

BSA Expands Programs to Welcome Girls in Fall of 2018

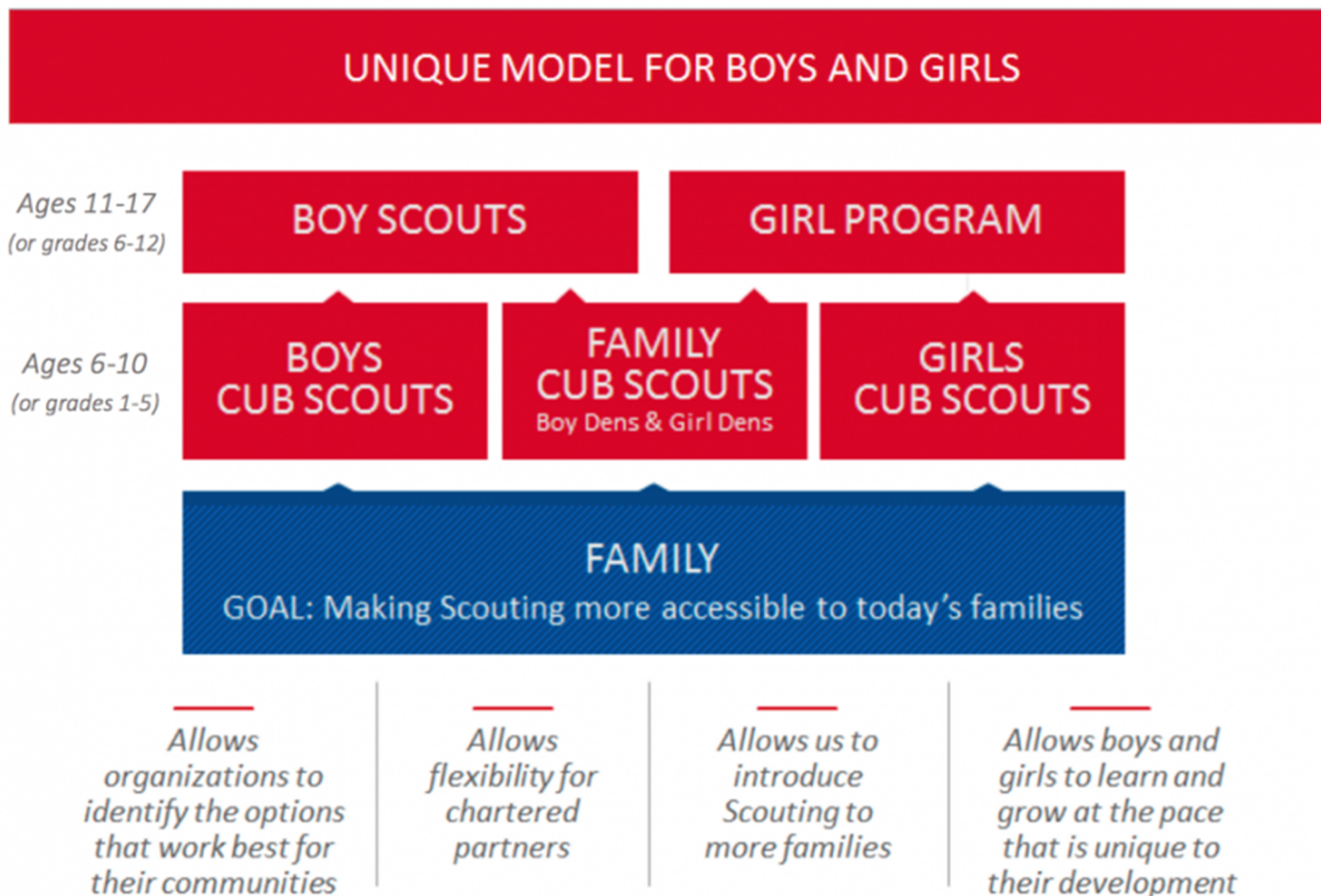
Starting in the fall of 2018, families can choose Cub Scouts for their sons and daughters, who can take advantage of the life-changing experiences provided through Scouting. A program for older girls will be delivered in 2019 to offer a Scouting program for older girls, allowing for participating girls to earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

The Boy Scouts of America is committed to serving youth, families and communities through programs that deliver character development and values-based leadership training for young people - all while remaining true to our mission and core values, outlined in the Scout Oath and Law.

