SCOUTS BSA

A Primer on Girl Troops
Overview

• Troops for girls will officially launch on February 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2019
• Unique model that provides single-gendered program
  • Single-gender – all girl Troops or all-boy Troops
• Universal curriculum across all programs
• Linked Troops may share the same unit number
SEPARATE VERSUS LINKED TROOPS

Scouts BSA
Scheduled Launch February 2019
Ages 11-17 (or grades 6-12)

Separate Troops for Boys & Girls
Chartered Organization
Troop Committee

Linked Troop
Chartered Organization
Troop Committee

All-Boy Troop

All-Girl Troop
IMPORTANCE OF LINKED TROOPS

• Provides equal programming for both boy and girl Troops
• Sharing a committee gives the linked Troop a stable backbone
  • Ensures success and quality program
• If Troop meetings are on the same time/day, it eases the stress on families
• Ability to cultivate proper leadership for the girl Troop
  • Mentor Leaders
  • Youth-led programming *** - KEEP IN OR NOT?
Leadership

• Positions that are shared between the Linked Troops:
  • Chartered Organization Representative
  • Committee Chair
  • Committee Members
  • Assistant Scoutmasters

• Not Shared
  • Scoutmaster – linked Troops must have their own registered Scoutmaster
    • Assistant Scoutmaster of the boy Troop may be the Scoutmaster of the girl Troop and vice versa
Leadership Continued...

• An adult male CAN lead an all-girl unit
• Youth protection requirements still apply to both male and female participants.
• 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
• If your girl Troop is going on a campout/activity and their female adult leader cannot make it, they may go with another unit who has a registered female adult leader
Troop Meetings

- You can meet at the same location on the same day and time
- Opening and closing meetings can be together or separate
  - Other components of the Scout meeting should be run separately
- Troops must be all male or all female youth members
**Activities**

- A boy troop and a girl troop may:
  - Plan events together
  - Go on campouts
  - Participate in district and council events
Camping

- Linked Troops CAN camp together at the same campsite
- Separate accommodations must be provided for adult males and females and youth males and females
- Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults as well as male and female youth
- Separate shower and latrine facilities
  - If not able, separate times should be scheduled and posted
- Refer to the Guide for Safe Scouting for additional questions
UNIFORMS AND HANDBOOKS

• New uniforms and handbooks will be released in January 2019
• Uniforms are being adjusted for fit
• Handbooks will reflect new program name
• All guides will become gender neutral
Not every Linked Troop is alike...

- Depending on the committee and chartered organization, how Linked Troops interact with each other will look differently
- Troops may share or not share:
  - Finances: falling within guidelines of BSA and Chartering Organization
  - Equipment
- Troops may:
  - Do some, all or no campouts, outside events or district/council activities together
  - Meet on the same night or on a separate night
HOW TO GET READY NOW

• Approval from Chartered Organization
• Identify Leadership
• Identify Youth
• Put paperwork together
IDENTIFYING LEADERSHIP

• Need at least one registered adult female leader over the age of 21
• Look at your current leadership
• Reach out to parents of daughters within your Troop/connected Pack
• Recruit at your Chartered Organization
• Host Information Sessions!

• Use this time to train new leaders
  • Show them the ropes and mentor any new recruited adults!
IDENTIFY YOUTH

• Need 5 girls to start
• Recruit in Schools!
  • Scout Talks – Talk about fun, unique experiences
• Sisters of boys in your Troop
• Reach out through your Chartered Organization
• Pick a night and host an informational session
  • Most likely it will take more than one!
• Girls travel in PACKS and will bring their friends
• Let me help!
Chartering and Applications

- Start putting your paperwork together
  - During your recharter process
  - Start collecting new unit paperwork ASAP
  - Dec. 4th – January 31st
    - Check and Correct Paperwork

- How to become a new unit:
  - Approval from Chartered Organization
  - New Unit Application
  - New Charter Agreement

- New Family Scouting Applications will be coming out in December
  - You may use current applications. To distinguish it as a Girl Troop place GT next to the unit number

- Committee Members and Assistant Scoutmasters for the boy troop must fill out an application for the girl troop
Rank and Requirements

• Eagle Scout rank Requirements are not changing

• Anything completed prior to girls joining Scouts BSA on February 1, 2019 will not be counted towards rank advancement
  • Includes female Venturers or Sea Scouts

• Camping nights from current Venturing and Sea Scouts will not count towards the Order of the Arrow or Rank
EAGLE AND EXTENSIONS

• Extensions for Eagle
  • For ANY youth who is 16, but not yet 18 on February 1, 2019
  • Must be registered on or before December 31, 2019
  • Will extend to both girls and FIRST-TIME joining boys

• Requests for extensions must be received no later than 30 days after turning 18
  • Extensions are submitted to the National Service Center
  • Extensions will not be accepted after January 7, 2020
  • Will be based on registration date and age at time of request
  • Extension will not exceed more than 24 months from date of initial registration to complete all requirements

• These are temporary transition rules and is not available to anyone under 16
Eagle Scout Rank Continued...

- BSA will not recognize a first female Eagle Scout
- BSA will officially recognize an Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts in the fall of 2020
- The Inaugural Class will be celebrated nationally and collectively commemorated
Prepare

• Use this time to figure out how your boy Troop and girl Troop will work together
• Not every Troop will have the same practices
• How will your Troops interact with one another?
• What resources will you share?
• Will you be sharing ASMs?
• Do you have Webelos crossing over?
Thank you!

Any questions?