



FAMILY SCOUTING

FAQ and Resource Guide

Updated 12/10/2018



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
GREATER ST. LOUIS AREA COUNCIL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FAMILY SCOUTING	3
Overview	4
What's Changing, What's Not	5
General Questions	6
CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS	9
CUB SCOUTS	10
Structure and Implementation	10
Adult Leadership	10
Program and Advancement	11
BOY SCOUTS → SCOUTS BSA	12
Structure and Implementation	12
Adult Leadership	14
Program and Advancement	15
Scouts BSA Branding	16
SUMMER CAMP	21
Age Guidelines	21
Accommodations	21
Order of the Arrow	23
ADULT LEADERSHIP	25
Examples of Approved Leadership	25
CONTACT US	27
Council Staff Contacts	27
District Staff Contacts	27

FAMILY SCOUTING

OFFERING ICONIC BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA® PROGRAMS TO BOYS AND GIRLS

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Starting in 2018, families can choose Cub Scouts® for their sons AND daughters.

A Scouting® program for older girls will be delivered in 2019, allowing participants to earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout™

WHY THE CHANGE?

*Families today are busier than ever and with less free time, families want convenience. In fact, **convenience beats cost as the #1 concern.***

Research shows that our programs are extremely appealing to today's busy families.

In a recent survey of parents not involved with Scouting...

90% *are interested in a program like Cub Scouts for their daughters*

87% *are interested in a program like Boy Scouts® for their daughters*



Overview

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is excited to welcome girls into the Cub Scout program and to offer a program for older girls in 2019. The decision comes from input received from our Scouting families, as well as prospective Scouting families. We understand that families 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 felt 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.

Cub Scouts: Starting in 2018, families can choose to sign up their sons and daughters for Cub Scouts, ages 5-10. Charter partner organizations may choose to establish an all-girl pack, an all-boy pack, or a pack that consists of girl dens and boy dens. Cub Scout dens are single gender – all boy or all girl youth members.

Boy Scouts / Scouts BSA: Using the same curriculum as the Boy Scout 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 troops will be single gender – all boy or all girl youth members. This unique approach allows the organization to maintain the integrity of the single-gender model while also meeting the needs of today's families.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The organization name is NOT changing.

The Boy Scouts of America will continue to provide leadership and character development programs for boys and girls ages 5-20.

CURRENT

NEW



Cub Scouts

- Boys Only
- Ages 5-10

Cub Scouts

- Boys and Girls* (separate dens)
- Ages 5-10

Launch date June 2018



Boy Scouts

- Boys Only
- Ages 11-17

Scouts BSA

- Boys and Girls* (separate troops)
- Ages 11-17

Launch date February 2019



Venturing

- All Boys, All Girls, or Co-Ed
- Ages 14-20

No Change



Sea Scouts

- All Boys, All Girls, or Co-Ed
- Ages 14-20

No Change



Exploring

- All Boys, All Girls, or Co-Ed
- Ages 10-20

No Change

To find out more, visit Scouting.org/familyscouting

General Questions

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: 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: Why is the BSA recommending single-gender dens and troops 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: 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: How will the BSA respond to parents who don't want co-ed 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. Additionally, Venturing crews and Sea Scout ships can be established as all-girl or all-boy units, in addition to the option of being co-ed units.

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: 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: 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

Q: Will there be new curriculum for girl participants? Will you change the program to accommodate girls?

No. Our existing programs are relevant for 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.

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.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

Chartered organization partners will have the option to choose:

1.

Single-gender programming for boys OR girls



*Cub Scouts
Ages 5-10*

Single-gender dens

2.

Dual-gender programming for boys AND girls



*Scouts BSA
Ages 11-17*

*Single-gender troops
(Scheduled Launch Feb 19)*



*Venturing
Ages 14-21*

Coed programming

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.

CUB SCOUTS

Structure and Implementation

Cub Scout dens will be single gender – all boy or all girl youth members. 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: If I have a question about incorporating 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.

<https://stlbsa.org/about/contact-us>.

Adult Leadership

Q: May an adult male lead an all-girl pack or den?

Yes. All youth protection guidelines are to be in use no matter the make-up of the adult leadership. See page 25 for more details.

