

# Ineligible Volunteer Record Sheet

## REGISTRATION SERVICE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Date: March 22, 1991

Full name John A. Backoff Social Security no. unknown  
 Address [redacted] (Do not use initials if you can get the full name.)  
 City Boyne City State MI ZIP code 49712  
 Date of birth unknown 5/1/44 (This is important: it should be exact.)  
 Approximate age 50 (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known.)  
 Religion Methodist Nationality (citizen of) USA  
 Occupation Methodist Pastor  
 Education unknown  
 Weight 240 Height 5'11" Race White Color of hair Brown Color of eyes unknown  
 Distinguishing physical characteristics Heavy set  
 Hobbies or special interests Camping  
 Married  Single  Name of spouse unknown  
 Children: Number ? Names and ages At least one - [redacted]

### SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

| Unit no.          | City              | State             | Position          | Date registered      | Date resigned     |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| <u>C3049</u>      | <u>Boyne City</u> | <u>MI</u>         | <u>WL</u>         | <u>1988 (approx)</u> | <u>3/6/91</u>     |
| <u>[redacted]</u> | <u>[redacted]</u> | <u>[redacted]</u> | <u>[redacted]</u> | <u>[redacted]</u>    | <u>[redacted]</u> |

Chartered organization Knights of Columbus

Special recognitions OA, Scouter's Award

Incident: Type 2 Date Prior to 1988 Resolution 7 - Guilty

#### Type

#### Resolution

1. Scouting related
2. Not Scouting related
3. Homosexual (not specifically involving youth)

1. Internal (only BSA members know)
2. Criminal action
3. Court action
4. Probationary status
5. Reported to state agency

#### Check-off list of attached documentation

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Description of incident | 5. Offender's statement                 |
| 2. Statement by victim(s)  | 6. Official notification of termination |
| 3. Media reports           | 7. Found guilty/innocent by court       |
| 4. Legal proceedings       |   |

Council Scenic Trails # 174 Signed [Signature]  
Scout executive

September 9, 1991

Mr. Paul J. Ryan  
Scout Executive  
Scenic Trails Council, No. 274

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: JOHN A. BACKOFF

Dear Paul:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Ineligible Volunteer File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration and Statistical Service

ab

cc: East Central Region,

READY FOR FILE

SEP 06 1991

ERIN O'RILEY



SCENIC TRAILS COUNCIL #274  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

2308 US-31 North, Traverse City, Michigan 49684  
(616) 938-2200

August 21, 1991

Paul Ernst, National Director of Registration  
National Office  
Boy Scouts of America  
P. O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079

PERSONAL/CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Paul:

Earlier this summer, I was speaking to you on the telephone with regard to the ineligible volunteer file. The content of that call was in regard to a different person than the one mentioned in the materials attached. At that time I asked you if you had an ineligible volunteer record sheet, from us, on John A. Backoff. You said that you had no record on him, I thought that I had sent it to you in March and destroyed our copies as per your instructions.

While cleaning the files today, a copy of the letter we sent him and supporting material was found. I am therefore enclosing that material at this time. Since we deleted his name from the membership files the ineligible volunteer record sheet is not quite complete. My registrar will return from vacation next week and I will ask him to go through his files and see if we can find additional information on this individual. If we do, I will send you an updated ineligible volunteer record sheet.

Specifics of this case are as follows:

- I received a copy of a letter sent out by the Grand Traverse District Superintendent of the United Methodist Church, dated March 6, to all church members. It was not sent to us, but a church member gave our district executive a copy. I received it from the district executive on March 15. The copy of this letter is enclosed.
- I telephoned Marvin R. Rosa, the Grand Traverse District Superintendent of the Methodist Church and signator of the letter, and requested additional information. He stated that the Methodist bishop had suspended Rev. Backoff from his pastoral duties of the United Methodist Church of Boyne City, Michigan, based on a report that the Methodist Church had received from the Michigan State Police. He stated that this is all he knew about the charges against Rev. Backoff.

(continued)

*Added to file  
related to  
not in 1989 file*

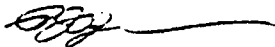
- I then called the cubmaster of Cub Scout Pack 49 of Boyne City and inquired as to the status of Rev. Backoff with the pack. The cubmaster stated that Rev. Backoff had resigned the Cub Pack in early March. On March 22 we then sent the registration denial letter, the attachment, and refunded his \$7 registration fee. We then forwarded the ineligible volunteer record sheet with accompanying material to you but for some reason you never got it. I checked further into this case and have found out that Rev. Backoff was accused of fondling a 13 year old girl. This incident happened previous to his assignment in Boyne City in some location in down-state Michigan, a distance from here.
- Just last week we received the original check back in the mail with the word "void" written across it. We do not know why we received this check back.
- We just found out, today, that Rev. Backoff was found guilty of a minor sexual offense and is serving 30 days jail in Manistee County to be followed by probation.

Please find enclosed:

1. Ineligible volunteer record sheet.
2. Letter from the United Methodist Church, dated March 6.
3. Letter of registration denial, dated March 22.
4. Review addendum instructions that were enclosed with the registration in that letter.

