



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

BALTIMORE AREA COUNCIL

To: All Baltimore Area Council Cub Scout Packs

Subject: Family Scouting

As you hopefully already know, the BSA's Board of Directors recently approved a plan to invite girls into all Scouting programs. Requirements for females in the Scouting programs will be identical to the requirements for males.

- Beginning fall 2018, girls will be able to join Cub Scouts. Cub Scout dens will be single-gender dens. This way the boys and girls can learn and grow at the pace that is unique to their development. Packs can be all-boy packs, all-girl packs, or family packs with any combination of all-girl dens and all-boy dens. NOTE: Similar to policies that apply to Venturing, adult female supervision will be required for Cub Scouting activities that involve female Cub Scouts. This supervision can be a parent or legal guardian of a Cub Scout who is Youth Protection-trained, but does not need to be a registered leader.
- Current Boy Scout troops will not be affected, as they will remain all-boy. 2019 will see 11-to-17-year-old girls being able to join an all-girl BSA program.

The formal start of girls being able to join Cub Scouts is fall 2018; however, there has been so much interest in starting sooner, that the BSA has initiated an "EARLY ADOPTER" program. This program will allow girls to join Cub Scouts as early as January 15, 2018, and is available **ONLY** to qualified Packs in Councils that opt into the "EARLY ADOPTER" program.

GOOD NEWS: The Baltimore Area Council has opted into the "EARLY ADOPTER" program!

MORE GOOD NEWS: Packs have three options with respect to Family Scouting participation:

1. You can choose to have your pack remain all boys. There is absolutely no requirement for your pack to change and include girls.
2. You can elect to bring in all-girl dens starting in the fall 2018, in conjunction with the official national start of the Family Scouting program.
3. You can select the "EARLY ADOPTER" program, and gear up to have girls, in all-girl dens, start in your pack as early as January 15, 2018! This means:

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- a. Kindergarten through 3rd grade girls will be Lions, Tigers, Wolves, and Bears.
- b. 4th grade girls will be Webelos, then go on to AOL in 5th grade.
- c. 5th grade girls **will not be eligible** for 1/15/18 entry to Cub Scouts, since no older-girl BSA units will be available for them to transfer to later in 2018. These girls and girls who are in 6th grade and beyond will be able to join older-girl program units once they are formed in 2019.

If you select option 1 or option 2, you do not have to do anything right now. But, we will be following up with additional information in the spring.

If you selected option 3, and you wish to be an “EARLY ADOPTER” Family Pack, please see below for details and an application that needs to be completed and submitted to become approved for this program. Here are the “EARLY ADOPTER” rules from National BSA, which have been put together to assure girls who join in January have a complete, FUN Cub Scout experience for their somewhat truncated first year. Baltimore Area Council will support your Pack in whatever ways possible to facilitate this program.

Note: A fourth option will be available in fall 2018 – to establish a separate all-girl Pack. Information on this option will follow later.

“EARLY ADOPTER” Rules for BSA Family Packs

- 1. Chartered Partner and pack committee agree to adopt the Family Pack model.**
 - You will need to contact your Chartered Organization right away to ensure they are in agreement that you become a “Family Pack.” If you need assistance with this, please contact us at 220BACFamilyScouting@scouting.org or your Unit Serving Executive for help.
- 2. The pack submits an “EARLY ADOPTER” application, and Council approves the pack is in good standing and has the capacity (leadership, facilities, etc.) to participate.**

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- Complete the “EARLY ADOPTER” application, and forward it as indicated, right away! We will review the application and contact you immediately.

After receiving Council approval:

- You will need to activate your online Family Pack BeAScout PIN between January 15 and March 14. We will provide details on this activation with the approval of your “EARLY ADOPTER” application.

i. CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE MUST ACTIVATE FIRST, THEN PACK LEADERSHIP ACTIVATES.

ii. ALL REGISTRATIONS FOR THE FAMILY PACK ARE DONE ON-LINE.

3. All leaders in the pack are fully trained in their positions.

- Youth Protection training is a requirement for all registered BSA leaders and must be current annually within the Baltimore Area Council. This training is available online at My.Scouting.org.
- Cub Leader Position-Specific training is also available online and is a requirement for all leaders in EARLY ADOPTER Packs.

4. Program plan is developed with a timeline to ensure the girl Cub Scouts have the opportunity to accomplish all rank requirements by May 31, 2018. (Since “EARLY ADOPTERS” will have a compressed timeline, packs must create this timeline to ensure the girl Cub Scouts have the opportunity to advance.)

- Sample timelines will be available for your use, or you may develop your own.

5. “EARLY ADOPTERS” agree:

- **That all Leaders in the pack, including the Den Leader(s) of the Family Scouting all-girl Den(s) are trained, BEFORE beginning the program**

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- **Have a registered and trained New Member Coordinator in the pack**
- **That All youth applications must be processed online, through BeAScout portal and that NO paper applications can be accepted**
- **To register a minimum of 4 girls into an existing Pack, in an all-girl Den**
- **To only recruit and register girls in grades K – 4**
- **Similar to policies that apply to Venturing, adult female supervision will be required for Cub Scouting activities that involve female Cub Scouts. This supervision can be a parent or legal guardian of a Cub Scout who is Youth Protection-trained, but does not need to be a registered leader.**
- **To use the current Cub Scouting program and resources**
- **To provide every opportunity for the girls to complete rank advancement by 5/31/18**
- **To uphold membership policies and follow the guidelines in the Unit Performance Guide**
- **To provide data and statistics on their activities and experiences to help improve the formal rollout; this information may also be used in marketing material and earned media.**

“EARLY ADOPTERS” may participate in pack overnights, family camping, council-organized family camps, and day camps.

Please visit www.baltimorebsa.org/familyscouting for the Early Adopter application as well as additional information. Also, there will be additional information from our National Service Center on January 8th via a livestream. We will post the details on our webpage once it is shared.

Thank you for considering being an “EARLY ADOPTER” Family Pack. Please contact us with any questions, at 220BACFamilyScouting@scouting.org.

Sincerely,
David J. Hodnett
Vice President, Membership

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