



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
CROSSROADS OF AMERICA COUNCIL

May 9, 2018

A Joint Statement from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Boy Scouts of America

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Boy Scouts of America have been partners for more than 100 years. The Scouting program has benefited hundreds of thousands of Latter-day Saint boys and young men, and BSA has also been greatly benefited in the process. We jointly express our gratitude to the thousands of Scout leaders and volunteers who have selflessly served over the years in Church-sponsored Scouting units, including local BSA districts and councils.

In this century of shared experience, the Church has grown from a U.S.-centered institution to a worldwide organization, with a majority of its membership living outside the United States. That trend is accelerating. The Church has increasingly felt the need to create and implement a uniform youth leadership and development program that serves its members globally. In so doing, it will be necessary for the Church to discontinue its role as a chartered partner with BSA.

We have jointly determined that, effective on December 31, 2019, the Church will conclude its relationship as a chartered organization with all Scouting programs around the world. Until that date, to allow for an orderly transition, the intention of the Church is to remain a fully engaged partner in Scouting for boys and young men ages 8–13 and encourages all youth, families, and leaders to continue their active participation and financial support.

While the Church will no longer be a chartered partner of BSA or sponsor Scouting units after December 31, 2019, it continues to support the goals and values reflected in the Scout Oath and Scout Law and expresses its profound desire for Scouting's continuing and growing success in the years ahead.

Crossroads of America Council Scout Executive/CEO, Joseph E. Wiltrout stated, "The Boy Scouts of America has been blessed by long partnership with the LDS church. I respect that the leaders of the LDS church are making the decisions they feel best for their congregation. We will work closely with the local church leadership to create a transition plan for those who want to remain in the Boy Scouts of America program in central Indiana."