



**SCOUTS**  
**BSA**

**Program Information and FAQ**  
**October 29, 2018**





Thank you for your support of the Boy Scout program and your interest in expanding your program as part of the inaugural launch of the Scouts BSA program. We are excited to be your partner through this transition as we open the Scouting program to girl participants in addition to our current boy members. This new program will include no changes to the core curriculum, including the same aims and methods as it always has, but will be updated to reflect the expansion of the program for girls as well as boys.

In this guide you will find answers to the commonly asked questions surrounding the new Scouts BSA program. We have attempted to be as thorough as possible at answering the common questions about the program, but our district and council volunteers and staff are here to help support you if you have questions that are not answered in this guide.

To help clarify any questions that you may still have, we will be hosting several information and Q&A sessions at roundtable meetings during the month of October and November. Your District Executive and Unit Commissioner will also be a key resource to guide you through this process.

We encourage you to visit <http://svmbc.org/svmbc/resources/familyscouting/> to learn more about the program and view additional resources.

If your unit is committed to starting a unit, please complete our Scouts BSA Survey. By signing-up you will receive our Scouts BSA newsletter and valuable updates. To sign-up please visit [www.bit.ly/scoutsbsasignup](http://www.bit.ly/scoutsbsasignup)

**If you are interested in starting a new Scouts BSA program for the launch date on February 1, 2019 we request that all new Troops submit their paperwork for processing by December 31<sup>st</sup> to be registered in time for the official launch date.**

These are the minimum requirements to start a new Scouts BSA Troop:

- **1 Chartering Organization** - to sponsor / own the unit. A current charter organization can be used and is required for Linked Troops.
- **4 or 5 Registered Adult Volunteers** – A worksheet of required positions is included with this packet. Linked troops may have multiple committee members, committee chairs, and must have multiple representatives from their Linked Troop. They must also use the same charter organization.
- **5 Youth Members** – Youth members must all be of the same gender and be 11 to 17 years in age. Youth from other programs (Venturing or Sea Scouts) may be multiple registered in both units.

To help guide you through the process, we have included several worksheets at the end of this packet.

Thank you for your interest in the new Scouts BSA Program and we look forward to working with you to start your new Scouts BSA unit!

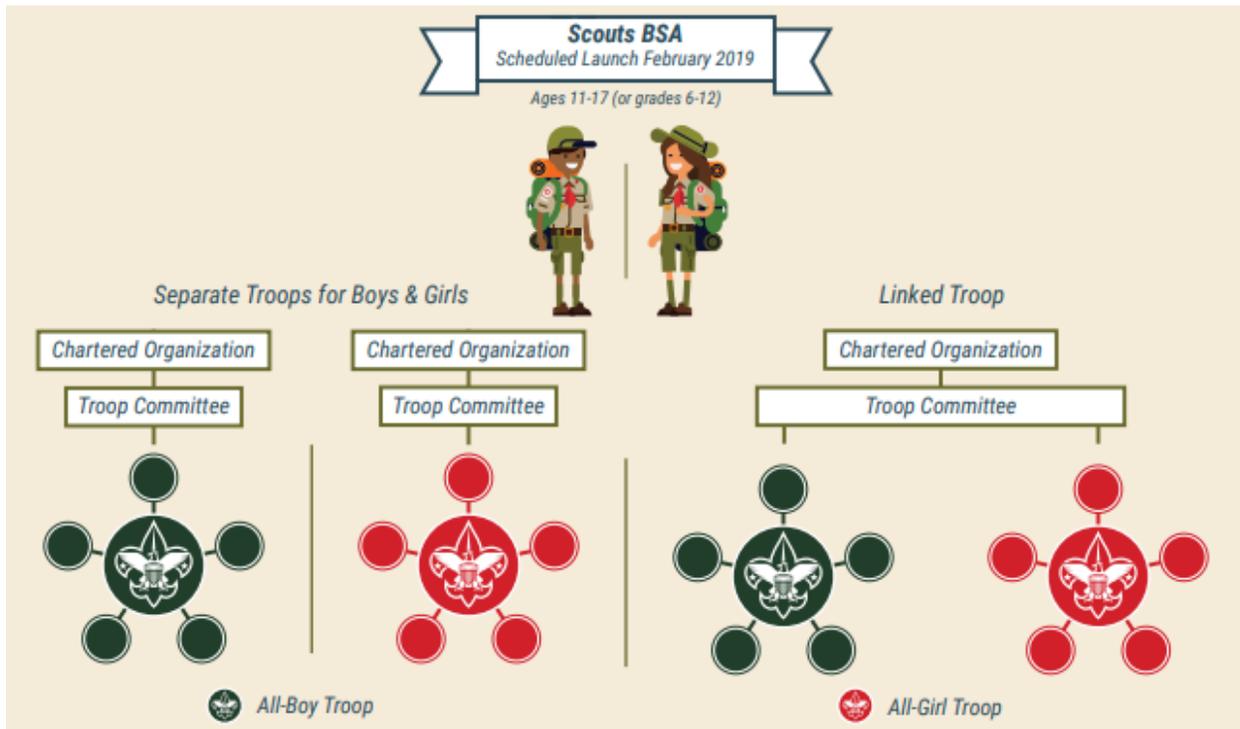


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## Scouts | BSA Program for Older Girls



Using the same curriculum as the Boy Scouts program, Scouts BSA is scheduled to launch in February 2019, enabling all eligible youth ages 11-17, to earn the Eagle Scout rank. Scouts BSA will be single gender – all girl troops or all boy troops. This unique approach allows the organization to maintain the integrity of the single-gender model while also meeting the needs of today's families.

