



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
THREE FIRES COUNCIL



**For Immediate Release**  
Jan. 31, 2019

**Contact: Maria Feitlich**  
**(630) 797-4621**  
**Maria.Feitlich@scouting.org**

## **Media Advisory – DuPage Area Girls Prepare for Launch of Scouts BSA**

*Local Boy Scouts of America Council opens its doors to both boys and girls*

**ST. CHARLES, IL** – Girls from across DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, and Kendall counties are gearing up for February 1, 2019, when the Three Fires Council, Boy Scouts of America (BSA) will welcome girls into its most iconic program.

Madeline Obora, an eighth grader, a sister to an Eagle Scout and with a twin brother in a local Naperville troop, is very enthusiastic. “Even though I am super busy between two club sports and school, I am really excited to join Scouts BSA. I’ve watched my brothers have a lot of fun going up the ranks, doing a bunch of different activities, and making great friends that they stay connected with. I can’t wait to get started and catch up to my twin brother!”

Maddie and countless other girls will join local troops this coming month thanks to the BSA’s historic decision to open the Boy Scout program, which is now called Scouts BSA, to both boys and girls ages 11-17.

Families can now choose to sign up their sons and daughters for Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA; girls have already been involved in Venturing and Exploring for many years. Each Scouts BSA Troop will be single gender and will meet independently. This approach allows the organization to maintain the integrity of the single-gender model while also meeting the needs of today’s families.

“As the parent of an Eagle Scout, I have seen firsthand how beneficial the Scouting program has been in molding my son’s character and developing his leadership skills. I often wished my daughters could have had similar adventures and experiences. Scouts BSA now allows all girls to do just that – *and* earn the rank of Eagle, too! I’m very excited for the trailblazers joining the program now and am thrilled to help establish Family Scouting,” stated Joyce Nielsen, a Three Fires Council Family Scouting Champion volunteer.

This month, Three Fires Council Scout Executive/CEO Clint Scharff along with Family Scouting Champions will be touring the community to welcome families into the Scouts BSA program.

415 North Second Street, St. Charles, IL 60174  
(630) 584-9250

“The Three Fires Council is thrilled to welcome both boys and girls into each of our renowned Boy Scouts of America programs,” said Scharff. “And for the first time, girls joining Scouts BSA will have the opportunity to become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank of Scouting. This season is just the beginning of our youth’s journey in character building, fun and adventure.”

Girls and families who are interested in learning more about Scouts BSA or testing out their Scouting skills are invited to the following events happening in the community this week:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Time/Date</b>	<b>Troop</b>
Knox Presbyterian	1105 Catalpa Lane, Naperville	6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1	Troop 1505
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	2600 - 75 <sup>th</sup> Street, Woodridge	7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1	Troop 9516
Cantigny Park – Klondike Derby Event	1 S 151 Winfield Road, Wheaton	8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1	Troop 6100 of Wesley United Methodist Church
St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church	1450 Green Trails Drive, Naperville	3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2	Troop 9507
Christ United Methodist Church	920 Swain Avenue, Elmhurst	7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4	Troop 9117
Living Lord Lutheran Church	1044 Congress Drive, Bartlett	8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4	Troop 2119

For more information about how to become a Scout, visit [www.BeAScout.org](http://www.BeAScout.org).

### **About Three Fires Council**

Three Fires Council is headquartered in St. Charles, Illinois, and was formed in 1925. It serves over 14,000 youth throughout Kane, DuPage, Kendall, DeKalb, and parts of Will and Cook Counties. Local communities are divided into 10 volunteer-led districts. Approximately 6,000 adult volunteers serve local youth. Last year, more than 142,000 community service hours were accumulated in Eagle Scout projects and other service opportunities. Three Fires Council also boasts two camps: Camp Big Timber (Elgin, Illinois) and Camp Freeland Leslie (Oxford, Wisconsin).

Website: [www.threefirescouncil.org](http://www.threefirescouncil.org)

###