Program and Advancement

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: 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 entered in the fall of 2018 as Arrow of Light have a Scouts BSA girl 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: Can the Lion badge be worn on the blue Cub Scout uniform?

Yes. The proper badge configuration for the Cub Scouting badges from Lion through Bear is depicted here.



Q: Are Webelos Scouts 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.



BOY SCOUTS → SCOUTS BSA

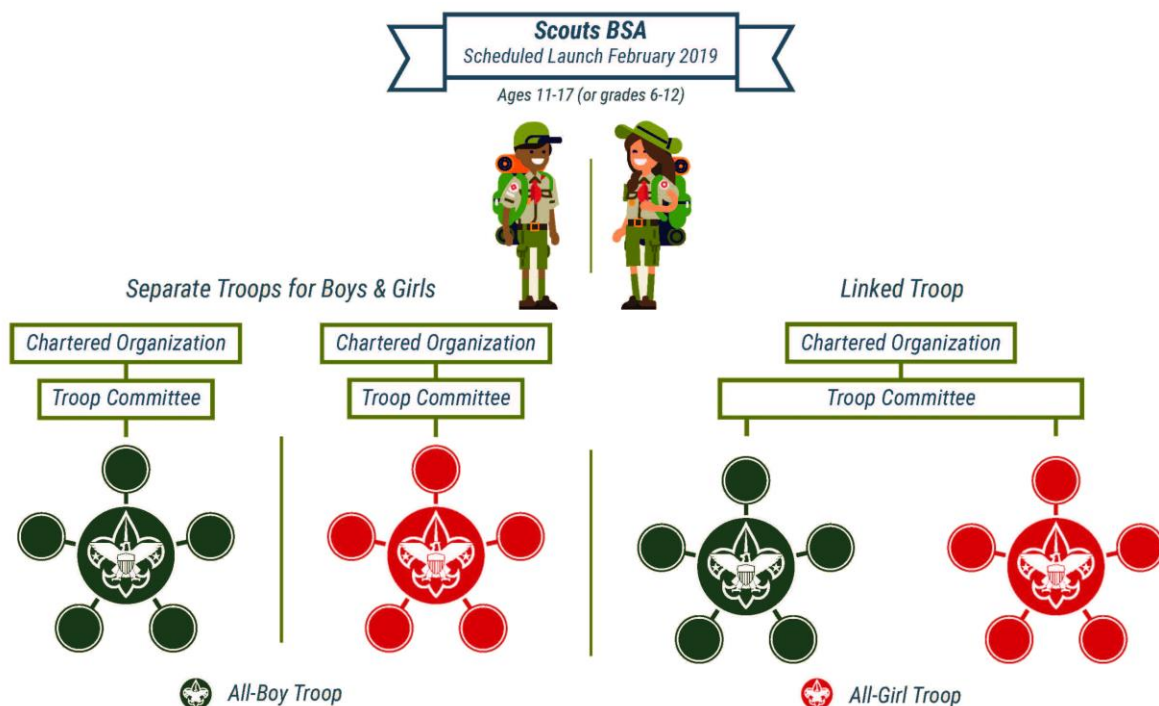
Effective February 2019, the program for older youth will be named Scouts BSA, which perfectly represents the new, inclusive program for older Scouts that the Boy Scouts of America is proud to offer. Scouts BSA builds on the legacy of the Scout name, the Scout handbook, Scouts themselves – we have more than 108 years of heritage and tradition build 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.

Structure and Implementation

To provide opportunities for older youth to participate in Scouts BSA, chartered organizations have options. They may offer both a boy troop and a girl troop – linked together under their administration – or they may elect to offer only a boy troop or a girl troop.



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 troop for older girls.

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

The BSA'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: 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: 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: What will 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: Can linked troops share troop numbers?

Yes. A local council may have administrative procedures in place to differentiate them for systems such as online charter renewal or online camp reservations. These same procedures – often adding a prefix to the troop number – are used when councils merge. These prefixes are not typically referenced by Scouts or displayed on uniforms or flags.

Q: Do linked troops have to share the same troop number?

No. A linked Scouts BSA troop for girls can have a different number of requested.

Q: If a chartered organization is not able to establish a new troop 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 troop 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 Chartered Organization Representative and can share the troop committee.

