



Written by [Dave Bohon](#) on October 12, 2017

Continuing Cultural Cave-in: Boy Scouts Welcome Girls

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) announced October 11 that it will acquiesce to “requests” that it allow females into its ranks, welcoming girls into its Cub Scout program (traditionally for younger-aged boys) and offering “a Scouting program for older girls that will enable them to advance and earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout,” according to a BSA press release.



In a statement, the BSA’s CEO Michael Surbaugh insisted that the move “is true to the BSA’s mission and core values outlined in the Scout Oath and Law. The values of Scouting — trustworthy, loyal, helpful, kind, brave, and reverent, for example — are important for both young men and women.” He added that it was necessary for the BSA to change “how our programs meet the needs of families interested in positive and lifelong experiences for their children. We strive to bring what our organization does best — developing character and leadership for young people — to as many families and youth as possible as we help shape the next generation of leaders.”

The organization explained that beginning in 2018, parents will have the option to enroll a daughter into Cub Scouts, with existing packs choosing to establish a new girl “pack,” establish a pack that consists of separate girl “dens” and boy dens, or remain an all-boy pack. The organization emphasized that “Cub Scout dens will be single-gender — all boys or all girls.”

Similarly, by 2019 the Boy Scouts will establish a program for older girls that will allow them to go through the traditionally all-boy program and even earn the coveted “Eagle Scout” rank — a singularly prestigious honor that over the past century has been bestowed upon such notable men as astronaut Neil Armstrong, President Gerald Ford, adventurer Steve Fossett, film director Michael Moore, former Texas Governor Rick Perry, General William Westmoreland, and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, to name just a few.

The latest move is consistent with a conspicuous cultural cave-in the BSA has suffered over the past several years. While for over a century the Boy Scouts steadfastly maintained a policy against immoral behavior and lifestyles, in 2014 BSA officials announced that the organization would [allow boys who self-identify as homosexual](#) to join its ranks.

And while it had faced a high-profile scandal that revealed [decades of the abuse](#) of boys by scout leaders, in 2015 the organization announced that it would allow openly homosexual adults to serve as



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scout leaders.

The Associated Press reported that the latest BSA policy change “was hailed by Zach Wahls, an Eagle Scout who played an active role in pressuring the BSA to end its ban on gays. However, he urged the Boy Scouts to take one more step and end its exclusion of atheists and non-believers who do not profess a ‘duty to God.’”

However, many others have responded to the BSA cultural cave-in by ending their involvement in the Boy Scout program and putting their boys into alternative programs such as [Trail Life USA](#), which states that its mission is “to guide generations of courageous young men to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure.”

Among those criticizing the latest BSA policy change is the leadership of the Girl Scouts USA (GSUSA), which understandably fears that the welcoming of girls into Boy Scouts will result in fewer girls joining GSUSA. But it is also ironic, since the [Girl Scouts’ own cultural slide](#) from traditional values has also led to many parents choosing alternative youth programs such as [American Heritage Girls](#).

Lisa Margosian, chief customer officer for GSUSA, said that her organization was “blindsided” by the BSA announcement. “We’ve had 105 years of supporting girls and a girl-only safe space,” Margosian said. “So much of a girl’s life is a life where she is in a coed environment, and we have so much research and data that suggests that girls really thrive in an environment where they can experiment, take risk, and stretch themselves in the company of other girls.”

In August GSUSA President Kathy Hopinkah Hannan sent a letter to BSA President Randall Stephenson accusing his organization of trying to recruit girls into the BSA at the expense of the Girls Scouts. “I formally request that your organization stay focused on serving the 90 percent of American boys not currently participating in Boy Scouts ... and not consider expanding to recruit girls,” Hopinkah wrote in her missive.

Hannan wrote that “despite offering to engage in a constructive, collaborative sharing process, we were disappointed in the lack of transparency as we learned that you are surreptitiously testing the appeal of a girls’ offering to millennial parents.” She also accused BSA leaders of making “disparaging and untrue remarks about Girl Scout programming,” and making “subtle implications about the weakness of Girl Scouts’ long term market strength.”

The *New York Times* quoted one longtime Boy Scout Leader, Joseph Carballo, whose two sons are Eagle Scouts, as saying that girls have no place in Boy Scouts. “Boys and girls should have separate organizations for activities,” he said. “There is an organization for girls. It’s called the Girl Scouts.”

Similarly, Bob Adelman, an Eagle Scout and longtime writer for the *The New American*, decried the Boy Scouts’ continued slide into cultural compromise. “The Boy Scouts was at one time in our nation an esteemed and worthy organization because of its commitment to helping form generations of boys into solid and dependable young men,” he recalled. “Now it has become little more than a sad footnote in history, known more for compromise than commitment to the boys and families it claims to serve. The welcoming of girls into its ranks is one more predictable step on its way to irrelevance.”

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