



## Combined Troop Pilot

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has received feedback through member surveys, councils, and other sources that has encouraged a third option be made available to serve youth and their families interested in Scouting. This option would be a “combined troop” option to help serve all youth and families that wish to participate in Scouting guided by the Scout Oath and Law. The National Executive Committee (NEC) has authorized the Scouts BSA Committee to conduct a limited pilot from September 1, 2024, through July 2025. The Scouts BSA Committee will collect feedback from participants and make a recommendation based on the data on the program to the NEC in 2025. More information on the pilot and how to participate will be shared in the coming weeks.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is a “combined troop” option for chartered organizations?**

A: Currently, in the Scouts BSA program, a chartered organization has only two options—a boy troop or a girl troop. The combined troop option would give a chartered organization a third option of a Scouts BSA troop with boys & girls in the same troop.

**Q: Why are we considering a pilot for a combined troop option for chartered organizations?**

A: Almost daily, we are asked from the field and in letters to the CEO to give chartering organization this option. Many girls are being turned away in areas across the country where chartered organizations cannot recruit enough youth to have their own single-gender Scouts BSA troop. This would give those girls and their parents/guardians another option. Additionally, many parents with children of different genders tell us that the combined troop option would be more convenient.

**Q: How will chartered organizations be selected for participation in the pilot?**

A: We will ask councils to indicate whether they would like to participate in the pilot. Councils will assist chartered organizations that self-identify an interest in participating in this pilot.

**Q: Would there be a limit or cap on the number of units we would allow to sign up for the combined troop pilot?**

A: We would like to see what the interest level is. If the number of chartered organizations requesting to be in the pilot is high, we may consider a cap. When a very similar pilot was conducted for the family packs a few years ago (combining boys & girls into the same Cub Scout pack), we had 2,187 separate packs participate in that pilot – the volume was manageable, and the process went smoothly.

**Q: Will the pilot be administered locally or nationally?**

A: Just like the pilot program for the Cub Scout family pack pilot, this combined troop pilot will be administered nationally and implemented locally. All chartered organizations that opt in through their local council for a combined troop will receive all the program assistance, training, and updated information surrounding how to handle Youth Protection policies and Barriers to Abuse from one single source nationally. This ensures a more uniform message and delivery.

**Q: Could a council that has council registered units elect to have those units participate in this combined troop pilot?**

A: Absolutely. This will allow us to truly test all the various program delivery models during the pilot to discover if special issues need to be addressed or resolved.

**Q: Other World Scouting organizations lost members when mandating all youth units. What would be different for us?**

A: The BSA will maintain the original options for separate boy and girl troops. This pilot will add a third option: the combined troop. It is essential to support the charter organization and its desired troop structure.