

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Five Key Facts

1. The National Executive Board ratified a resolution that removes the national restriction on openly gay adult leaders and employees. The resolution is effective immediately.
2. Chartered organizations will continue to select their adult leaders. Religious chartered organizations may continue to use religious beliefs as criteria for selecting adult leaders, including matters of sexuality.
3. Scouting's members and parents may continue to select local units, chartered to organizations with similar beliefs, that best meet the needs of their families.
4. The youth membership policy adopted in 2013 is not affected by this resolution and remains unchanged.
5. The ideals and principles of "duty to God" and "a Scout is reverent" set forth in the Scout Oath and Scout Law remain central to Scouting.

What It Means

For the BSA

Scouting is not an appropriate environment to discuss sexual conduct. While there is no national or local council restriction on openly gay adults serving as leaders or employees, everyone agrees to follow national policies and comply with the BSA's behavioral standards.

For Youth

Scouting is a youth program and no youth may be denied membership in the Boy Scouts of America on the basis of sexual orientation or preference.

For Families

Parents can select units, chartered to organizations with similar beliefs, that best meet the needs of their families.

For Adult Leaders

Unit leaders may apply for positions in units chartered to organizations with similar beliefs. At the district level and above, there is no restriction on openly gay adults serving as leaders.

For Chartered Organizations

They will continue to select adult leaders, and religious chartered organizations may use religious beliefs as criteria for selecting adult leaders, including matters of sexuality. By addressing this issue, the BSA is now able to continue to focus on its mission, preserve its core values, and provide life-changing experiences to youth they cannot get anywhere else.