

Scouts BSA

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

A: Yes, they can share troop numbers. You will be able to tell them apart in the system the same way that we do when councils merge — there is a prefix in ScoutNet that IDs each troop.

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.