I am sorry that this information did not get to you in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Paul J. Ryan  
Scout Executive

PJR/sb  
enclosures

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 6, 1991

Dear Members & Friends of Boyne City and Boyne Falls  
United Methodist Churches:

It is with a sense of deep concern and sadness that we write this letter to inform you that Rev. John Backoff has been placed on Leave of Absence effective March 5, 1991. While we are continuing to process the ramifications of this decision, Rev. Backoff is relieved of all pastoral duties and responsibilities until further notice.

This decision has been made by the Bishop as the result of a felony charge against Rev. Backoff related to inappropriate behavior with a minor in a previous appointment. Please, be reminded, at this moment he is only under arraignment. We do not yet know the dates of hearings or what the final disposition will be. However, because of the seriousness of the charge, immediate action is required, placing Rev. Backoff on Leave of Absence.

There is much yet to be finalized as arrangements are made for Pastoral care, pulpit supply, etc., in the time that is ahead for our congregations. We are assured of the full support and cooperation of our District Superintendent, Rev. Marvin Rosa, and Bishop Judith Craig, as we carefully and prayerfully work our way through this.

Please give Rev. Backoff the necessary courtesy of not asking him for pastoral services, counseling, funerals, weddings, etc. However, we would hope we can all find appropriate ways to extend him our continued personal and prayerful support in this very troubled time in his life.

A final word of caution for all of us: it will not be helpful to John, his son [redacted], or our congregations for persons to begin to speculate, draw conclusions, or pass judgement before those in authority have arrived at the final disposition of this entire matter.

We are confident that every member and friend of our two congregations will "pray without ceasing" for our churches, those in positions of responsibility and for Rev. Backoff. With God's guidance we will work together to bring stability to this time of uncertainty and change in our lives.

We leave you with the words of Bishop Craig, "May the grace of God hold each of us steady in our confusion and the guidance of God provide us wisdom for whatever decision we are called upon to make.

Prayerfully yours,

Linda J. Mansfield Pastor Parish Chair, Boyne City

Sonia Burns Pastor Parish Chair, Boyne Falls

Marvin R. Rosa Gr. Trav. Dist. Superintendent



SCENIC TRAILS COUNCIL #274  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

2308 US-31 North, Traverse City, Michigan 49684  
(616) 938-2200

March 22, 1991

John A. Backoff  
[REDACTED]

Boyne City, MI 49712

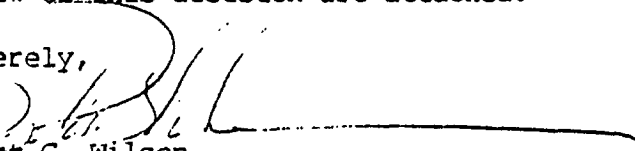
Dear Mr. Backoff:

After careful review, we have decided that your registration with the Boy Scouts of America should be denied. We are therefore compelled to request that you sever any relations that you may have with the Boy Scouts of America. A refund of your registration fee is enclosed.

You should understand that BSA membership registration is a privilege and is not automatically granted to everyone who applies. We reserve the right to refuse registration whenever there is a concern that an individual may not meet the high standards of membership which the BSA seeks to provide for American youth.

If you wish to have this decision reviewed by a BSA regional review committee, please write to the regional director within 60 days of the date of this letter, explaining your version of the facts supporting your claim that your registration as a BSA member should be reinstated. The procedures for a review of this decision are attached.

Sincerely,

  
Robert G. Wilson  
Council President

RGW/sb  
enclosure



**SCENIC TRAILS COUNCIL #274  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

2308 US-31 North, Traverse City, Michigan 49684  
(616) 938-2200

The following information is provided should you desire a review by the East Central Region, BSA, of the decision to deny your registration.

1. Within 60 days, you must request in writing a review of this decision. Your request should be sent to the regional director, East Central Region, BSA. In your request you may include your version of what occurred in support of your claim that your registration should not have been denied.
2. Upon the receipt of your written request, a committee will be appointed to review the situation.
3. You may attend the review hearing, but it is not adversarial in nature and neither the committee nor you will be represented by legal counsel. If you wish, you may be accompanied by no more than two individuals if their testimony might assist the committee in discovering the truth and arriving at a correct decision.
4. The committee will review the facts as presented, and may interview any persons whose testimony might assist them in arriving at a correct decision.
5. You will receive a letter setting forth the decision of the committee.
6. If you disagree with the decision of the committee, you may request a review of this decision by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

East Central Region  
Boy Scouts of America  
230 West Diehl Road  
P O Box 3085  
Naperville, Illinois 60566-7085

MS08

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT SYSTEM

09/27/91

MEMBER DELETE

13:15:28

CNCL 274 PRG/UNIT C3049 SEQ. 024901

FIRST: JOHN A

LAST : BACKOFF

ADDR1:

ADDR2: BOYNE CITY

HI

ADDR3:

ADDR4:

ZIP: 49712

REG STATUS: D ENROLL: 0290 BIRTH: 0844 SEX: M AGENCY: M ADULT/YOUTH: A

POSITION: WL FINDERCODE: 01 PHONE: BULK: MAG-STATUS:

REN DAT: 1291

TRANSFER FROM = CNCL: PGH/UNIT: SEQ: TRANSFER DATE:

MAGAZINES

| TYPE | CNCL | P/UNT | CODE | TRM  | DATE | FIRST | LAST | ORIG | TOTAL | COUNT | PRINTED | DAT  |
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PF2>DELETE PF12>MENU CLR>END

MEMBER DELETED FROM DATABASE SUCCESSFULLY