein," apple wine and "Grüne Soße," green sauce which originate in the region.

The capital city of Berlin has a rich and complex history. Once split into two, East and West Berlin, signs of the dichotomy are still visible today. Visitors can trace the delineating line of the Berlin Wall by walking along the bricks which are cemented into the ground. Remnants of the wall remain and are now a living art gallery.



Brandenburg Gate



Reaching further back are museums dedicated to coming to terms with the atrocities committed in World War II. A visible reminder of the war still stands at the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. The bombed shell of the building pierces the sky, with gaping holes in the tower. While the church was rebuilt in a more modern style, the original remains as testament to the cost of war.



German  
currywurst



Legendary beers  
of Germany

## EAT AND DRINK ALL THE THINGS

There is an amazing amount of good German eats to discover. Sure, we all miss our legit Mexican cuisine; however, I promise you there are plenty of delicious dishes which might help make up for it. "Käsebrezels," cheese pretzels bigger than your face, crispy golden weinerschnitzel, and melt-in-your-mouth "apfelstrudel" topped with vanilla sauce are just a few tasty morsels to try. Although each region has its own specialties (Lebkuchen in Nuremberg, Flammkuchen in Saarland and Rheinland-Pfalz), one of the most popular dishes around the country is currywurst. Thought to have originated in Berlin, this savory dish consists of a cooked bratwurst slathered in a curry-based ketchup sauce and is often accompanied by piping hot frites.

Of course, it wouldn't be a meal without having something to wash it down with. Grab a liter or "Maß" of one of Germany's legendary beers.

Once brewed to perfection according to Reinheitsgebot, or purity laws, beer was created with water, barley and hops. The brews created and sold at Oktoberfest each year must follow the tradition of Reinheitsgebot. More a wine drinker? Taste your way along the Deutsche Weinstraße, or German Wine Road. Spanning the rolling hills along the Mosel and Rhine Rivers, discover award-winning wines which makes this region so special.

When you're first assigned to Germany, it's easy to start planning your trips to other countries and cities. However, don't forget to look right in your backyard. From spectacular landscapes, culinary hikes and seasonal markets, there is so much to explore and rediscover in this fantastic host nation we're lucky enough to call home. Although this year may look a bit different from most, the traditions and culture of Germany still shines through. ■



THINK OF ALL  
THE BEAUTY  
STILL LEFT  
AROUND  
YOU AND BE  
HAPPY!

*Anne Frank*





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# 10 Reasons to Love Germany

By Mary Del Rosario

1. The number of castles there are will make you feel like you're living in a fairytale. Burg Eltz, Hohenzollern Castle, Lichtenstein Castle, and Cochem Castle are among the popular ones.
2. Tasty dishes such as "käsespätzle," cheesy noodles, bratwursts, schnitzel and döner will please your palette and will warm your soul.
3. Beer and wine in copious amounts.
4. There are countless fests to partake in to include Oktoberfest, Bad Dürkheim Wine Fest and many culinary hikes.
5. The locals pride themselves as being efficient and environmentally friendly.
6. Its centrally located position makes traveling to other countries easily accessible.
7. The charming Christmas Markets will be an event you'll look forward to every holiday season.
8. There are bakeries around every corner filled with heavenly baked goods and the freshest bread.
9. From the Black Forest to the Fairytale road, enchanting cities are to be found in every area.
10. You can take beautiful photos wearing your dirndl or lederhosen with a castle or field as the backdrop.



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# Mespelbrunn Castle



## WHY GO THERE

This romantic location, hidden in a forest of colors, is one of few castles that remains unscathed from various wars. Its survival is likely due to its moderately concealed location within the mountain forests. Though the castle is not particularly large, it offers a delightful insight into the past, especially since it has continuously been inhabited.



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# *Mespelbrunn Castle*

# ON YOUR RADAR

By Jessica Zen

**Nestled in the forest of the Spessart Mountains and surrounded by a water-filled moat, Mespelbrunn Castle is truly a historical gem. Known as a water castle, it features a mashup of late medieval and early Renaissance architectural styles. This amazing piece of history is untouched by the ravages of war and still functions as a residence today in Germany. This little castle is the perfect spot for a day trip from Frankfurt, as it is located just outside the city.**

This lovely castle dates back to 1412 when it was just a modest house. Hamann Echter was the first owner and was given the title of Vizedom of Aschaffenburg from Prince Johann von Nassau, the Archbishop of Mainz. The original house has undergone many updates to become an impressive castle. In 1427, surrounding walls, towers and a defensive moat were added. Today the only thing remaining from the 15th century is the impressive round tower. Most of what you can see today was built in the 16th century, from 1551-1569. The architectural updates strongly reflect a traditional Renaissance manor house.

