

Family Scouting Conversation Prepared for Chartering Organizations

You are part of the world's greatest youth-serving movement. You are the builders of tomorrow's leaders. You believe in the Scouting program.

National Board approved the Family Scouting program which allows girls to experience the Boy Scout program. Family Scouting brings a new and exciting opportunity that families today want. Families are the very foundation of our societal beliefs and values. Strong families help to build strong communities. The Family Scouting program provides a platform for the whole family to participate.

There has been some confusion regarding this exciting program, so I wanted to clarify the things we know:

- Girls will be able to participate in the Cub Scout program starting in 2018. We are still determining the start date, but expect it to be fall 2018.
- Family Scouting enables flexibility and provides options for the charter organization. As the chartering organization, you can choose from the following models:
 - All boy dens with all boy pack.
 - All girl dens with all girl pack.
 - Girl dens and boy dens in one pack.
 - In addition, a chartering organization can keep their Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs all male.
- I want to stress that this is not a coed program. The boys and girls can meet together at the beginning and/or end of a meeting, but then will separate into their own meetings.

The Boy Scouts of America made this change because families are so much busier today, and there are also more single parent households. We have been told that many underserved communities, including the fastest growing Hispanic and Asian communities, prefer to participate in activities as a family.

And, all families have less free time, with more than one-third of parents state they spend too little free time with their kids, and millennial parents are eager to spend more time interacting with their kids.

This program introduces more families to Scouting and help them meet their family's needs. At this time, we don't believe there will be leadership requirements or programs different from those we have today.

For example, camping opportunities for Cub Scout aged-youth will continue to consist of day camps, resident camps and family camps, all with a required number of parents to participate. All leaders will still be required to have leader training, protection training, and all clearances.

The Family Scouting program for our older youth will be available to girls sometime in 2019. The exact start date within 2019 has not been determined yet.

Girls will have the same programs as the boys. Girls will be able to earn the Eagle Scout award just as the boys do.

The Boy Scouts of America is not changing its name at this time. Family Scouting is just another program under the Boy Scouts umbrella. Other programs include: Venturing, Exploring and Learning for Life.

The paced rollout of Family Scouting will help the Laurel Highlands Council have time to evaluate council properties and programs so that we are prepared to have these youth at summer camp.

The Laurel Highlands Council will continue to provide additional information as it comes in.

We are excited about offering even more young people and their families the opportunity to develop leadership skills, deliver community service, and engage in active citizenship that will help this country grow and thrive. I hope you are excited too.

Questions? Concerns? Thoughts?