

Media Response to GSUSA Letter (as of 8/23/17)

After months of trying to engage leadership from the Girl Scouts organization about this matter, BSA leadership spoke with Girl Scout leadership earlier this month to identify potential areas of opportunities for alignment in the future. We are disheartened to see the Girl Scouts pull away from the possibility of cooperation to help address the needs of today's busy families.

Based on numerous requests from families, the Boy Scouts has been exploring the benefits of bringing Scouting to every member of the family – boys and girls. No decisions have been made. The Boy Scouts of America believes in the benefit of single-gender programs. But in evaluating the possibility of serving the whole family (something that has been reported on since April), we've been having conversations with our members and volunteers to see how to make Scouting accessible for families.

The BSA continues to be innovative in our program design, offering programs like Exploring, STEM Scouts, Venturing, and Sea Scouts - four programs that have evolved over the years to serve both boys and girls in new ways and offer flexibility for families to choose the programs that work best for them.

The Boy Scouts of America is committed to serving youth, families and communities through programs that deliver character development and values-based leadership training for young people. To that end, the BSA continues to thoughtfully evaluate how to bring the benefits of Scouting to the greatest number of youth possible – all while remaining true to our mission and core values, outlined in the Scout Oath and Law.

FAQs (To be used reactively as needed)

Is the BSA looking to let girls into its programs?

Based on numerous requests from families, the BSA has been exploring the benefits of bringing Scouting to every member of the family — boys and girls, but no decisions have been made.

Is a vote taking place? Has a decision been made?

No decisions have been made. The organization is currently seeking and getting input from volunteers, chartered partner organizations, parents, youth-development experts and other stakeholders.

When will co-ed Scouting go into effect?

The BSA strongly believes in the benefit of single-gender programs. We are currently looking at options that would enable us to maintain the strength of single-gender programs while working to meet the needs of today's families.

Does the BSA currently offer co-ed programs?

The BSA continues to be innovative in our program design, offering programs like Exploring, STEM Scouts, Venturing, and Sea Scouts — four programs that have evolved over the years to serve both boys and girls in new ways and offer flexibility for families to choose the programs that work best for them.

Is the BSA changing its purpose or mission to gain new members?

No. The BSA is committed to serving youth, families and communities through programs that deliver character development and values-based leadership training for young people. To that end, the BSA continues to thoughtfully evaluate how to bring the benefits of Scouting to the greatest number of youth possible — all while remaining true to our mission and core values, outlined in the Scout Oath and Law.

If this moves forward, would this program compete with Girls Scouts programs?

The program discussions we are having right now are about meeting the needs of the entire family, which is something that many youth-serving organizations seek to do in order to serve communities across the country. If the organization decides to move this discussion forward, we hope that it would serve as an additional option for families to consider.

Has the BSA disparaged GSUSA?

As an organization, we have never disparaged the Girl Scouts of the USA. The Boy Scouts of America deeply respects the organization and the programs it offers girls and their families. Considering how many young girls and boys are not currently served by either of our programs, we believe we owe it to families to explore how we may be able to structure program offerings that fit into their busy lives to deliver character development and values-based leadership training that Scouting promises.