

393 MARSHALL AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MN 55102
TEL | 763-231-7201



5300 GLENWOOD AVENUE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55422
FAX | 763-231-7202

NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Dear Northern Star Scouting Volunteers:

You have very likely seen the news coverage that resulted from yesterday's decision by the National Council of the BSA to expand our programs for girls, to include Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting. The BSA has been considering this step for some time and the media has been covering discussions since last spring.

[More complete information on this decision is on our website](#) and this will be where we provide additional details as they become available.

Here are a few important highlights:

- This is a choice and will be optional. Chartered organizations, leaders and parents will determine what format best meets the needs of the young people in their community.
- It will take effect in the fall of 2018. It's new and implementation details are still being developed. Our volunteers and staff will be working hard to have them in place and shared with you in plenty of time for the fall 2018 program year rollout for Cub Scouts and for older youth in the fall of 2019.
- This change is to meet the needs of families and their children, offering families an important additional choice in meeting the character development needs of all their children.
 - The decision comes after years of receiving requests from families and girls, the evaluation of numerous research effort results, input from current members and leaders, as well as from parents and girls who've never been involved in Scouting.
 - Families today are busier and more diverse than ever. Most are dual-earners and there are more single-parent households than before, making convenient programs that serve the whole family more appealing.
- The BSA has been serving older girls since 1971, while remaining supportive of the Girl Scouts of the USA. We will continue to seek to partner with the Girl Scouts so that youth and families can find and choose the organization that best fits their desired experience.

As an organization committed to positive youth development, we are always looking for ways to better meet the needs and expectations of the young people and their families in our community. We realize there is much to do, but we are excited to be in a position to respond to what so many of our families and volunteers have been asking for.

Sincerely,
John Andrews
Scout Executive