



Dear Scout Leader,

Yesterday, the BSA's national Board of Directors unanimously approved welcoming girls into our iconic Cub Scout program and delivering a Scouting program for older girls that will enable them to advance and earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout. This decision comes after years of receiving requests from families and girls. The BSA evaluated the results of numerous research efforts, gaining input from current members and leaders — as well as parents and girls who've never been involved in Scouting — to understand how to offer families an important additional choice in meeting the character development needs of all their children.

Starting in the 2018 program year, families can choose to sign up their sons and daughters for Cub Scouts. Existing packs may choose to establish a new girl pack, establish a pack that consists of girl dens and boy dens or remain an all-boy pack. Cub Scout dens will be single-gender — all boys or all girls. Using the same curriculum as the Boy Scouts program, the organization will also deliver a program for older girls, which will be announced in 2018 and projected to be available in 2019, that will enable them to earn the Eagle Scout rank. This unique approach allows us to maintain the integrity of the single-gender model while also meeting the needs of today's families.

This decision expands the programs that the Boy Scouts of America offers for both boys and girls. Although known for our iconic programs for boys, the BSA has offered co-ed programs since 1971 through Exploring and the Venturing program, which celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018.

The Baden-Powell Council currently serves over 2,500 young men and women throughout the following counties; Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Tioga and Tompkins in New York along with most of Susquehanna County in Pennsylvania. For many years our Exploring, Venturing and Sea Scouting programs have successfully offered programming for young men and women between the ages of 14-20.

Below I've provided a link where you can review more details regarding this decision. I will also share additional details with you as they become available to me as we move forward together.

[Family Scouting page on scoutingnewsroom.org](http://scoutingnewsroom.org)

Should you receive media requests on this topic, please direct them to me at the contact information in my email signature below.

Thank You again for all you do to keep Scouting alive and well in the Baden-Powell Council!

Warm Regards,

Rick

**Rick Christ** | Scout Executive & CEO

**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**  
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