



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

## MIDNIGHT SUN COUNCIL



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**Scout Executive**  
Stephen Smith

On May 11, 2017, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced, *“the Church will no longer charter Varsity or Venturing units with the Boy Scouts of America and Scouts Canada effective January 1, 2018. We express sincere appreciation and gratitude to all adult leaders who have supported young men in these programs and are grateful for our long-standing and continuing partnership with the Boy Scouts of America and Scouts Canada. Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs will continue to be chartered through local wards and branches. Young men who desire to continue to work toward the rank of Eagle Scout or Queen Scout should be encouraged and supported in their efforts and should be properly registered as Scouts. Adult leaders who are assisting with merit badges or rank advancement with older boys should also be registered and complete required training.”* You can read the entire statement and see the answers to frequently asked questions [here](#).

The Midnight Sun Council is and always will be committed to serving our community and chartered partners, including The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We offer programs and facilities that are geared toward their mission.

The Midnight Sun Council offers a variety of programs from Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts to Venturing, and our chartered partners are in the best position to decide which programs most appropriately meet the needs of the youth they serve. The LDS Church remains committed to using the Cub Scout and Boy Scout program, and we look forward to providing Scout programs to all interested youth, including those ages 14 and older.

To better serve our LDS partners, we have opened our camping programs and facilities to bring their young men and young women to camp for meaningful, outdoor experiences where they practice leadership, build testimonies, gain confidence, and prepare for church and missionary service. Hundreds of youth participate in these programs each year. We will continue to expand our efforts to provide resources and facilities that specifically serve older youth.

Scouting continues to fully support the LDS Church in their effort to “meet the spiritual, physical, emotional and intellectual needs of young men.” We continue to work closely with our local ward leaders to provide the resources they need to serve their youth of all ages.

Sincerely,

Stephen Smith  
Scout Executive