Starting in 2018, families can choose to sign up their sons and daughters for Cub Scouts, ages 5-10. Chartered partner organizations may choose to establish a new girl pack, establish a pack that consists of girl dens and boy dens or remain an all-boy pack. Cub Scout dens will be single gender — all boys or all girls.

The National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America has confirmed a scheduled February 1, 2019 launch date for the program to serve girls, ages 11-17. This timing is intended to align with the programmatic timeline so that girls who join Cub Scouts in 2018 and will have earned their Arrow of Light are able to cross over to a troop to continue their Scouting journey.

The Board also approved the option of a linked troop structure that would allow existing boy troops and future girl troops the opportunity to be linked through a shared COR and troop committee.



**Registration goes live**

**Timeline of Deliverables**

| AUG '18  | SEP '18   | OCT '18  | NOV '18  | DEC '18  | JAN '19   | FEB '19   |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Scout Me In Campaign Overview:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landing page Scouting.org/ScoutsBSA</li> <li>"Pre-launch" video series, flyers, web banners.</li> <li>Instagram/social media playbook</li> <li>Scout Me In launch video</li> </ul> | <p><b>Scout Me In Pre-Launch Materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening Youth Through Scouts BSA brochure and PowerPoint</li> <li>"Preparing for a Successful Launch"</li> </ul> | <p><b>Scout Me In Asset Release:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Print/digital assets</li> <li>Social and long form-videos</li> <li>Marketing kit to Councils</li> <li>Recruiting Playbook</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Female Scout Leader testimonials</li> <li>Preview Feb 2019 launch plan</li> <li>Youth testimonials</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First 90 Days playbook</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2019 Scouts BSA recruiting plan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scouts BSA Handbook</li> <li>Program materials in Scout Shops</li> </ul> |

## Frequently Asked Questions – Why A Change?

### **Q: Why did the organization decide to make Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts available to girls? Is it because of declining membership?**

The BSA's decision to welcome girls into the Cub Scout program and to offer a program for older girls comes from input we have received from our Scouting families, as well as prospective Scouting families. We understand that families today are busier and more diverse than ever. In fact:

- Most are dual-earners.
- There are more single-parent households than in previous decades.
- Many underserved communities, including fastest-growing Hispanic and Asian communities, prefer to participate in activities as a family.
- And, all families have less free time. More than one-third of parents feel they spend too little free time with their kids, and millennial parents are desperate to spend more time interacting with their kids.

The BSA believes we owe it to families to structure our program offerings in a way that fits into their busy lives to deliver character development and values-based leadership training that Scouting promises.

### **Q: Is this change a departure from the BSA's core mission and values?**

No. In fact, this aligns with our mission and values. After all, the values of Scouting as detailed in the 12 points of the Scout Law – trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent – are relevant and important for both young men and women.

Our mission is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. To achieve our mission, we create innovative programs and evolve existing ones that respond to the needs of today's families and deliver them through dedicated volunteers in communities across the nation.

### **Q: What research did the BSA conduct that informed this decision?**

To inform this decision, the Boy Scouts of America conducted extensive research. The BSA also evaluated input from thousands of volunteers who participated in the nationwide family listening sessions.

The results were overwhelmingly positive and supported the decision to welcome girls into Cub Scouts and provide a path to earn the Eagle Scout rank. The research found that parents not involved with Scouting showed high interest in getting their daughters signed up for programs like Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, with 90 percent expressing interest in a program like Cub Scouts and 87 percent expressing interest in a program like Boy Scouts.

The BSA also surveyed young girls and found that 90 percent of girls age 11-18 are interested in joining the BSA's programs.

Education experts also evaluated the curriculum and content and confirmed the relevance of the program for young women.

### **Q: Will the organization's name change?**

No. The Boy Scouts of America, in name and as an organization, has stood for character development and values-based leadership training for more than 108 years. It is, unequivocally, one of the most recognized, respected, and valuable brands on the planet. Therefore, while we have expanded the reach of our programs among today's youth and their families, our name remains the same, and our brand will continue to be a source of pride that we will protect and foster as we look to extend the reach of our promise to more families.

### **Q: What are you hearing from BSA leaders around the country about this announcement?**

The decision was informed by members of the BSA at all levels of the organization and from all parts of the country, so we are seeing support for the decision reflect that input. This is an exciting time for the BSA.

Due to early interest, the BSA offered an Early Adopter program that local councils could opt in to, which enabled units that expressed an early interest and capability in welcoming girls to do so starting January 15, 2018. Over 5,000 girls joined Cub Scouts since the Early Adopter program was introduced, and we continue to receive great feedback from packs and families about the opportunity.

We value the partnership with BSA leaders across the country as we continue to innovate and evolve our proven programs to meet the needs of today's families and provide the types of experiences that parents and their children want most.

