

**DISCUSSION GUIDE – PLEASE USE WHEN FACILITATING FAMILY PROGRAM MEETINGS.
THE DISCUSSION GUIDE SHOULD ONLY BE USED AFTER SHARING THE VIDEO.
PLEASE USE VERBATIM TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY IN THIS IMPORTANT CONVERSATION.**

Within Scouting, our families and volunteers consistently tell us that the values, character, and leadership skills taught to youth through Scouting are appealing for the entire family.

At the recent National Annual Meeting, we began a conversation about whether and how Scouting should serve a broader constituency. Based on the feedback, there is strong support that we thoughtfully continue evaluating options that will help us truly serve the needs of today’s families.

As we discuss the potential approaches to the family program, it is important to be clear about what this is and what it is not. Here are a few key topics to clarify as we move this discussion forward:

What <i>Family Programming</i> <u>IS</u> :	What <i>Family Programming</i> is <u>NOT</u> :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A family entry point: We are looking for a program model to that allows BSA to make Scouting accessible to today’s families. • A discussion: Feedback provided via surveys is not representations of a council decision—this is simply an organizational discussion. We are engaging our volunteers and members to get input about how to meet the needs of families. • What families want: Extensive data analysis has told us what the market wants, and several local BSA programs have already established pathways to deliver what their communities are demanding— quality youth programming that incorporates the entire family. • Optional to chartered partners: Our partners will continue to be able to choose which programs they offer. If an organization would rather offer the current program options, they may do so. • An opportunity: Offering Scouting to the entire family is nothing less than an opportunity to grow our organization and bring Scouting to more youth, while still representing the foundation of our program and the Scout Oath and Law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already decided: While family programming was discussed at the National Annual Meeting, no decisions were reached. Feedback provided during the meeting encouraged us to expand the conversation to our volunteers, partners and others. • Co-ed: We strongly believe in single-gender programs, which is why the proposed options focus on single-gender offerings. • Changing who we are: This is not an abandonment of our values. This is another option for us to consider as we seek to serve more youth, families and communities so they experience the benefits of Scouting. • Financially motivated: As the data shows, this is prompted by input from families. It’s an opportunity, not an obligation. • A threat to our congressional charter: While BSA’s congressional charter does specify <i>Boy</i> Scouting, we are able to build on our programs, as we have with Exploring and Venturing.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

As you saw, the BSA is considering recommendations that include the following Cub Scout program options from which Chartered Organizations can choose:

- Packs that are boy-only
- Packs that are girl-only
- Packs that include boy dens and girl dens that meet together for the opening and closing, but separately for den activities.

How would you feel about adding these Cub Scout program options?

What do you think the response would be in the community if we offered these Cub Scout program options?

If the BSA were to make the Cub Scouts program available to girls in this way so we maintain the single-gender nature of the program, should the organization partner with a separate organization for a program that serves girls ages 11 to 18 **OR** develop a BSA single-gender program for girls ages 11 to 18?

Thinking about the BSA Oath, Law, and Duty to God requirements, what organization do you feel shares and instills those same values through their program for girls?

Do you think the BSA should have a single-gender program for girls ages 11-18 that uses the same requirements and activities as the Boy Scout program? Why? Why not?

What do you think the response would be in the community if we offered a separate, single gender Boy Scout-equivalent program for girls?

If the BSA were to offer a separate, single-gender Boy Scout-equivalent program for girls, should the participants be eligible to earn the highest rank of Eagle if they have completed the same requirements?

What do you think the response would be in the community if we decided that girls in the single-gender older girl program were eligible to earn the highest rank of Eagle if they have completed the same requirements?

What do you think the response would be in the community if we decided that girls in the single-gender older girl program were NOT eligible to earn the highest rank of Eagle if they have completed the same requirements?