



## Family Scouting

### HOV COUNCIL CORE MESSAGES & SUPPORTING TALKING POINTS FOR SCOUT LEADERS

- **To meet the needs of today's families while maintaining the mission of the single-gender model, the BSA will offer new programs for girls starting in 2018.**
  - The traditionally core Scouting program for boys will not change as the new Family Scouting program is implemented – the only change is the addition of new single-gender programs for girls.
  - The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts programs will not be co-ed. The BSA is introducing a model that builds on the benefits of a single-gender program while also providing character and leadership opportunities to both boys and girls.
  - Cub Scouting will be available to girls beginning in 2018. Cub Scout dens will be single gender – all boys or all girls. Packs leaders, in consultation with their chartered organizations, can elect to be an all-boys pack, an all-girls pack or a pack of boy dens and girl dens.
  - This flexible approach allows organizations to identify the options that work best for their communities while letting boys and girls continue to learn and grow at a pace that is unique to their development.
  - A new program for girls age 11 to 17 will be announced in 2018 with a projected introduction in 2019. The program will use the same curriculum and requirements as the current Boy Scouts program and allow girls to earn the Eagle Scout award.
  
- **A major driver for the evolution to Family Scouting is that BSA members requested it.**
  - Families today are busier and more diverse than ever – most are dual-earners and there are many more single-parent households. Groups underserved by Scouting, including the Hispanic and Asian communities, prefer to participate in activities as a family. The most important thing is to allow parents the ability to choose which program is best for their family.
  - Offering new programs simplifies things for families with both boys and girls and brings the BSA's unique approach to character and leadership development to as many families and youth as possible.
  - The values of Scouting are more relevant than ever, regardless of gender.
  - To inform this decision, the BSA conducted extensive research and evaluated input from thousands of volunteers who participated in nationwide family listening sessions.
  - Education experts evaluated the curriculum and content and confirmed the relevance of the program for young women. The BSA Board voted unanimously to implement Family Scouting.
  
- **Girls have been participating in Scouting for over 40 years. These changes evolve BSA programs to align with today's demands.**
  - As all successful and enduring organizations do, the BSA has continued to evolve since its founding in 1910. The Exploring program was extended to young women in 1971 and girls already participate in BSA's Venturing, Sea Scouts and STEM programs.





# HEART OF VIRGINIA COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

- Scouts' sisters have been unofficially participating in Cub Scouts by "shadowing" their brothers in day camps, family camping and other pack events. These changes offer those siblings the opportunity to enhance the fun they're currently experiencing and earn awards and recognition, just like their brothers.
- Across the U.S., many packs and troops are now led by women, with mothers and sisters attending meetings and participating in activities. And, all over the world, Boy Scouts is already open to girls.

## HOV COUNCIL NEXT STEPS

- **Currently:** Plans under development for communicating with outside stakeholders, including donors, corporate partners and media
- **December:** Communications about the Family Scouting roll-out plan sent to District Key 3's
- **January:**
  - Other volunteer leaders briefed on the roll-out plan in District meetings and Roundtables
  - District Key 3's identify District leaders and Commissioners to serve as "liaisons" with packs and sponsoring organizations on decisions regarding pack structure
  - Begin identifying packs/sponsoring organizations that have already made a decision about girl participation
- **January/February:** Family Scouting incorporated into lead-up communications about FOS Dinner
- **February:** Training and information sessions held for Commissioners, District Committee members and District Executives
- **February 22:** Family Scouting presentation incorporated into FOS Dinner
- **End of March:** Commissioners, District Committee members and District Executives complete meetings with chartered organization representatives and unit leaders
- **April 15:** All packs notify their District Commissioner of final decision
- **End of June:** Communications and fall recruiting plan completed
- **Fall 2018:** Council begins recruiting girls through Join Scouting Night campaign
- **TBD 2018:** Additional information on the new program for girls age 11 to 17 will be communicated (once received from the National Office)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The National website offers additional details in the Newsroom's [Family Scouting section](#)



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