**Q: Do you think current youth members or adult volunteers will withdraw?**

This programming is in response to what we've heard from our Scouting families in addition to those who are not involved in the BSA. A majority of parents surveyed said they are interested in having their daughters involved in a program like the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

What's more, many of our current families, Scouts, donors, volunteers and professional staff are in support of this decision, and in a number of cases from our Early Adopter efforts, we have heard that more parents have started volunteering since their entire family could now be involved.

**Q: Why are you just now allowing girls into the Boy Scouts?**

It is important to underscore that the BSA has provided programming to young women and young men for many years through Sea Scouts, STEM Scouts, Exploring and Venturing.

STEM Scouts: 45% of participants are girls/young women, 55% are boys/young men  
Exploring: 39% of participants are girls/young women, 61% are boys/young men  
Venturing: 36% of participants are girls/young women, 64% are boys/young men  
Sea Scouts: 40% of participants are girls/young women, 60% are boys/young men

## Frequently Asked Questions – Scouts | BSA Program

**Q: Are BSA programs relevant for girls?**

Yes. On average, more than 90 percent of Scouting families and leaders believe the BSA programs are relevant to both boys and girls. What's more, education experts also evaluated the curriculum and content and confirmed that the programs are both relevant and empowering for both young men and young women.

**Q. Will you change the program to accommodate girls?**

Our existing programs are relevant for both young men and women. After all, the values of Scouting as outlined in the Scout Law – trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent – are relevant and important values for both young men and women. As such, the program for girls, ages 11 to 17 will be the same curriculum offered in the Boy Scout program.

**Q: Why didn't the BSA partner with the Girl Scouts or another organization to serve girls?**

The BSA had several conversations with other youth-serving organizations, but found through extensive research and conversations with parents that there is a need and an interest to welcome girls to our existing programs. We celebrate all youth-serving organizations that build character and feel the most important thing is to allow parents the ability to choose the program that is best for their family.

What's more, the BSA has been providing programs to young girls since 1971 when we extended our Exploring program to young women. Girls also participate in our Venturing, Sea Scouts and STEM Scouts programs.



**Q: How are the BSA programs different from what girls would experience with Girl Scouts?**

BSA programs provide character- and leadership-building experiences that give young people a solid foundation for their futures. We celebrate all youth-serving organizations that build character and feel the most important thing is to allow parents the ability to choose what program is best for their family.

**Q: What is the name of the program for older youth?**

The name of the program serving youth 11-17 years old will be Scouts BSA, which perfectly represents the new, inclusive program for older Scouts that the Boy Scouts of America is proud to offer. The name change is effective February 2019, when Scouts BSA will begin welcoming girls and boys.

Scouts BSA builds on the legacy of the Scout name, the Scout handbook, Scouts themselves – we have more than 108 years of heritage and tradition built on the Scout name. Scouts BSA is the same iconic program with a name that welcomes young men and women to the adventure of Scouting.

The BSA will continue to build the future of Scouting with Scouts BSA, as we deliver character and leadership and offer a path to the rank of Eagle Scout for boys and girls.

**Q: What will the members of the program be called?**

Just as today, they will be called Scouts. For example, “I’m in Scouts BSA, so I am a Scout.”

**Q: Why did the BSA not keep the Boy Scout program name and introduce a separate name for the program for girls?**

Since all single-gender troops will run the same Scouting program, earn the same merit badges and achieve the same ranks, it became clear that there should be one program name.

**Q: Will the Boy Scout Handbook be updated to reflect the new name?**

Yes.

**Q: Can linked troops share troop numbers? If so, how do we tell them apart?**

Linked troops may choose to have their own number separate for their troop. If the troop wishes to use the same number as the Boy Troop counterpart, they will be assigned an additional 4<sup>th</sup> digit to signify the second unit. Example, Troop 100’s linked troop will become Troop 2100.

By assigning a slightly different number, it will help the local council provide better service and maintain more accurate unit records.

**Q: Will girls be able to earn the same merit badges?**

Yes. All members of Scouts BSA will be eligible to earn merit badges.

**Q: Will girls have to meet the same requirement to achieve Eagle Scout?**

Yes. Young women will have the opportunity to earn the Eagle Scout rank by meeting the same criteria and achievements as young men.

**Q: Will we have different uniforms for boys and girls?**

All uniforms continue to be reviewed and adjusted to meet participant needs. While the fit and styling may be a bit different, the uniforms will remain fundamentally the same.



## Frequently Asked Questions – Eligibility and Unit Structure

### **Q: What program is available to girls that are older than Cub Scout age?**

Using the same Scouting program offered to older boys, the organization will deliver a program for older girls that is scheduled to launch in February 2019 through which girls will be able to earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

### **Q: What ages would be eligible for the program?**

Mirroring the ages served by the existing Boy Scout program, the program for girls would serve girls who have completed the fifth grade and are at least 10 years old, or have earned the Arrow of Light and are at least 10 years old, or are age 11 but have not reached age 18.

### **Q: Why is the BSA recommending single-gender dens and troops units instead of a co-ed model?**

The leadership of the BSA determined that the best way to welcome girls to serve today's families is to offer a unique model that builds on the proven benefits of our single-gender program, while also providing character and leadership opportunities for both boys and girls.