Perhaps the most famous Echter family member to live in the castle was Julius Echter (1545-1617). He was the Prince-Bishop of Würzburg and constructed multiple churches in the area in an effort to perform an ecclesiastical restoration of the Catholic Church. These new churches were Gothic style, featuring steep, black slate roofs. In just three years, around 100,000 people returned to the Catholic faith. The Echter family owned the castle until 1665, when the last male heir passed. Through marriage, the Counts of Ingelheim took ownership of the castle and eventually opened it to the public in 1930 for tours.

When you visit the castle, you'll see a square-shaped central building resting on the east side of the lake. The inner courtyard is surrounded by multiple-story wings and there are two towers. The southern wing of the castle is currently inhabited by the Counts of Ingelheim. However, you can still tour the north wing and other parts of the castle. Rooms open for touring feature the family's furniture that has been collected over the years. You can visit the Knight's Hall, chapel, banquet hall, which is full of weapons and the ancestor's hall, featuring family portraits. There is also a particularly interesting Chinese room that features items from East Asia.

If you're hungry, the little cafe on site is a great place to grab a bite to eat. Here you can find schnitzel, sandwiches, salads, coffee, brats and more. Enjoys views of the castle while you fuel up and enjoy the beauty of the surrounding forest.

Mespelbrunn Castle is a great day trip from Frankfurt, as it is only about an hour away via A3. Once you arrive, you must take a 40-minute tour to see the interior. All tours are in German, unless you request one in English prior to arrival. There is ample parking just outside the castle grounds.



Add Mespelbrunn Castle to your growing list of travel destinations. After all, it's not every day you get to see a castle that is surrounded by a moat, has a 15th-century tower that is standing and is still inhabited! Step back in time and appreciate the intricate architectural styles and the beautiful nature that surrounds the castle grounds. Who knows, maybe you'll be inspired to build a "castle" and grounds of your own some day! ■



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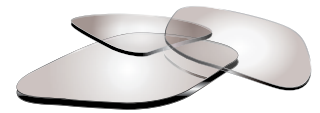
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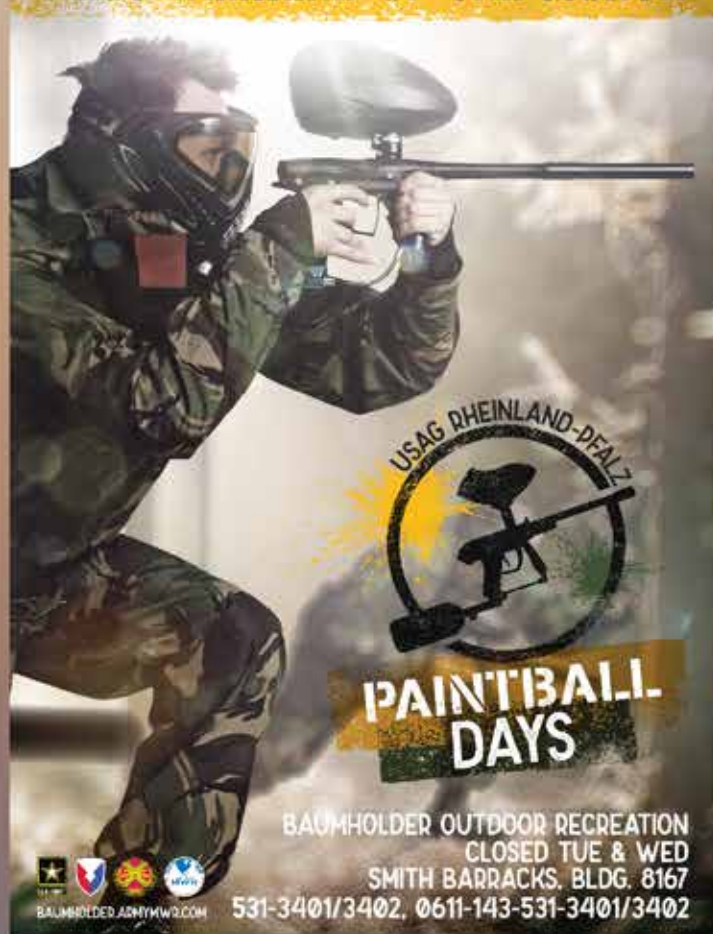
# FAMILY AND MWR

SEPTEMBER 2020

## Happenings

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### MORE THAN A GOLF COURSE

Rolling Hills Golf Course offers more than just a beautiful nine-hole course! Rental equipment as well as a Foot Golf and Disc Golf course are onsite! Switch up your PT routine or enjoy a great family day outside! For more information, contact Rolling Hills Golf Course, Wetzel Kaserne, Bldg. 8888, 485-7299, 0678-36-7299.

