



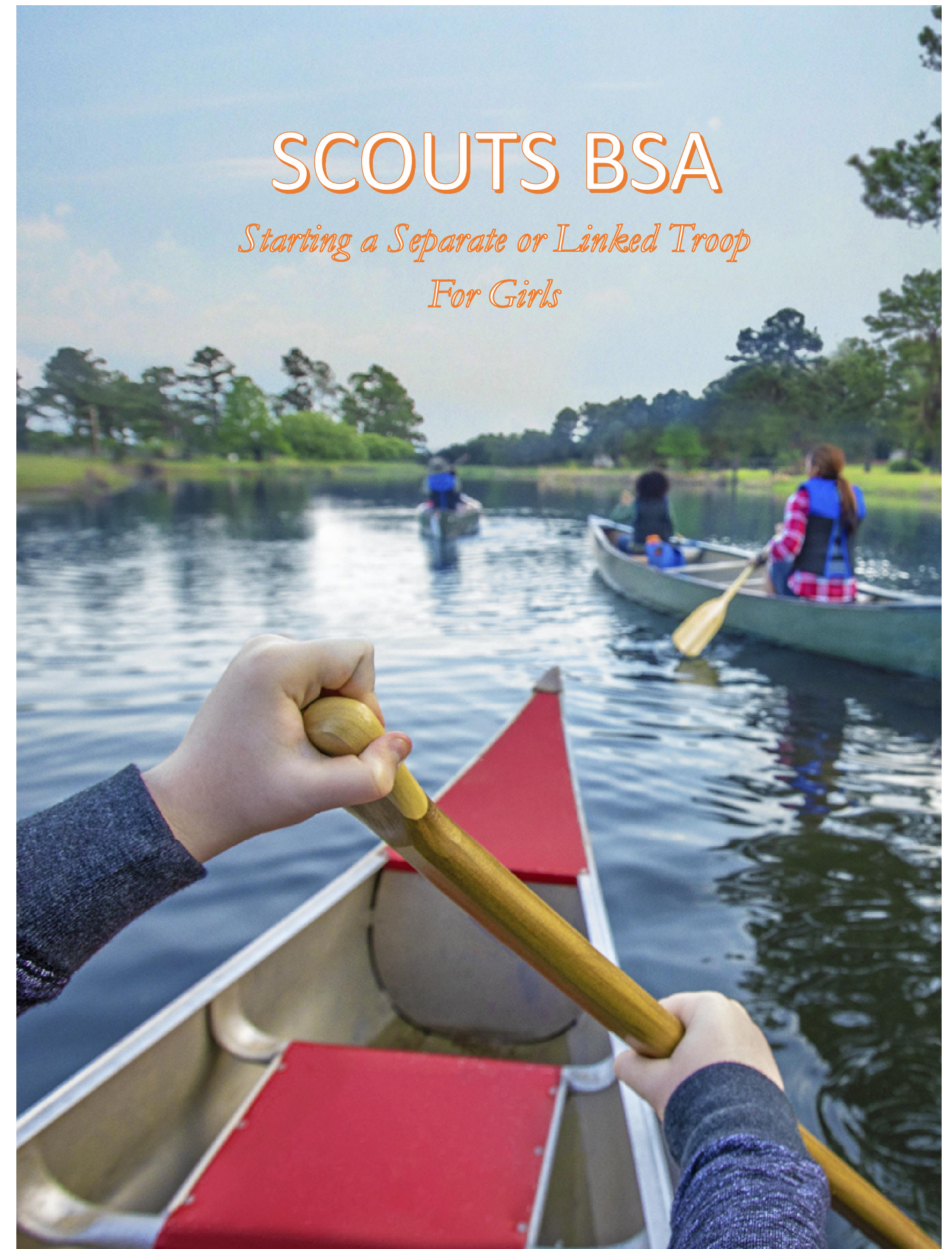
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
THREE FIRES COUNCIL

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SCOUTS BSA

*Starting a Separate or Linked Troop
For Girls*

SCOUTS BSA

Effective February 1, 2019, Scouting will offer our outstanding character building leadership development program to both boys and girls! The name, the mission and the vision of the Boy Scouts of America will not change. The mission of the Boy Scouts of America 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 Law. The Boys Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

The Scouting program will not change, and the patrol method will continue to be emphasized. Both boys and girls will have the opportunity to lead their troops. Both boys and girls will be eligible to work to attain the rank of Eagle. We will continue to offer Scouting to boys through troops open only to boys and led by boys. We will offer Scouting to girls through troops open only to girls and led by girls. Eligibility for girls to participate in Scouts BSA is the same as for boys under the current Boy Scout program.