### **Q: Are all BSA programs now co-ed?**

The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts/Scouts BSA programs are not co-ed. The leadership of the BSA determined that the best way to welcome girls to serve today's families was to offer a unique model that builds on the proven benefits of our single-gender program, while also providing character and leadership opportunities for both boys and girls.

### **Q: How will the BSA respond to parents who don't want coeducational programs?**

It is important to note that BSA did not decide to make the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts programs co-ed; instead, the organization has introduced a unique model that builds on the benefits of a single-gender program while also providing character and leadership opportunities for both boys and girls. Chartered organizations always have the option to select from the numerous BSA program offerings; no one program or format is mandatory – we are offering our communities more options.

Starting in 2018, families can choose to sign up their sons and daughters for Cub Scouts. Chartered partner organizations may choose to establish a new girl pack, establish a pack that consists of girl dens and boy dens or remain an all-boy pack. Dens will be single gender — all boys or all girls. Using the same curriculum as the Boy Scouts program, Scouts BSA is scheduled to launch in February 2019, enabling all eligible youth to earn the Eagle Scout rank. Scouts BSA will be single gender – all-girl troops or all-boy troops. This unique approach allows the organization to maintain the integrity of the single-gender model while also meeting the needs of today's families. Additionally, Venturing crews and Sea Scout ships can be established as all-girl or all-boy units, in addition to the option of being coeducational units.

### **Q: Is this for all levels of Scouting in all parts of the country?**

BSA's programs are offered to youth nationwide and everywhere the BSA serves families. Of course, all of our programs are dependent on quality volunteers.

### **Q: Can a unit that cannot meet the five-girl minimum offer the lone Scout program?**

Councils will determine the viability of the lone Scout program, just as they do now with boys.

### **Q: If a chartered organization is not able to establish a new unit based on the required number of same-gender youth needed, can boy patrols and girl patrols be combined to form a troop?**

No. A new unit must be started using the current youth and adult requirements; however, chartered organizations can consider the linked troop model so that the newly-established girl troop will have the same COR and can share the troop committee.



**Q: Can a boy troop and girl troop meet as one big troop?**

Opening and closing of the meetings can be together or separate, depending on space and desire of the chartered organization and unit leadership. The other components of the Scout meeting should be run separately.

**Q: Can boy and girl patrols make up a troop?**

No. Troops must be all male or all female youth members.

**Q: Can a boy troop and girl troop plan events together?**

Yes, they can plan events together, as troops currently do.

**Q: Can courts of honor be held jointly?**

Yes, courts of honor can be held jointly if the chartered organization chooses.

**Q: Can a council and district run camporees for boy troops and girl troops?**

Yes, a council and district can run council and district events for both boy troops and girl troops if they are following the Guide to Safe Scouting and all current youth protection guidelines.

**Q: Will all current Boy Scout troops be required to offer a program for girls?**

Chartered organizations can decide which programs best serve the needs of their community, which means that the chartered organization can continue to offer Scouting for boys, or they may choose to add a unit for older girls.

**Q: How will BeAScout help identify which units are welcoming girls?**

Unit pins have an indicator if the unit is accepting girls. This indicator on the pin will be set through the organization manager settings.

## Frequently Asked Questions – Early Adoption and Starting Early

**Q: Will Scouts BSA be rolled out like a pilot, or implemented all at one time?**

The Boy Scouts of America's Board of Directors unanimously approved to welcome girls into its iconic Scouting programs and to deliver a Scouting program for older girls that will enable them to advance and earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout. This will not be handled as a pilot. For Scouts BSA, there will be no soft launch; implementation for this program is scheduled for February 2019.

**Q: How do units respond to girls who want to join BSA programs immediately?**

We are excited to welcome girls who are interested in joining the Cub Scouting program in 2018. For those councils who did not participate in the soft launch of Family Cub Scouting, implementation begins June 11, 2018, or later (each council decided their own start date). **For Scouts BSA, your unit is allowed to recruit, meet, and hold events with girls who are interested in joining your troop.** Girls are allowed to participate in all activities and programs, but can not complete requirements, be registered, or receive time credit towards awards or ranks. Your unit will be covered under the BSA insurance umbrella for activities and meetings. Contact the council office for necessary certificates of insurance.

## Frequently Asked Questions – Adult Leadership

**Q: Will the Scoutmaster position change in the program for girls?**

No, the Scoutmaster is still responsible for training and guiding youth leaders in the operation of the troop and for managing, training and supporting assistant scoutmasters in their role.

**Q: Can a boy troop and a girl troop share the same Scoutmaster?**

No. Chartered organizations should have separate Scoutmasters for their boy troop and girl troop.

**Q: Can both male troops and girl troops share the same committee?**

A: A chartered organization can decide if they want the same or separate committee.

**Q: Can a boy troop and girl troop meet at the same time?**

Yes. Based on the preferences of the chartered organization, the boy troop and girl troop could meet at the same time and place.

**Q: Must the leaders of a boy troop be men and all the leaders of the girl troop be women?**

No. Adult leadership may be men, women, or both men and women together. All youth protection guidelines are to be in use no matter the make-up of the adult leadership.

