

## Family Scouting Task Force Overview

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### **Background:**

In October 2017, the volunteer National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) unanimously approved to welcome girls into its iconic Cub Scout program starting in 2018 and to deliver a Scouting program for older girls beginning in 2019 that will enable them to advance and earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

The decision was based on feedback from the 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. Families today are busier than ever before, so it is critical to ensure that our programs are accessible to meet their needs.

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. Additionally, chartered partners continue to have the ability to structure their Scouting programs to meet the needs and objectives of their organization.

### **Objective:**

Organize a diverse ad-hoc committee of 12-20 members from around the council to serve as content experts and resources for our unit leaders and chartered organizations for the next 18 months beginning in May 2018. Ensure that our volunteers are as informed as possible regarding Family Scouting.

### **Purpose:**

- Educate local units and chartered organizations about Family Scouting, beginning with the roll-out of girls in Cub Scouting.
- Solicit feedback from Cub Scout packs currently participating in the Early Adopter program to identify obstacles and solutions.
- Make recommendations to council leadership.
- Assist in organizing and facilitating at least two listening sessions for key unit leadership and chartered organization heads.
- Help district leadership identify which units and chartered organizations will participate in Family Scouting and which ones will not.

### **Timeline:**

- April: Recruit committee leadership and members.
- May: Organize and promote listening sessions, with a focus on girls in Cub Scouting.
- June – September: Hold listening sessions.
- Ongoing: Work one-on-one with units and chartered organizations as needed and make recommendations.
- Late 2018 – Early 2019: Hold listening sessions as needed with a focus on programs for older girls.