What does USTP mean?
USTP is short for Unit Service, Tools and Program. Units are the Center of this new organization. The goal for the Lake Erie Council is to provide incredible service, guidance, coaching and key resources to our units ensuring their long-term health and strength.

Why are we making the change?
For decades, the Boy Scouts of America has operated in the same way. Councils were organized into geographic districts, led by District Executives. Each District had full autonomy over how to set up their volunteer committees. That meant some were larger than others, and there was no consistency between districts. These committees had to accommodate all of the Scouting programs (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing, Exploring, Sea Scouts), even though not all had positions dedicated to them.

In fact, to put this in perspective, the operations model of the BSA, known as the district model, precedes the birth of Venturing, Exploring and even our Cub Scout programs and dates back to when the ONLY program we operated was Boy Scouts. However, through the decade’s new challenges have arisen that the district model was not designed or equipped to address.

In this model, each District Executive was in charge of all Scouting units. Often, fundraising took the most focus, diminishing service to members and volunteers. Because districts are geographically convenient, District Executives were responsible for an uneven number of units and programs. Thus, service and support to units varied across Lake Erie Council, and your zip code helped decide your Scouting experience.

How does this affect my unit?
From the perspective on how you deliver the promises of Scouting to families at your meetings or on your adventures, nothing will be changing. However, with this new model, you can expect units to see better help and support from our teams to help build stronger and healthy units across the entire Council. Units will also see more of their unit serving executives, as they will be visiting multiple times a year.

There will also be teams of volunteers to assist you with things such as budgets, calendar planning, succession planning, community service, and much more. These teams are in the stages of being filled by volunteers. Once these teams are complete, they will be placed in each service area to help a unit in their own program or tools specific way such as assistance with volunteer succession, building a robust calendar and volunteer service portals. Each team will also work alongside the Unit Serving Executive to ensure a unit remains in good health.

What is the difference between a district executive and unit serving executive?
While we as a council move forward with this new plan, we are refocusing our resources to develop a plan to put Units at the Center. This means our Unit Serving Executives will focus on a unit’s health and our volunteer’s needs instead of, for example, fundraising. The new plan also helps focus strictly on a unit specific program. The Unit Serving Executives will be assigned to either the Cub Scout division, the Boy Scout division, or our Young Adult Division that serves our Sea Scouts, Venturers and our Explorers.
In the Cub Scout division, a Unit Serving Executive will serve 25-30 Packs. In the Boy Scout division, a Unit Serving Executive will serve up to 40 units. For our Young Adult Division, three staff members will serve Sea Scouts, Venturing, and Exploring across the council to ensure a quality program takes place.

Our volunteers above the unit level will also be organized this way. As opposed to districts, these grouping of 25 packs or approximately 40 troops will be known as service areas. For our young adult division- the footprint of our council will be its own service area. By dedicating our Service Area teams to the success of our units, we can refocus our resources, our volunteer leaders and our staff on the things that matter most and will make the greatest impact.

What service area is my unit located? And who is my unit serving executive?
Please reference the Lake Erie Council division map that is organized by Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Exploring, Venturing, and Sea Scouts. Your specific unit will display the contact information for the Unit Serving Executive that is working directly with you and your unit.

How do I get involved?
As an ongoing process with a large seven county footprint, we have yet to reach out to everyone to get them engaged. Like we said before teams of volunteers are being recruited and if you are interested in being a leader in a new model or if you’d like additional information, please don’t hesitate to reach out any member of our staff or a member of our field service team.

What happens to district events?
Events that are currently on the calendar for 2018 and 2019 will continue to take place as scheduled. Events and activities will be coordinated in the new the Division structure. Our desire is to offer additional program offerings.

What happens with roundtable?
It is incumbent upon us to make sure that every meeting or training you attend is best-in-class and warrants your involvement. Recently the Lake Erie Council conducted a survey of our unit leaders to help provide feedback on roundtable and help provide insight into how we are currently engaging you and ways in which we might improve that service. A task force of volunteers will be gathering and making recommendations in which how, when and where roundtables should take place.