

## Boy Scouts of America files for bankruptcy amid wave of potential lawsuits

Facing a wave of lawsuits over allegations of sexual abuse, the **Boy Scouts** of America **filed** for **bankruptcy** Tuesday in an effort to protect the future of the **embattled** century-old organization.

Boy Scouts 童子军

file 提出

bankruptcy 破产

embattled 严阵以待的；四面楚歌

The filing punctuates a **tumultuous** time for the 110-year-old organization, which continues to be one of the largest youth groups in the United States and an iconic but fading symbol of American culture.

tumultuous 吵闹的；骚乱的

Youth membership has declined more than 26 percent in the past decade. This dramatic drop in numbers has left the Boy Scouts struggling to find ways to remain relevant among increasingly busy children and parents.

Meanwhile, over the past decade, lawsuits, investigations and media reports have revealed internal Boy Scouts documents detailing generations of alleged abusers accused of **preying** on Scouts. An investigator hired by the Scouts said last year that her team had identified 12, 254 victims and 7, 819 **perpetrators** in internal documents from 1946 through 2016.

prey 捕食；伤害

perpetrator 犯罪者

Amid other **high-profile** child abuse scandals and the #MeToo movement, several states have **overhauled** their **statute**-of-limitations laws concerning child sexual abuse, opening the door to **scores of** potential lawsuits against the Boy Scouts.

high-profile 高调的；备受瞩目的

overhaul 彻底检修

statute 法令；法规

scores of 许多；大量

"In a way, this is an acknowledgment finally on the part of the Boy Scouts that they had this enormous problem and the problem is so large that they can't deal with it themselves, " said Michael Pfau, a lawyer who said he represents about 300 alleged victims. "It is a bit of a day of *reckoning* for the Boy Scouts."

day of reckoning 结账日；清算日