

Tidewater Council Scouting America's ("TWC") President sent a letter to the President of Colonial Virginia Council ("CVC") today seeking to discuss a plan to consolidate the two councils. Although you may have seen an announcement about an intent to merge CVC with Heart of Virginia Council ("HOVC"), the compelling option is to consolidate CVC with TWC. Accordingly, a merger of CVC and HOVC is not a foregone conclusion.

The TWC letter makes the compelling case that there is limited if any benefit for CVC's Scouts and Scouters (although there may be benefits for its Scout Executive) through a CVC-HOVC merger. On the other hand, there are significant benefits from a discussion with TWC about consolidating CVC and TWC.

	TWC	HOVC
Annual Program Fee	\$24 youth and adult \$12 for first-time Scouts	\$85 youth/ \$25 adult
5-Year Membership	+3.3%	-0.1%
Sept year-over-year Membership	+1.03%	-4.2%
Finances	Runs Budget Surplus	Runs Budget Deficit
Sept year-over-year Units	Flat	-5.91%
Assets	Growing	Declining
Geographic Alignment	Shares Hampton Roads region with CVC	Regionally separate
Camp	Pipsico located in CVC and which CVC uses	Camp far from CVC units
Existing Collaboration	Extensive	Limited
OA Lodge Trend	+2%	-8.8%
Strategic Fit	High	Low

**There are six fundamental truths about discussing a consolidation of TWC and CVC.**

## 1. "This Is the Logical, Common-Sense Option"

A consolidation between Tidewater and Colonial Virginia keeps Scouting local, affordable, and strong in the communities where our families actually live, work, and camp. We already share programs, OA events, and Pipsico—so uniting the councils simply makes sense.

## 2. "Lower Cost, Better Value for Scouts and Scouters"

Joining TWC means every Scout and leader pays **far lower program fees**, and the council keeps more money focused on units instead of overhead. TWC's proven fundraising success means more grants, more unit support, and more investment in programs and camps. A CVC-TWC consolidation merger helps keep Scouting affordable and thriving.

### **3. “Better Camp Access”**

Most CVC units already use Pipsico Scout Reservation because it’s closer, better resourced, and continually improving. Indeed, it is located in CVC with a professional Scouter on site.

### **4. “A Partnership That Already Works”**

Tidewater and Colonial Virginia already train together, camp together, volunteer together and share OA programs—our volunteers and Scouts are already one community. Consolidating simply formalizes a partnership that has existed for years. It strengthens what we’re already doing well.

### **5. “Protect Local Scouting”**

A consolidation with a distant council risks losing the local voice, local priorities, and community connections that make Scouting strong here. A CVC-TWC consolidation keeps decisions in the Hampton Roads area and aligns with our shared geography and culture. It keeps Scouting local and responsive.

### **6. “Stronger Programs for Youth”**

TWC has six straight years of growth in Friends of Scouting, and growth in grants and endowment donations. Its membership is growing and HOVC is shrinking. TWC operates with a budget surplus, HOVC runs a deficit. The better partner for stronger Scouting is clear.