

## **Scouts BSA: Program Update (May 3, 2018)**

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 official name of the older youth program will be Scouts BSA, effective with the scheduled launch in February 2019.

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.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

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

Scouts BSA, scheduled to launch in February 2019, will serve both boys and girls and offer the opportunity to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

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

Mirroring the ages served by the existing Boy Scout program, Scouts BSA will 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. Will you change the program to accommodate girls?**

Our existing programs are relevant for both boys and girls. 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 Scouts BSA program.

#### **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?**

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

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

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

**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: 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 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 troop 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 attend events together?**

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

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

No, the Patrol Leader's Councils of each troop should be responsible for the planning of their perspective troop activities.

**Q: Can a boy troop and girl troop coordinate outings together?**

Yes, they can coordinate outings together if they are Scout-related following the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and Youth Protection guidelines.

**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 chartered organizations 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.