

SCOUTS BSA!

ARE YOU IN OR ARE YOU OUT?

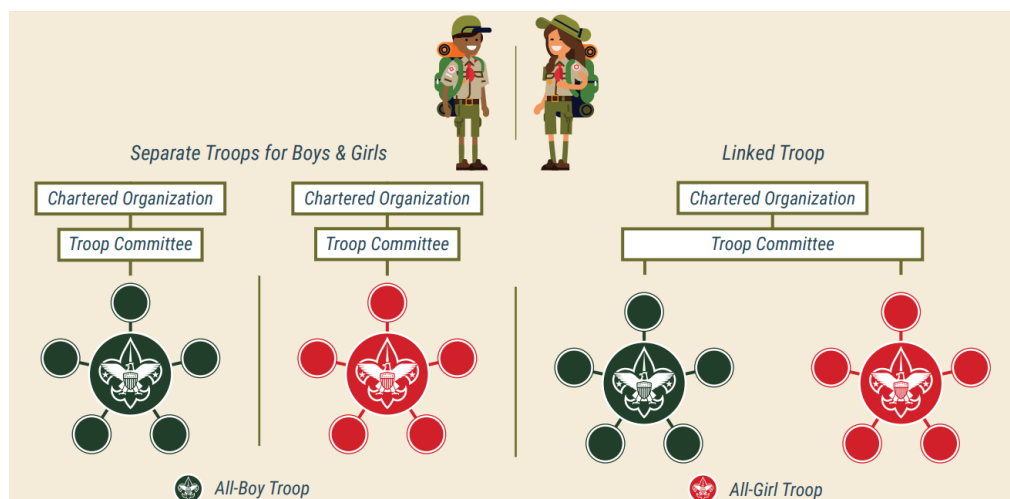
Effective February 1, 2019, Scouting will offer our outstanding character building leadership development program to both boys and girls!

The name, the mission and the vision of the Boy Scouts of America will not change. The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

The Scouting program will not change and the patrol method will continue to be emphasized. Both boys and girls will have the opportunity to lead their troops. Both boys and girls will be eligible to work to attain the rank of Eagle. Will your charter organization be prepared to offer this awesome, life changing program to girls? The first step is to go to <https://app.mobilecause.com/form/tPzzrw> and let the Heart of America Council know that you will welcome girls.

We will continue to offer Scouting to boys through troops open only to boys and led by boys. We will offer Scouting to girls through troops open only to girls and led by girls. Eligibility for girls to participate in Scouts BSA is the same as for boys under the current Boy Scout program.

Once your charter organization is committed to help girls become responsible, participating citizens and leaders, the next step is to make a plan to form a troop for girls that is ready to welcome girls by February 1, 2019. There are two ways to form a girl troop – the easy way and the not so easy way.



The linked troop is easiest because you really just need a new Scoutmaster who is not also a Scoutmaster for the boy troop. The charter organization representative, assistants, and the troop committee can be shared between the troops. If the linked troop model is not used, the boy troop and girl troop may be chartered to the same or a separate chartered organization, and a separate troop committee and adult Scouters must be recruited to guide the youth.

Whether boy and girl troops are separate or linked, they can meet at the same place and they can enjoy activities together. They can even conduct joint openings and closings and courts of honor. However, to ensure both boys and girls have equal opportunities to learn and practice leadership the boy troop and girl troop should run their meetings separately and planning should be done by the Patrol Leader's Council for each troop. Council and district camps and activities are run by the council and must follow the Guide to Safe Scouting and current youth protection guidelines.

Regardless of the way you chose to start a new girl troop, "**Separate or Linked**", you will need to complete a New Unit Application. Here is the link to download the application.

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/524-402_wb.pdf

DON'T FORGET THAT EFFECTIVE JUNE 11, 2018, all councils and units can welcome girls to Cub Packs that have boy dens and girl dens. This fall we will be registering boys and girls as Lions, Tigers, Bears, Wolves, and Webelos.



**FAMILY
SCOUTING**

OFFERING ICONIC BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
PROGRAMS TO BOYS AND GIRLS