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

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

Adult Leadership

Q: Will the Scoutmaster position change in a Scouts BSA troop 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: Must the Scoutmaster of a girl troop be female?

No. All youth protection guidelines are to be in use no matter the make-up of the adult leadership. See page 25 for more details.

Q: Must the leaders of a boy troop be men and all the leaders of a 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.

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

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

Program and Advancement

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 programs for girls ages 11 to 17 will be the same curriculum offered in the Boy Scout program.

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

Yes.

Q: Will girls have to meet the same requirements to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout?

Yes.

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

Yes.

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: 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 a boy troop and girl troop plan and conduct events together?

Yes, they can plan and conduct 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 that both boy troops and girls attend?

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

Q: Will there be separate Scouts BSA summer camps for boy troops and girl troops?

No. The Greater St. Louis Area Council offers one of the premier summer camp experiences in the BSA, with dozens of traditional and specialty camps from which to choose. At this time, all sessions are open to both boy troops and girl troops. Guidelines for adult leadership and adequate accommodations must be followed. See pages 21-25 for more info.

Scouts BSA Branding

The following brand guidelines must be adhered to when promoting or conducting Scouts BSA info sessions or recruitment events. For assistance, contact Christine Rasure, Director of Marketing and Communications, at 314-256-3030 or christine.rasure@scouting.org.

	DO	DON'T
What to Use	Only BSA-sourced marketing materials from Brand Center	Locally-developed marketing materials GSUSA programs, marks, logos, uniforms or images
What to Say	Scouts BSA girl troops Troops for girls Girl troops	girl Scouts girl Scouts BSA
What to Do	Educate the public about the BSA, our mission and aims Continue positive relationships Notify the National PR team if contacted by media	Disparage any other youth-serving organization Speak on behalf of the GSUSA

What to Use

- Only use marketing materials located on the [BSA Brand Center](#) or produced by the Greater St. Louis Area Council.
 - Email templates, fliers, postcards, posters, social media images, troop cards, videos, and web banners

What NOT to Use

- Other assets. While well-intentioned, assets developed by volunteers and units can be problematic and are NOT permitted.



- Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) assets.
 - The GSUSA has prohibited co-branding of GSUSA and BSA.
 - Do NOT use the programs, marks, logos, uniform, or images of the GSUSA (e.g. “Girl Scouts”).
 - Do NOT combine GSUSA marks, logos, uniform, or images with those of the BSA (e.g. “Golden Eagle”) when alluding to the Gold Award.

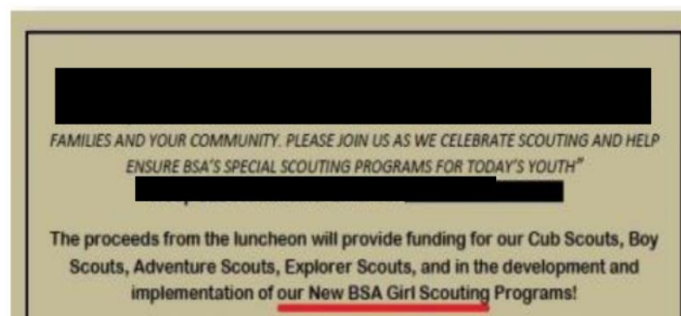


What to Say

- The separate troops can be called:
 - Scouts BSA girl troops; Scouts BSA boy troops
 - Troops for girls; troops for boys
 - Girl troops; boy troops
- For instance:
 - In a recruitment setting, it is best to refer to Scouts BSA girl troops.
 - In a meeting setting, it is best to refer to troops for girls.

What NOT to Say

- NEVER put the word “girl” immediately before the word “Scout” when referring to girls who are part of the BSA.
 - DO NOT SAY: “girl Scouts BSA troop” or “girl Scouts”



What to Do

- Focus on our mission
- Focus on our aims
 - Character development
 - Citizenship
 - Leadership
 - Personal fitness
- Help educate the public
 - Reiterate that the BSA and GSUSA are separate organizations.
 - The Boy Scouts of America is the only Scouting organization in the United States that is a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM).
- Continue positive relationships
 - The GSUSA has instructed its members and volunteers not to conduct joint activities with the BSA.
 - Do reach out to your local GSUSA representative should you receive requests to conduct joint activities.
- Use the national PR team
 - The national PR team includes media experts available to respond to any inquiry.
 - Send ALL media inquiries to PR@scouting.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America 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 Law.

