

## Five Rivers Council, BSA

### Serving the Whole Family

BSA's mission 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 Scout Law.

Our priority is to bring the benefits of Scouting to more youth while remaining true to our mission. We are excited to announce beginning in the fall of 2018, our Cub Scout program will be open to boys and girls. We also anticipate that the Boy Scout program will be available to boys and girls beginning sometime in 2019. By welcoming both girls and boys into the program, even more youth will have access to the character development and values-based leadership that Scouting promises and be better prepared for future success.

This is an exciting time for our program with the changes coming. Rest assured, we will continue to provide high quality program to the youth of our community. While some aspects of who we are delivering the Scouting program to may change, our core values remain the same and our dedication to our Mission Statement remains as firm as ever.

As with any new program it will take some time before all the details are worked out. Since this an organization-wide change the timeline, implementation strategies, and other key issues will all be developed and rolled out by the National BSA Office. As a local council our job is to implement the program as it is provided to us. As such we need to be patient as the National Office communicates to us the key steps in this process. We will share information with you as it becomes available to us.

We would strongly urge you to use this page as your primary source for information about this matter. We will update this information on a regular basis to try to provide you with the most timely information possible. If you have particular questions not addressed here, please direct them to your [District Professional](#).

## **Frequently Asked Questions in Five Rivers Council**

Please note that the National Office has their own FAQ at the [Family Scouting page](#). This FAQ is responding to specific questions that have been asked in the Five Rivers Council

1. When can we start registering girls in Cub Scouts? Can I start now?

BSA will begin accepting girls into Cub Scouts beginning in the fall of 2018. So, you cannot begin registering young ladies in the current recharter cycle and you cannot recruit them in June.

2. When will girls be able to join Boy Scouts?

The exact timetable for when girls can officially join Boy Scouts has not been determined yet. The measure approved by the National BSA Board calls for program to be announced in 2018 and projected to be available in 2019. At this time, we do not have any other information about the timing of the rollout for this program. As additional details become available we will share them.

3. How can I get more information about the changes?

The best place to get the most current information will be at the [Family Scouting page](#). You can also talk to your District Professional. We will update the information on this website as soon as it becomes available to us from the National Office. Please do not automatically accept information from other sources.

4. How will Youth Protection be addressed?

When a Scouting activity includes both boys and girls, there must be both female and male leaders present. At least one of those leaders must be registered as an adult member of the BSA.

5. Will Boys and Girls be allowed to stay in the same tents?

No. We have very specific rules regarding this in [National Youth Protection Training](#) and in the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#).

6. How will the Council deal with showering at camp?

No changes need to be made whatsoever. Both Camp Gorton & Camp Brule already have individual locking rooms for showers.

7. How will this change the way the Scouting program is delivered and the experience that my child will have?

There will be no change to the program being delivered to our members. By including young ladies and their families in the Scouting program we will expand the number of people and communities that Scouting reaches. We believe that everyone will benefit from this!

For additional information on the decision to expand the Scouting program to additional families please watch the linked video from [Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh](#)