## Frequently Asked Questions – Adult Supervision and Youth Protection

**Q: May an adult male lead an all-girl unit?**

Yes, an adult male can lead an all-girl unit, just as we already have adult females leading all-boy programs. Youth protection requirements still apply to both male and female participants.

**Q: Are there going to be changes in the requirements for adult leadership?**

As always, we will maintain our continuous improvement model to ensure the safety of all youth. Effective, October 1, 2018, two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including meetings. There must be a registered female adult leader over 21 in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader over 21 must be present for any activity involving female youth. Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age- and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided.

Eligible volunteers would need to be:

- 1) 21 and over
- 2) Registered as volunteers with the BSA
- 3) Have gone through a background check, and
- 4) Be up to date on Youth Protection training

*This is a change from our previous policy where one volunteer could be 21 years of age or older with a second volunteer who could be 18 years of age or older.*

Examples of approved leadership:

Boy dens, troops, crews, or ships

Volunteers may be all male, all female, or a combination of male and female, but at least two volunteers must be 21 years of age or over.

Girl dens, troops, crews, or ships:

Volunteers may be all female or a combination of male and female, but at least two volunteers must be 21 years of age or over and at least one must be female.

Family packs:

Volunteers may be all female or a combination of male and female, but at least two volunteers must be 21 years of age or over and at least one must be female.



Overnight activities:

A change from the previous policy where only one of the adults was required to be registered, we are now requiring two 21 years old or over leaders for all activities, including overnights; if girls are present, at least one of the volunteers must be female (to be a volunteer, you must be registered).

Additional leadership:

As one example of additional leadership, camp standards require not only the minimum adult leadership, but also require certain ratios (e.g., aquatics (PS-201-1) and COPE (SQ-409-3)). All adults accompanying a Scouting unit who are present at the activity for 72 total hours or more must be registered as leaders. The 72 hours need not be consecutive.

**Q: What facility changes will need to happen at our camps?**

The Boy Scouts of America has been serving young women for decades, so many camps already accommodate women. Each council will evaluate their facilities and make any needed changes.

**Q: What is the policy for restroom and showering facilities?**

Separate shower and latrine facilities should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. If separate facilities are not available, separate times should be scheduled and posted. This is not a change.

**Q: What are the policies for sleeping accommodations?**

Separate accommodations for adult males and females and youth males and females are required.

- Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth.
- Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.
- In Cub Scouting, parents and guardians may share a tent with their family.
- In all other programs, youth and adults tent separately.
- Spouses may share tents.

## Frequently Asked Questions – Chartered Organizations

**Q: Were chartered organizations consulted before the BSA decided to welcome girls into the Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs?**

Chartered organizations were consulted throughout the research and evaluation process. Since the decision we have received supportive feedback from a number of our partners.

**Q: Do chartered organizations have a choice whether or not to adopt the expanded program?**

Yes. Chartered organizations always have the option to select from the numerous BSA program offerings. They can select all or one of the BSA programs that they feel best meet the needs of their members and the communities around them.

**Q: How should we approach a chartered organization that does not want to offer Family Scouting?**

Chartered organizations can choose which programs to offer and whether they want to offer Family Scouting or remain focused on single-gender programs. If the chartered organization has made a well-informed decision to focus on single-gender programs, we recommend working with your district or council membership teams to identify new unit development opportunities.

## Frequently Asked Questions – Cub Scouting



**Q: How will packs and dens be structured?**

Cub Scout dens will be single gender — all boys or all girls. Cub Scout packs, meanwhile, can include any combination of all-boy or all-girl dens. The choice is left to individual leaders in consultation with their chartered organization.

This hybrid model builds on the benefit of a single-gender program while also providing character and leadership opportunities for both boys and girls.

**Q: Should dens for girls and dens for boys meet at the same time and place?**

It is up to the chartered organization and the pack or the den to decide meeting times and places.

**Q: Can separate boy and girl dens work on the same activity at the same time together?**

There is no set rule or guideline on this. If appropriate, this can be treated the same as two dens of the same gender working together. It will be up to the good judgement of leaders to decide what is best for their units.

**Q: Will girls who enter in the fall of 2018 as Arrow of Light have a troop ready to accept them at crossover time in 2019?**

Though we cannot guarantee a troop will be ready where you are, the Scouting program for older girls is scheduled to be ready to accept participants February 1, 2019, to coincide with timing for many crossovers across the nation.

**Q: Will girls who registered in the early adopter program need to register again later in the year?**

Those who registered in the spring of 2018 were charged the prorated membership fee based on their unit's next recharter. For example, if a new Cub Scout registered in February and that pack has a December recharter, then that Cub Scout registration fee was for 11 months. So, they will need to re-register with the pack, along with the other members of the pack, in December.

**Q: If I have a question about how to incorporate girls into the pack, who should I talk to?**

In an overwhelming number of existing packs across the country, girls have already informally been participating in activities, including pack meetings and family camping, so the BSA doesn't foresee major issues in welcoming girls officially to packs. Because the program itself is not changing, your unit commissioner would be the most knowledgeable person to talk to about the Scouting program. Your district executive is also a resource.

