

## Early Adopter Program Talking Points

- The National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America recently made a unanimous decision to welcome girls to our iconic programs, based on feedback from our community and an understanding that the character and leadership qualities our programs develop grounded in the Scout Oath and Scout Law are as relevant and helpful for girls as they have been for boys.
- Starting in 2018, we invite our chartered partner organizations to choose if they'd like to establish a new girl pack, establish a family pack that consists of girl dens and boy dens or remain an all-boy pack.

### *If asked about co-ed:*

- It is important to note that the BSA did not decide to make the Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting programs co-ed; instead, the organization has introduced a unique model that builds on the benefits of a single-gender program while also providing character and leadership opportunities for both boys and girls.
- Although our programs will officially launch to welcome both boys and girls in Cub Scouting during the program year, we are offering a soft launch for early adopters based on overwhelming demand from communities that will allow eligible packs to officially register girls (K-4) in Cub Scouts as early as January 15.
- The requirements to participate in the early adopter program are:
  - 1) A local council decides to participate in the early adopter program.
  - 2) Local councils reach out to chartered partners of units that are in good standing and have the capacity to participate to determine if the chartered partner is interested in opting in to the early adopter program.
  - 3) Chartered partners and unit leaders confirm interest and agree to use the family pack model, and that they will:
    - a. Register a minimum of four girls into a new all-girl den of an existing pack,
    - b. Use the current Cub Scouting program and resources,
    - c. Uphold membership policies,
    - d. Provide input and feedback about their activities and experiences to help improve the formal rollout; this information may also be used in marketing and earned media outreach.
  - 4) The pack confirms that leaders are trained in their positions.
  - 5) The pack agrees to develop a program plan to ensure that participants can accomplish all rank requirements by May 31, 2018.
- There will also be a video webinar available starting January 8 for chartered partners and units interested in learning more about the early adopter program.
- If a chartered partner or pack decides not to participate in the early adopter program, they are still able to choose to offer family or girl packs during the official launch during the program year.