Once your charter organization is committed to help girls become responsible, participating citizens and leaders, the next step is to make a plan to form a troop for girls that is ready to welcome girls by February 1, 2019.



SEPARATE TROOP

VS

LINKED TROOP

The linked troop is a great option because you just need to identify a Scoutmaster who should not also be a Scoutmaster for the boy troop. The charter organization representative, assistants, and the troop committee can be shared between the troops. If the linked troop model is not used, the boy troop and girl troop may be chartered to the same or a separate chartered organization, and a separate troop committee and adult Scouters must be recruited to guide the youth.



Whether boy and girl troops are separate or linked, they can meet at the same place and they can enjoy activities together. They can even conduct joint openings and closings and courts of honor. However, to ensure both boys and girls have equal opportunities to learn and practice leadership the boy troop and girl troop should run their meetings separately and planning should be done by the Patrol Leader's Council for each troop. For additional information visit www.scouting.org/familyscouting

Starting a Separate or Linked Troop

A Checklist for Success:

IDENTIFY YOUR “ORGANIZER” - This is the person who will hold on to all the paperwork and coordinate the conversation and steps in the new unit organizing process. After the new unit is organized, each scout will also earn a cool knot award for her uniform.

ORGANIZER CONTACTS THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE to let the DE know they are beginning to organize a new unit and shares relevant details, contact info, etc. The District Executive, in turn, will work with the District Commissioner to make certain a Commissioner is assigned to work with the new unit. The District Executive, District Volunteers, and Commissioner team can be resources to support each of the following steps.

SPEAK WITH THE CHARTERING ORGANIZATION to obtain its approval to charter the new unit, if acceptable; obtain a completed and signed new unit application and charter fee; understand who the Charter Organization Representative position in the unit committee will be filled by; and obtain a completed application and appropriate fee.

SELECT A SCOUTMASTER and obtain a completed application and appropriate registration fee from the Scoutmaster.

SELECT A COMMITTEE CHAIR and two members of the committee. Obtain completed applications and appropriate registration fee from each. New units are encouraged to register additional members of the committee and assistant Scoutmasters where possible. TRAINING for each leader mentioned above is to be completed.

DRAFT A 12-MONTH PROGRAM PLAN, including meeting dates, times, location, summer camp, recruiting plans, popcorn sales, service opportunities, district and council activities, and unit campouts each month. District volunteers may support this process. The Journey to Excellence scorecard is a good roadmap to support this planning.

YOUTH MEMBERS interested are engaged during a recruiting process that culminates with an orientation night or event that explains to new members and parents the plan, process, timeline, fun, basic calendar, uniform needs, first meeting info, etc. Applications and appropriate fees are collected from youth members and parents signing up to be on the committee or Assistant Scoutmasters.

ORGANIZER MEETS WITH DISTRICT EXECUTIVE to review and submit all paperwork, applications, fees, etc. Any corrections are made, and the paperwork is completed.

TIMELINE - February 1, 2019, or after the new unit begins meeting and executing its 12 month program plan. Support from commissioners, district and council, linked Troop committee and members, and other Scouting units support the success of the new unit. The new unit achieves a JTE bronze rating or higher at its first recharter.

PRESENT WILLIAM D. BOYCE New-Unit Organizer Award to the unit organizer.

