

## Family Scouting BSA FAQ

### **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: 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: Do chartered organizations have a choice whether or not to adopt the expanded program?**

Yes. Chartered organizations always have the option to select from the numerous BSA program offerings. They can select all or one of the BSA programs that they feel best meet the needs of their members and the communities around them.

### **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. Expected to be released in February 2019.

### **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?**

Sort of, each unit is made up of a four-digit number. Rarely does a unit refer to all 4 digits. Example a troop that is currently Troop 2 is Troop 0002 in ScoutNet. A linked unit could use Troop 1002 but just like the other troop refer to themselves as Troop 2. The Northern Lights Council is promoting this same method. To keep things straight we will be using the first digit as a "5" for all girl troops.

### **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.