**Q: What if I only have one or two girls who are interested in joining?**

Keep recruiting – have the girls invite their friends. Packs will continue to have the option to combine grade levels to form a den as long as they are working on their respective ranks. For example, if you have two third-grade girls and two fourth-grade girls, you may combine into one single-gender den as long as they are working on their Bear and Webelos, respectively.

**Q: Can the Lion badge be worn on the blue Cub Scout uniform?**

Yes. The Lion badge can be worn on the blue Cub Scout uniform. The proper badge configuration for the Cub Scouting badges from Lion through Bear is depicted here.

**Q: Are Webelos required to wear the tan uniform or can they wear the Cub Scout blue?**

The Webelos uniform is the tan uniform. **Note:** the diamond Webelos badge is being phased out. Below is the proper Webelos/Arrow of Light badge configuration.

## Frequently Asked Questions – Order of the Arrow



**Q: Will girls be able to be members of the Order of the Arrow?**

Beginning February 1, 2019, unit elections will be permitted in Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scout units.

**Q: Will camping be counted retroactively for those currently in Venturing and Sea Scouts?**

Yes. Camping that has taken place within the two years immediately prior to the election will be counted beginning February 1, 2019. This camping must have taken place while an individual was registered with the BSA as a program participant and must be while participating with a BSA Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship.

**Q: Can I be elected into the OA if I am over the age of 18?**

Yes! As long as you are under the age of 21 at the time the election is held. If you are over 21, you will need to go through the adult selection process.

**Q: When will the OA literature be updated to reflect these changes?**

We are planning that all literature will be updated by Summer of 2019.

**Q: Will we still be able to wear lodge flaps on any female uniforms that may be created?**

Yes. We continue to work with BSA National Supply to help ensure that the current OA lodge flap shape and size will be accommodated.



**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®**  
**ORDER OF THE ARROW**

The National Order of the Arrow Committee has approved some exciting updates to Scouting's National Honor Society. Beginning February 1, 2019, unit elections will be permitted in Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scout units. The new Order of the Arrow membership requirements include:

**OLD:**

- OA Mission.
- OA Purpose.
- Be a registered member of the BSA.
- Spend 15 nights camping while registered with a troop or team within the previous two years, including at least one (but no more) long-term camp consisting of at least five consecutive nights of camping (with a maximum of five nights). At least 10 nights must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps of, at most, three nights each.
- Youth must be under 21, hold First Class rank or higher and, following approval by the Scoutmaster or Varsity team Coach, be elected by the youth members of their troop or team.
- Registered adults 21 or older who meet the camping requirements may be selected following nomination to the lodge adult selection committee.

**NEW:**

- *Unchanged.*
- *Unchanged.*
- *Unchanged.*
- Spend 15 nights camping while registered with a **troop, crew, or ship** within the two years immediately prior to the election. For Sea Scouts, **ship nights** may be counted as camping. (All other camping requirements remain unchanged.)
- At the time of their election, youth must be under the age of 21, hold the **Scouts BSA First Class rank**, the **Venturing Discovery Award**, or the **Sea Scout Ordinary rank** or higher and, following approval by the Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor, or Sea Scout Skipper, be elected by the youth members of their unit.
- *Unchanged.*

For a full breakdown of changes and answers to frequently asked questions, visit [oa-bsa.org](http://oa-bsa.org)

## Frequently Asked Questions - Camping and Summer Camp

### **Q: Will she have all the same opportunities as the boys at camp?**

Yes. All Scouts at camp will have access to all the same programs and activities.

### **Q: Can our girl troop and boy troop share a campsite?**

It is quite common for troops to share a campsite; this usually happens when one or both troops are too small to fill a campsite themselves. It is also common for a large troop to fill more than one campsite. When either of these conditions occur, we effectively redefine the "troop campsite" for leadership purposes to match the space that each troop occupies. For some other purposes, such as the allocation of campsite supplies, we keep the existing physical definitions of a campsite, so a large troop may have two sets of campfire tools, and a pair of small troops may need to share one set of those tools.

Troops that share a campsite will sometimes collaborate to form a functional "provisional unit", and share leadership responsibilities, but this is often not what happens. This allows for very small troops to meet their leadership responsibilities with fewer adults. We encourage troops that choose to do this to start their relationship and planning well prior to arrival at camp.

The addition of girls' troops to BSA creates the need for some additional definition. Girls' troops, whether "linked" to a boys' troop or independent, are required to have their own leadership structure, including youth leaders and Scoutmasters (but linked troops will share a common Troop Committee). The combination of a boys' troop and a girls' troop into a single "provisional troop" in camp is not allowed, but the two troops can be in adjacent campsites under independent leadership. These adjacent campsites can be redefined in the same manner that boys' troops have been sharing physical space at camp for decades.

Note that camp leadership will not assign girls' troops and boy's troops to a common physical campsite without the consent of both troops, but we might assign two boys' troops or two girls' troops to share a physical space. Camp leadership will always attempt to communicate with unit leadership whenever this occurs.

Also note that all Youth Protection rules apply, including:

- no mixed gender tents, even for siblings (we recommend physically grouping girls' tents and boys' tents so that some distinct regions are apparent).
- adequate privacy for all must be maintained.
- female adult leadership must always be present with female youth membership.

