



FAMILY SCOUTING

We often hear that the values, character, and leadership skills taught through Scouting are appealing for the entire family. Based on numerous requests over many years, the National BSA Board has unanimously approved expanding the benefits of Scouting to all members of the family - boys and girls. When National BSA Executive Director Michael Surbaugh was asked why the change, he said, "First thing's first: We did it because our members requested it."

The change will welcome girls into our elementary school age Cub Scout program. This meets the desire of families wanting to spend more time together, plus addresses the needs of busy families with both parents working and single parent families.

We acknowledge and celebrate that boys and girls develop differently, and there are times that single-gender learning is most appropriate. The middle school through high school age Boy Scout program will remain single gender. To meet the needs and desires of families, girl troops can be organized enabling girls to also benefit from our time tested iconic program. Troops will be boy-only or girl-only, no co-ed troops. The program name will be changed to Scouts BSA.

The high school age Venturing and Exploring programs will remain co-ed. Surprised, girls in the BSA? Yes, we have been serving girls for over 40 years. As a high schooler in the 1970's, I was a member of the Exploring program, while at the same time being a member of a Boy Scout troop.

When asked about the Girl Scouts, director Surbaugh explained, "We know there are other fantastic youth organizations. Parents deserve the ability to choose which option is best for their children. For many girls, Girl Scouts will remain the preferable option. We celebrate and support that decision. "

I hope this clarifies questions you may have about the recent program change and helps to explain the benefits it brings to serving today's families. If you have additional questions, please give me a call or check out our webpage at <https://www.scouting.org/familyscouting>

I'd like to end with a quote by National BSA Volunteer President Randal Stephenson, "I've seen nothing that develops leadership skills and discipline like this organization. It's time to make these outstanding programs available to girls."

Yours in Scouting,

Jerry Freyberg, Executive Director

