



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
THREE FIRES COUNCIL



THREE FIRES COUNCIL SCOUTS BSA FAQs

What is the difference between a linked troop and a separate troop?

A linked troop is chartered by the same charter organization and shares a common committee. A charter organization also may choose to keep the troops separate, in which case each troop would need to have its own committee.

When can I submit paperwork for my new girl troop? I want to camp on February 1st!

Three Fires Council will begin accepting applications for new troops and scouts on January 1, 2019, so that paperwork can be processed in time for a February 1, 2019 start date.

If girl troops don't start until February 1st, do we need to pay full dues for the year?

Dues will be prorated to 11 months. If registration is on July 1 or later, fees are for 18 months.

How many girls do I need to recruit to create a new troop?

The minimum number of girls is five (5). Your district champion, unit commissioner, and district executive can help you create a strategy to attract these girls.

Do I have to share my troop's gear with a new troop?

The charter organization will make this decision, as it owns all of the troop's assets. It can grant access to your gear while the new troop is forming and becoming established.

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. and must be engaged in the meeting (not located in another room or area).

Within a linked troop, can leaders serve in both the boy troop and girl troop?

Yes and no. Assistant Scoutmasters may be registered to each troop. The Scoutmaster for one troop, however, may NOT be the Scoutmaster for the other troop; this is because the SM acts as a coach to the SPL. The Scoutmaster for one troop MAY be an ASM for the other troop, though.

Can troops be run co-ed?

No. Troops must be single gender. Troops may share the same opening and closing; however, during the main meeting, the troops must be separated. When appropriate, both troops may attend activities or camping trips together; there must be separate camping sites, though, for each troop.

Do both linked troops need a different troop number?

This decision is up to the charter organization. Linked troops may have the same troop number, or they may choose to have separate numbers. Reasons for keeping troop numbers include the legacy of belonging to a specific troop. However, some troops have determined that their new girl troops should have the opportunity to create their own legacies.

How can I recruit girls?

To get started, consider what female siblings already exist in your Scouting family. There may be younger siblings who have already joined Cub Scouts and are at an age to cross over and/or join Scouts BSA. Also, be sure to encourage your girl recruits to bring their friends along on a recruiting outing adventure. Update your BeAScout profile to show that you accept girls.

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

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.

Troop 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, unit commissioner, and district executive 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. The Council also has a page on its website devoted to Family Scouting. Access it at <http://threefirescouncil.org/programs-2/family-scouting/>

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 Specific 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.

How can new older girls earn the Eagle rank?

BSA National recently announced that for a limited time older youth who join and are at least age 16 but not yet 18 on February 1, 2018, may apply for an extension to earn the Eagle rank. BSA National must approve this and will determine how much additional time will be granted on an individual basis. The first class of girl Eagle Scouts will be recognized *together* instead of emphasizing the first girl to earn Eagle in order to help girls focus on the values Scouting emphasizes rather than racing to finish the requirements first.