### **Q: Will she stay in the same tent as a boy?**

No. Per youth protection policies under-18 females may only tent with other under-18 females within 2 years of age.

### **Q: Will she have access to a women's restroom and shower at SVMBC facilities?**

Yes. At Camp Hi-Sierra all restrooms and showers are single occupancy, so she will have complete privacy. At Camp Chesebrough the restrooms in the campsites are single occupancy and there is a women's restroom and shower at the Main Office.

### **Q: Will there be feminine hygiene products available just in case or do I need to send her with some?**

At Camp Hi-Sierra our medic has pads available in case of emergencies and tampons will be available at the trading post. If your daughter prefers a specific brand have her bring them with her. At Camp Chesebrough, please bring your own.

### **Q: Will there be trashcans in each restroom?**

Yes. There will be trash receptacles in each restroom for discreet disposal.



**Q: Will there be female staff or female leadership at camp?**

Yes, our staff is co-ed with both female and male leaders.

**Q: Will there be all girl or all boy weeks at Camp Hi-Sierra?**

No, all weeks are available for all troops.

**Q: Will there be girls during my son's week at Camp Hi-Sierra?**

Yes. Our staff has been co-ed for decades, so there are always females at camp. There may or may not be female campers each week, but all weeks at Camp Hi-Sierra are open to both girl and boy troops.

**Q: Will aquatic merit badges be co-ed?**

Yes. All merit badges will be taught co-ed. All scouts will need to wear proper attire which is modest and appropriate for water sports.

**Q: What kind of adult female leadership do we need to provide at camp?**

There should be at least 1 female adult over the age of 21 for each unit serving female youth.



# Requirements to Start a New Scouts BSA Troop

These instructions list the applications and agreements required to start a new Scouts BSA Troop or linked troop. Please complete the following applications and submit with required payment to the council service center no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 to ensure your unit will be registered by the February 1<sup>st</sup> program launch.

## REQUIRED FORMS AND APPLICATIONS

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### Annual Charter Agreement

Chartering Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE WRITE THE NAME OF THE CHARTERED ORGANIZATION/CHARTER PARTNER

### New Unit Application

Is this a NEW or EXISTING\* Chartering Organization? \_\_\_\_\_

\*Existing Chartering Organizations must register the same individual as the Chartering Organization Representative [CR] for all units they register.

Institutional Head [IH] (this is a NO FEE registration)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(NO SSN required for IH only registration – PLEASE WRITE NAME)

### Adult Applications

Scouts BSA Troops require a **minimum** of 4 or 5 adults with paid fee\*\*

\*\*may pay fee for a District/Council registration or another unit and multiple register to this unit. Please mark Multiple on their application.

- One person registered as the Charter Organization Representative [CR] (May also register as a the [CC] or a [MC])
- One person registered as the Committee Chair [CC]
- Two additional people registered as Committee Members [MC]
- One person registered as Scoutmaster [SM]

Chartered Organization Representative [CR]\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*May also be registered as either Committee Chair or a Committee Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT NAME OF PERSON REGISTERING IN THIS POSITION

Committee Chair [CC]

\_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT NAME OF PERSON REGISTERING IN THIS POSITION

Committee Member [MC]

\_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT NAME OF PERSON REGISTERING IN THIS POSITION

Committee Member [MC]

\_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT NAME OF PERSON REGISTERING IN THIS POSITION

Scoutmaster [SM]

\_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT NAME OF PERSON REGISTERING IN THIS POSITION

Assistant Scoutmaster [ASM]\*

\*Optional Registration

\_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT NAME OF PERSON REGISTERING IN THIS POSITION

### Other Registration Notes

- Individuals holding NO FEE registrations (such as Institutional Head) *may* also hold a paid position.
- All paid positions require SSN and CBC authorization.
- Applications must be fully completed, including all questions answered and signatures / initials
- All applications must have an attached Youth Protection Training\*\*\* certificate.  
\*\*\*Training can be found at [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org)
- [SM] or [ASM] may not multiple register as [CC], [CR], or [MC] in the same unit.
- Linked troops may multiple register [CC], [CR], and [MC] positions.



## Youth Applications

All units need a minimum of five paid youth. Youth members can be new or transfers.

- Youth must be all the same gender.
- Youth must be at least age 11 or 10.5 and completed their Arrow of Light and no older than 18 years of age.
- Youth may be registered in multiple units. Two youth must have their primary registration in the troop.

## Registration and Insurance Fees

The following registration and insurance fees are required to start a unit. All fees have been prorated for a February program start.

