



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
THREE FIRES COUNCIL



TFC Family Scouting FAQs

What considerations are important for my pack to make before accepting girls?

A little planning can help your pack be successful when making this decision. Consider both your pack leadership infrastructure and the space available to you to meet. Do you have enough leaders, or will you need to recruit more to accommodate additional dens? Do you have enough *female* leaders? What about the amount of space you have to meet? If your pack increased its youth membership by 20% -- or even 50%, do you have enough room for a pack meeting, or will you need to locate a different space? But know that you can recruit new leaders from the parents of your new boys and girls this fall – you don't need to have all the leadership in place in advance.

What are the female leadership requirements?

Per *The Guide To Safe Scouting*, there must be at least one registered female adult leader over age 21 in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader over 21 must be present for any activity involving female youth.

Girl dens, troops, crews, or ships

Registered leaders may be all female or a combination of male and female. At least two registered leaders must be 21 years of age or older and at least one must be female. A registered female leader needs to be present for all meetings, activities, etc. that include female scouts.

Family packs

Registered leaders may be male and female. At least two registered leaders must be 21 years of age or older and at least one must be female when activities involve female youth. A registered female leader needs to be present for all meetings, activities, etc. that include female scouts.

Family packs & all girl packs

A registered female leader needs to be present (in the room) for all Den Meetings, Pack Meetings, and activities. *In the building or down the hall is not sufficient to meet this leadership guideline.*

It is a best practice that each girl Den have a registered adult female leader specific to that Den, but it is not required and you can work toward this goal.

Will dens now be co-ed?

No. Dens will be single gender. Packs can be full family (boy & girl), boy-only, or girl-only.

Where can I recruit girls?

To get started, consider what female siblings already exist in your Scouting family. Chances are, these girls are already going camping and on other activities with you. Girls have friends, so be sure to encourage your girl recruits to bring their friends along on a recruiting outing adventure.

Also use School Night For Scouting to your advantage. Update your BeAScout profile to show that you accept girls. That night the TFC Membership Committee will provide each recruiting location with a list of packs accepting girls in your district – be sure your pack is on this.

BSA Suggests Dens have at least 5 Cub Scouts. What happens if I can't recruit that many girls for a den?

BSA wants this program to be successful. Dens of differing ages can be created to ensure packs are able to gain momentum with this new program.

How do I recruit enough adult leaders to accommodate the growth in my pack?

Many times, parents of youth who join are interested in helping. Make it a *family scouting* proposition for those families who already have one parent registered as a leader; perhaps the second parent may be interested now that the entire family can be involved.

Pack parents have conflicting views about girls in Scouting. How do I overcome this?

Education is key. Perhaps you can hold a parent orientation and ask your District Family Scouting Champion and/or Unit Commissioner to attend to answer questions. Help parents see the value in the program. The BSA website has many resources to assist. Visit it at www.scouting.org/familyscouting/

What resources are available to me from Three Fires Council?

Three Fires Council has formed a Family Scouting committee! In addition to your District Family Scouting Champion, two Council Champions (East and West) and a Scouting Professional Advisor are available to help you. Engage your commissioner team, both District Commissioner and unit commissioner, for help, as well. As of this printing of this FAQ sheet, the Council Champions are working on a TFC website to house additional resources.

What training opportunities are available for new leaders?

The Scouting program has not changed. All adult volunteers are required to take leader-specific training, depending upon their positions. Most of this training may be taken online. Some training is required in-person (e.g., Outdoor Leader Skills training); dates for in-person trainings are included on the Council calendar, located on www.threefirescouncil.org. Training Academy (November 10, 2018 / Sycamore High School) also offers LIVE leader-specific training as well as courses on over 100 different topics. (Online registration opens early September.)