### OUTDOOR RECREATION CAMPGROUND

Get back to nature and go camping! Located off of Wetzel Kaserne, campgrounds are available for rent all year round. 40 RV sites, three group sites (up to 100 people), three yurts and multiple pavilions are available for rental. Call Baumholder Outdoor Recreation to reserve a space today. Smith Bks., Bldg. 8167, 531-3401/3402, 0611-143-3401/3402.

### ALL ABOUT YOU SPA

The All About You Spa, located on Smith Barracks at the Lagerhof Inn, Bldg. 8076, is open by appointment only Mon-Sat from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Make an appointment for manicures, pedicures, facials and waxing by calling 531-2915 or 0611-143-531-2915. Services and prices at [baumholder.armymwr.com/programs/all-bout-you](http://baumholder.armymwr.com/programs/all-bout-you).



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PRESENTS

# 2020/2021 SEASON

2020 - 2021  
MAIN STAGE

*Bringing Broadway to the KMC*

- Disaster
- Hello Dolly
- Anatomy of a Murder
- The Rocky Horror Shadow Show
- Madagascar Jr., A Musical Adventure



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*Theater in an Intimate Setting*



- An Evening of One Acts
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- Chicago

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STUDIO

2020 - 2021

2020 - 2021  
KMC YOUTH

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## Sexual Abuse Claims in Boy Scouts Bankruptcy

**Regardless of how old you are today or when the sexual abuse occurred, you need to file your claim by 5 p.m. (Eastern Time) on November 16, 2020.**

The Boy Scouts of America (“BSA”) has filed bankruptcy in order to restructure its nonprofit organization and pay Sexual Abuse Survivors. Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights against BSA, BSA Local Councils and organizations that sponsored your troop or pack and provides information about the case, *In re Boy Scouts of America and Delaware BSA, LLC*, No. 20-10343 (Bankr. D. Del.). This notice is a short summary. For more detail, visit [www.OfficialBSAclaims.com](http://www.OfficialBSAclaims.com) or call 1-866-907-2721.

### Who Should File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

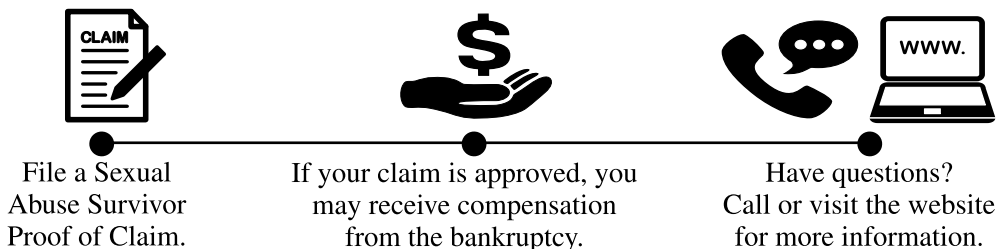
**Anyone who was sexually abused during their time in Scouting, on or before February 18, 2020, must file a claim.** This includes sexual abuse in connection with Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, or any entity or activity associated with Scouting. Sexual Abuse Claims include, but are not limited to: sexual misconduct, exploitation, or touching, sexual comments about a person or other behaviors that led to abuse, even if the behavior was not sexual or against the law, and regardless of whether you thought the behavior was sexual abuse or not. These acts could be between a: (1) child and an adult or (2) child and another child.

### When and How Should I File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

You should file a claim using the Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim by **November 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)**. **If you do not file a timely Sexual Abuse Claim, you may lose rights against BSA, BSA Local Councils or organizations that sponsored your troop or pack, including any right to compensation.** Only BSA is in bankruptcy. If you have a claim against the BSA Local Councils or other organizations, you must take additional legal action to preserve and pursue your rights.

**Your information will be kept private.** You can download and file a claim at [www.OfficialBSAclaims.com](http://www.OfficialBSAclaims.com) or call 1-866-907-2721 for help on how to file a claim by mail. Scouting participants who were at least 18 years of age at the time the sexual abuse began may also have claims related to sexual abuse and should consult the appropriate claim form at [www.OfficialBSAclaims.com](http://www.OfficialBSAclaims.com).

### ACT NOW Before Time Runs Out:



**If a plan to reorganize BSA is approved, it could release claims you hold against certain third parties, including against BSA Local Councils and organizations that sponsored your troop or pack.** Please visit the website to learn more.

### Other Support

BSA will fund in-person counseling for current or former Scouts or their family. To request in-person counseling, please call 1-866-907-2721 or email [restructuring@scouting.org](mailto:restructuring@scouting.org).

**Your information will be kept private.**





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