

## General Questions

### **Q: What is different about Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts this year?**

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.

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.

### **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: 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 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: 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: 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.

Effective June 11, 2018, parents can choose to sign up their sons and daughters for Cub Scouts (specific date is council dependent). Existing packs 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.

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

**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 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: 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: 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: At what age can girls join Scouting?**

In 2018, families can choose Cub Scouts for their sons and daughters, starting at age five, up through age 20 in Venturing and Sea Scouts.

**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, it is recommended that all councils that receive interest in the program from their community develop a list with contact information, so they can reach out to those interested as units are being developed.

**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.

**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: 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.

**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.