

# BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA

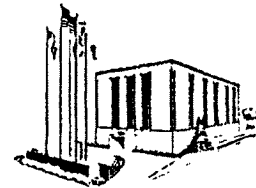
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Co. 527

November 30, 1978

Paul I. Ernst, Director  
Registration & Subscription Service  
National Council  
Boy Scouts of America  
North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902

Dear Mr. Ernst:

This letter is in reference to an inquiry about Michael D. Nonclerg, Scoutmaster, op 910, Allegheny Trails Council (#527), and also to confirm a phone conversation you had on November 28, 1978 with Michael Kiernan of Field Service.

On October 12, 1978 at approximately 4:45 p.m., I received a phone call from [redacted] (phone [redacted]). Her son has been registered in Troop 910, Hankey Farms. Her call was to complain about physical harm done to her son recently by the troop's Scoutmaster. It occurred on a campout the troop was having on the weekend of September 28th through October 1st. The situation she conveyed to me was that the Scouts arose early one morning, waking the Scoutmaster. He came out of his tent, telling them to go back to bed. During the course of his conversation with the Scouts she claimed that he punched her son in the chest. As a result, he has bruises on the chest and has also been complaining about pains in his side. She has had him under doctor's care since that point. She finally called to complain after the urging of other parents in the troop. She indicated that it is not uncommon for the Scoutmaster to use abusive language and treat the boys in a rough manner. As a result of this incident her son has quit the troop and she has considered consulting an attorney.

This complaint was shared with the Key III of the district. The District Commissioner approached the Troop Committee Chairman to alert him of the complaint. The chairman agreed to follow through on the complaint.

The results reported back to the District Commissioner were as follows. The Scoutmaster admitted to the Troop Chairman that when the incident occurred at 5:00 a.m., he did shove the Scout. In followup, the Scoutmaster contacted the Scout's father. The father

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Mr. Paul I. Ernst

was not overly concerned about the situation. The Scoutmaster also attempted to discuss the situation with the Scout's mother, but the mother would not listen. He then finally attempted to contact the Scout and ask him to return to the troop, but was never able to talk to the Scout.

At this point, the Troop Committee seems to be satisfied that all necessary action was taken to follow up on this unfortunate incident. They are still willing to approve and support Mr. Nonclerg as their Scoutmaster.

The District Commissioner is satisfied with the results, but will remain sensitive to any possible future developments.

Sincerely yours,



John W. Hayden  
Field Director

JWH/mc

cc: Michael Kiernan

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