A Unique Model to Provide Single Gender/Parallel Programs for Boys and Girls

Cub Scouting is organized in packs and dens. In the fall of 2018, an existing pack 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. Cub Scout packs, meanwhile, can include any combination of all-boy or all-girl dens. The choice is left to individual pack leaders in consultation with their chartered organization.

This model builds on the benefit of a single-gender program while also providing character and leadership opportunities for both boys and girls.



TOP 6 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT INVITING GIRLS TO THE BSA

1.) MEETING THE NEEDS OF TODAY'S FAMILIES

Our members—both youth and adult—consistently tell us that the values, character, and leadership skills taught through Scouting are needed for the entire family. So in order to help meet those needs, BSA's traditional Scouting programs will be offered to all youth through family Scouting.

Independent research reinforces the requests the BSA has received from families interested in the type of programs that BSA offers for their daughters. According to the research:

- **90% of parents** not involved with the BSA expressed interest in getting their daughter involved in programs like Cub Scouts
- **87% of parents** not involved with the BSA expressed interest in getting their daughter involved in programs like Boy Scouts.

We also sought input from our volunteers, chartered partner organizations, parents, youth-development experts, and other stakeholders. Thousands of individuals offered their perspective on how to better serve families through Scouting, and we took all of that feedback into account when developing this offering.

2.) IS THIS CHANGE A DEPARTURE FROM THE BSA'S CORE MISSION AND IDENTITY?

No. In fact, this aligns with our mission and values. Our mission 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 Scout Law, such as the importance of maintaining a sense of Duty to God and Country. To achieve our mission, we create innovative programs and evolve existing ones to meet the needs of today's families and deliver them through dedicated volunteers in communities across the nation.

Our time-tested curriculum will remain the same - BSA's program content and activities are appropriate for boys and girls alike, as are the current rank advancement requirements. As always, volunteers have the ability to tailor activities to meet the developmental needs and abilities of Scouts in their packs and troops. There are no plans to change our name at this time. We are focused on serving youth with the best character and leadership development program possible.

3.) DOES THIS MEAN THAT CUB SCOUTS AND BOY SCOUTS WILL BE CO-ED?

The BSA strongly believes in the benefit of single-gender programs, and the family Scouting model builds on the benefit of a single-gender program while also providing character and leadership opportunities for both boys and girls.

4.) CAN A PACK DECIDE TO REMAIN BOYS-ONLY? CAN THERE BE GIRLS-ONLY PACKS?

Yes - starting in fall of 2018, existing Cub Scout packs can elect how they wish to open their membership. An existing pack may choose to recruit girls or remain an all-boy pack. When creating a new pack, a chartered organization may form an all-boy pack, an all-girl pack or a pack of girls and boys. Remember, each Cub Scout pack is comprised of multiple dens. Cub Scout dens will be single-gender — all boys or all girls. Cub Scout packs, meanwhile, can include any combination of all-boy or all-girl dens. The choice is left to individual pack leaders in consultation with their chartered organization.

5.) WHAT WILL THIS MEAN FOR GIRLS AFTER CUB SCOUTS?

A program for girls age 11 to 17 will be announced in 2019, allowing participating girls to achieve Scouting's highest rank, the Eagle Scout Award. By paving a path for young women to earn the Eagle Scout rank, more of our future leaders will be equipped with the life-long values that BSA has instilled in youth for more than a century.

6.) WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUTH PROTECTION?

Youth protection and safety is paramount in all of the BSA's programs. We invest resources and time to continuously strengthen our youth-protection program. As we begin to develop procedures for girls joining Cub Scouts and the program for older girls, we will be evaluating any changes needed to ensure the safety of all youth.