All new youth and new adults must pay a registration fee and insurance fee. Transfer or multiple youth or adults pay no additional fees. Each unit must pay a single \$40-unit liability insurance fee. Boy's Life subscriptions are optional but recommended for youth participants.

| REGISTRATION TYPE  | QUANTITY | FEE REQUESTED | TOTAL FEE |
|--|----------|---------------|-----------|
| NEW YOUTH  |          | 30.25         |           |
| TRANSFER YOUTH   |          | 0.00          | 0.00      |
| MULTIPLE YOUTH   |          | 0.00          | 0.00      |
| YOUTH BOYS' LIFE SUBSCRIPTION  |          | 11.00         |           |
| NEW ADULTS   |          | 30.25         |           |
| ADULT TRANSFERS  |          | 0.00          | 0.00      |
| MULTIPLE ADULTS  |          | 0.00          | 0.00      |
| POSITION CHANGE AND/OR UPDATES ONLY<br>NO FEE (AP, PS) **IH Requires New Unit Form** |          | 0.00          | 0.00      |
| ADULT BOYS' LIFE SUBSCRIPTION  |          | 11.00         |           |
| UNIT LIABILITY INSURANCE FEE   | 1        | 40.00         | 40.00     |
| SICKNESS/ACCIDENT INSURANCE  |          | 8.25          |           |
| GRAND TOTAL  |          |               | \$        |

## Temporary Transition Rules for Eagle Scout for Scouts BSA

On February 1, 2019, the Boy Scouts of America will begin admitting girls into Scouts BSA. One of the characteristics of Scouting—for over a hundred years—is that no matter when you join, however long you stay, or the rank you attain, the Scouting experience prepares you for life. And for some, the pinnacle of their Scouting experience is achieving the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

The policies of the BSA indicate that, except in extraordinary circumstances, a youth desiring to achieve the rank of Eagle must do so before the youth's 18th birthday. This will continue to be our policy.

It is in the interests of the entire BSA, and in fact our nation, that all girls who join the BSA in 2019 should have an opportunity to earn their Eagle badge should they diligently and promptly complete all requirements. Accordingly, after carefully considering recommendations from stakeholders, including feedback from volunteers and professionals at the 2018 Top Hands Meeting, the National Executive Committee of the Boy Scouts of America has approved the following temporary transition rules regarding extensions for youth over 16 but not yet 18 years of age on February 1, 2019 to complete the requirements for the Eagle Scout award.

To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, no exceptions to or waivers of any of the requirements for the Eagle Scout Award are permitted under this limited exception, and all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First-Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the BSA Guide to Advancement). Since the BSA has determined that the minimum period of elapsed time to complete the requirements of the Eagle Scout rank is approximately 19-20 months, the extension is not available to any youth who is under 16 years of age on February 1, 2019 (as they will have adequate time to earn their Eagle before turning 18) nor to any youth who has already turned 18 years of age on February 1, 2019 (as they will be ineligible to join Scouts BSA).

1. Youth 16 years of age or older, but not yet 18, on February 1, 2019 who register as members of Scouts BSA on or before December 31, 2019, may request extensions to complete the Eagle Scout Award requirements after they turn 18 years of age.
2. Requests for extensions must be received no later than thirty (30) days after turning 18 years of age. Extensions must be in writing by submitting the designated form to the National Service Center and the form must be received no later than January 7, 2020. Only the National Council may grant extensions. The actual extension will be based upon the individual's registration date and age at the time of the request and will provide not more than twenty-four months from the date of initial registration to complete all requirements.
3. In the interest of fairness, these temporary transition rules apply to all youth joining Scouts BSA during 2019—both girls and first-time joining boys.



## Recognition of Eagle Scout Award

In keeping with established policy, the Eagle Scout rank is earned when the candidate's award has been approved by the National Council.

The BSA will not recognize a first female Eagle Scout to avoid potentially introducing incentives for leaders, troops or Scouts to prioritize expediency or engage in behavior counter to Scouting's values.

Instead, the BSA will officially recognize our Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts in the fall of 2020, providing young women who join Scouts BSA the needed time to complete all requirements. This Inaugural Class will be celebrated nationally and collectively commemorated.

It is our hope and expectation that local units will ensure substantial individual recognition of their first female Eagle Scouts in a manner befitting their great accomplishments.

## Frequently Asked Questions - Temporary Transition Rules for Eagle Scout

### **Q: Is the BSA changing the Eagle Scout requirements for girls joining Scouts BSA in 2019?**

No – the Eagle Scout rank requirements are not changing.

### **Q: Can troops, districts or councils amend or adjust the requirements/process?**

No. Eagle Scout requirements are set by the National Council and cannot be adjusted by a troop, district or council. In fact, the Eagle Scout rank is earned when it is approved by the National Council.

### **Q: Will work completed while girls participated unofficially before the introduction of Scouts BSA count towards Eagle requirements?**

No. To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First-Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the BSA Guide to Advancement, an individual after earning First Class Rank in Scouts BSA may transfer primary membership to Venturing or Sea Scouts and continue to work on Eagle Scout requirements).

### **Q: Will work that female Venturers or Sea Scouts completed count toward Eagle Scout requirements?**

To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First-Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the BSA Advancement Guide, an individual after earning First Class Rank in Scouts BSA may transfer primary membership to Venturing or Sea Scouts and continue to work on Eagle Scout requirements).

### **Q: Will camping nights from current Venturing and Sea Scouts that count for requirements for the Order of the Arrow, also count for the Eagle Scout rank?**

No.

### **Q: Will this extension always be available for all youth that enter Scouts BSA?**

No. These are temporary transition rules and will not be available to any youth who is under 16 years of age on February 1, 2019 as they will have adequate time to earn their Eagle before turning 18.

### **Q: Can the first female Eagle Scout be identified based on the earliest Board of Review date?**

No. The Eagle Scout rank is earned when it is approved by the National Council; that date will be noted to recognize this inaugural class.