Family Champions

COUNCIL FAMILY CHAMPIONS		
TFC East Champion	TFC West Champion	Staff Advisor
Joyce Nielsen joyce.nielsen@sbcglobal.net 630.904.4365	Jeff Mengler jlmengler4@gmail.com 630.204.8377	Ben Mahlke ben.mahlke@scouting.org 630.277.1322
EAST FAMILY CHAMPIONS		WEST FAMILY CHAMPIONS
Chanonee District Carrie Olson carrieolson91@gmail.com 630.784.9766		Fox Valley Suzy Sitarski sitarski904@att.net 630.202.6396
Indian Prairie District Megan Kalina mlhkalina125@gmail.com 630.749.8352		Foxfire Dan Kocunik daniel.c.kocunik@sargentlundy.com 630.892.0537
Northern Trail Jennie Galizia jennieg01@gmail.com 630.673.4107		Great Bear Marti Jernberg mjscouter@aol.com 847.337.0903
Potawatomi Trails John Lothian johnlothian@johnlothian.com 312.203.5515		Mike Lenth michael.lenth@motorolasolutions.com 847.579.9493
Thunderbird Laurette Solak lsolak@yahoo.com 630.779.2800		Kishwaukee TBD
		Maramech Hill Wade LeHew wade.lehew@gmail.com 815.762.3617

Leadership Requirements & Accommodations

Registration Requirements

The chartered organization representative, or in their absence the executive officer of the chartered organization, must approve the registration of the unit’s adult leaders.

Registration includes:

Completion of application including criminal background check and mandatory Youth Protection training. Volunteer Screening Database check. Current Youth Protection training is required for leaders when renewing their registrations or at unit charter renewal.

Adult Supervision:

(Effective October 1, 2018) Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including meetings. **There must be a registered female adult leader over 21 in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader over 21 must be present for any activity involving female youth.** Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age- and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided.

All adults accompanying a Scouting unit who are present at the activity for 72 total hours or more must be registered as leaders. The 72 hours need not be consecutive.

Accommodations: Separate accommodations for adult males and females and youth males and females are required.

Tenting: Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age. Youth and adults tent separately. Spouses may share tents.

Lodging/Cabin Accommodations:

Whenever possible, separate cabins or lodging should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. Where separate accommodations cannot be provided due to group size or limited availability, modifications may be made. Where completely separate accommodations are not available, additional supervision is required.

If adults and youth of the same gender occupy single-room accommodations, there must be a minimum of two adults and four youth, with all adults being Youth Protection trained.

Restrooms:

Separate shower and latrine facilities should be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. If separate facilities are not available, separate times should be scheduled and posted.

Privacy of youth is respected.

Adults and youth must respect each other’s privacy, especially in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp.

Adult leaders should closely monitor these areas but only enter as needed for youth protection or health and safety reasons.

SCOUTS BSA — FAQs

Q: What will the members of the program be called? Just as today, they will be called Scouts. For example, “I’m in Scouts BSA, so I am a Scout.”

Q: Why did the BSA not keep the Boy Scout program name and introduce a separate name for the program for girls? Since all single-gender troops will run the same Scouting program, earn the same merit badges and achieve the same ranks, it became clear that there should be one program name.

Q: Will the Boy Scout Handbook be updated to reflect the new name? Yes.

Q: Can linked troops share troop numbers? If so, how do we tell them apart? Yes, they can share troop numbers. You will be able to tell them apart in the system the same way that we do when councils merge — there is a prefix in ScoutNet that identifies each troop.

Q: Will girls be able to earn the same merit badges? Yes. All members of Scouts BSA will be eligible to earn merit badges.

Q: Will girls have to meet the same requirement to achieve Eagle Scout? Yes. Young women will have the opportunity to earn the Eagle Scout rank by meeting the same criteria and achievements as young men.

Q: Will girls be able to be members of the Order of the Arrow? Beginning February 1, 2019, unit elections will be permitted in Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scout units.

Q: Will camping be counted retroactively for those currently in Venturing and Sea Scouts? Yes. Camping that has taken place within the two years immediately prior to the election will be counted beginning February 1, 2019. This camping must have taken place while an individual was registered with the BSA as a program participant and must be while participating with a BSA Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship.

Q: Can I be elected into the OA if I am over the age of 18? Yes. As long as you are under the age of 21 at the time the election is held. If you are over 21, you will need to go through the adult selection process.

Q: Will there be any opportunities for Venturers to learn more about the OA and Venturing? Yes. We will provide high level information and the opportunity to gather feedback from youth.

Q: When will the OA literature be updated to reflect these changes? We are anticipating that all literature will be updated by Summer of 2019.

Q: Will we still be able to wear lodge flaps on any female uniforms that may be created? Yes. We continue to work with BSA National Supply to help ensure that the current OA lodge flap shape and size will be accommodated.