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.



Scout Law

A Scout is:	
Trustworthy	Obedient
Loyal	Cheerful
Helpful	Thrifty
Friendly	Brave
Courteous	Clean
Kind	Reverent

What NOT to Do

- Do not speak for or on behalf of the GSUSA or try to interpret its programs or policies for others.
- Instead, refer questions to a local GSUSA council or www.GirlScouts.org.



Be Prepared. For Scouts BSA.

Do...

...share your passion for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA)! We believe the BSA offers the best program for youth - but we also believe it's important for youth to be involved in the programs that are right for them.

Don't...

...compare the programs of the BSA to other youth programs.

Do...

...refer all questions about GSUSA programs to the local GSUSA council or website.

Do...

...refer all inquiries from media outlets (TV, radio, newspapers, online) to the BSA public relations team by email at pr@scouting.org

Do...

...be clear. Be sure to use official BSA marks and logos from the [BSA Brand Center](#) when using terms like "Scout Me In" whether in print, social media, or digital.



SCOUT ME IN

Remember...

...girls who are in Scouts BSA aren't members of the Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA). Avoid using the word "girl" before "Scouts." This includes fliers, in conversation, social media, etc. For example, you shouldn't say, "Let's have that group of Scouts BSA girl Scouts line up."

Do...

...remember that the BSA and GSUSA are separate organizations. If those around you say or suggest otherwise, politely correct them!

Don't...

...use names, programs, marks, logos, images, or awards of the GSUSA or combine them with those of the BSA.

A Scout is Courteous

The Boy Scouts of America applauds the work of the GSUSA in service to our nation's youth and is committed to respecting the organization's rights and programs.









BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

www.scouting.org

SUMMER CAMP

Age Guidelines

The BSA has established guidelines for its members' participation in camping activities that can be found in the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#).

AGE-APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR CAMPING	 LIONS (With Adult Partner)	 TIGERS (With Adult Partner)	 WOLF/BEAR SCOUTS	 WEBELOS SCOUTS	 SCOUTS	 OLDER SCOUTS, SEA SCOUTS, VENTURERS (*Older Scouts* are age 13 and have completed eighth grade or 14 years old and up.)
National High Adventure						✓
Council High Adventure						✓
Wilderness and Backcountry						✓
Jamboree					12-year-olds	✓
Weekend Campouts					✓	✓
Camporees				Day Visit Only	✓	✓
Cold-Weather Camping	Council-Designated Locations Only (verify with local council)				✓	✓
Den Overnights				✓		
Council-Organized Family Camp	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Day Camp	Not Summer	✓	✓	✓		
Pack Overnights	Council-Designated Locations Only					
Family Camping	Council-Designated Locations Only (verify with local council)			✓	✓	✓
Resident Camp	Not Summer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lock-ins (museums, sports facilities, etc.)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Accommodations

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 are the policies for sleeping accommodations?

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

Tenting

- 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.

Lodging/Cabin Accommodations

Whenever possible, separate cabins or lodging should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. Where separate accommodations cannot be provided due to group size or limited availability, modifications may be made. Where separate accommodations are not available, additional supervision is required.

- If adults and youth of the same gender occupy single-room accommodations, there must be a minimum of two adults and four youth, with all adults being Youth Protection trained.
- Physical separation by other means, including temporary barriers or space, should be used only when no other arrangements are possible.
- These modifications are limited to single-gender accommodations.

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.

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. Privacy of youth is respected.

- Adults and youth must respect each other's privacy, especially in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp.
- Adult leaders should closely monitor these areas but only enter as needed for youth protection or health and safety reasons.

Order of the Arrow

For over 100 years, the Order of the Arrow (OA) has recognized Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Arrowmen are known for maintaining camping traditions and spirit, promoting year-round and long-term resident camping, and providing cheerful service to others.

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 girls 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: Will the OA literature be updated to reflect these changes?

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



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

ADULT LEADERSHIP

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 to the requirements for adult leadership?

As always, we will maintain our continuous improvement model to ensure the safety of all.

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.

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