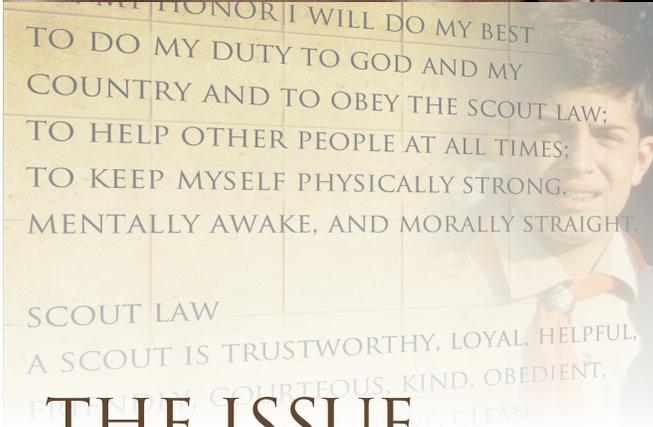


Boy Scouts of America OVER 100 YEARS OF BUILDING

CHARACTER,
CONFIDENCE
& LEADERSHIP

STAND ON
THE OATH

DON'T
CHANGE
THE
MEMBERSHIP
STANDARDS



THE ISSUE

A basic premise of Scouting has been that truth has meaning beyond whatever an individual Scout might give it. Terms like honor, "morally straight," reverent, and brave have an objective meaning, one rooted in the Judeo-Christian background of Scouting itself.

Now, some advocates of cultural change are urging the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to

promote homosexuality in Scouting. This comes after decades of documented abuse within Scouts. The abuse was finally stanchied in the early '90s when the BSA imposed strict rules of conduct on all boys and adults involved in Scouting – including a prohibition on "open and avowed" homosexuals.

This policy has been under attack by those demanding the acceptance and affirmation of homosexual conduct. The Boy Scouts successfully defended their policy against a legal challenge, winning a landmark case at the U.S. Supreme Court in 2000. *Boy Scouts of America et al. v. Dale*, affirmed that the Scouts have a constitutional right to set their own membership standards.

Affirming homosexuality in Scouting would be a violation of the Scouts' own moral code and would jeopardize the well-being of vulnerable young men. It would introduce issues of explicit sexuality into the lives of boys who join Scouts to learn to camp, hike, and become responsible and respectable citizens. The homosexual lobby is free to start their own organization based upon their own values. Is it fair for them to force scouts and parents to surrender their values?

OUR RESPONSE

The Scouts have always affirmed the importance of high moral conduct. As they clearly have stated, BSA places great emphasis on strong family values as being necessary components of a healthy society.

As persons of faith (belief in God is another Scout requirement), parents of Scouts take seriously such words as honor, “morally straight” and reverent. What should such parents tell their boys when advocates for a type of sexual behavior they find immoral now demand tolerance and affirmation?

This is not a matter of “tolerance.” Race and ethnicity are benign qualities that have nothing to do with a person’s character. Homosexuality is, by definition, about sexual attraction and conduct, things about which most Scout parents have serious moral concerns.



LET US STAND FIRM
SHOW COURAGE
LIVE THE OATH



The Boy Scouts of America has made profound contributions to the lives of countless boys and young men and also to our country as a whole. Four Presidents - Kennedy, Ford, Clinton, and George W. Bush - have participated in Scouting. More than 200 astronauts have been Scouts, as have more than one-third of cadets at West Point. In the 112th Congress, 207 Members had Scouting backgrounds. And in 2011, Scouts contributed nearly 12 million service hours to their communities and fellow citizens.

Scouting teaches values that all Americans should celebrate and respect. Yet today, those achievements are jeopardized by the possible inclusion of “open and avowed” homosexuals in Scouting. By opening their doors to homosexuals, Scouts make themselves liable to lawsuits filed under various state and local laws, potentially forfeiting the Supreme Court’s protection of their right to sustain their time-tested policy. As a private organization, BSA frequently uses public accommodations. Should the Scouts permit homosexuality, they will invite litigation concerning any standards regarding sexual expression by local Scouting councils. This would unalterably change the very nature of Scouting.



WHAT RELIGIOUS GROUPS ARE SAYING

**Tony Perkins,
Family Research Council**

“The BSA board should publicly re-affirm their current standards, as they did just last July. We look forward to continuing to work with scouting parents, leaders of the faith-based organizations that charter over two-thirds of the packs and the troops.”

Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention

“... we call on and urge the representatives (of the) National Council of the Boy Scouts of America courageously to stand strong on their moral convictions and vote to reject the proposed resolution from the national Scouting leaders.”

Sister Mary Ann Walsh, Spokesperson, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

“The bishops hope the Boy Scouts will continue to work under the Judeo-Christian principles upon which they were founded and under which they have served youth well.”

Churches of Christ for Scouting

“Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting strongly urges the National BSA Executive Committee to oppose and defeat the proposal to remove the national membership restriction regarding sexual orientation. We deeply love and appreciate the Boy Scouts of America and have a 28 year history as an organization of supporting BSA, but we cannot support, at any level of BSA, the proposed policy change now being considered. To allow openly homosexual adults to be members is against our core values and religious principles.”

Assemblies of God – General Superintendent George Wood

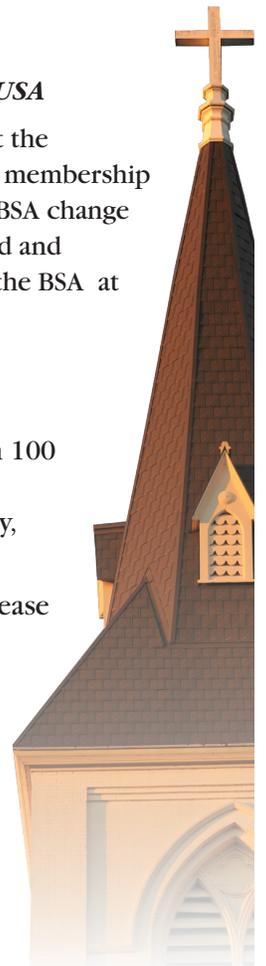
“Homosexual behavior contradicts biblical teachings and God’s created order for the family and human relationships. We pray the Boy Scouts of America will give careful consideration to this matter and hold firm to the beliefs that have made it a strong and influential organization for more than 100 years.”

Kenna “Lucky” Ray, President, American Baptist Men – USA

“Therefore, as President of ABMen-USA, I affirm our decision that the American Baptist Men-USA continue to support the current BSA membership policy and we do not support changing it. However, should the BSA change that current membership policy, the ABMen-USA Executive Board and membership will determine the future of our relationship with the BSA at our Annual Meeting in Kansas in June of this year.”

CONSIDER THIS

- The Boy Scouts have been one of the most successful organizations in America for more than 100 years. Countless boys and young men have had their lives changed by their participation in Scouting. Why is there a sudden need to coerce the Scouts into changing their existing policy, which has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court?
- The stated mission and message of the Boy Scouts is clear, and changing their policies to appease one group will only encourage other interest groups to demand that the Scouts make more changes to please them. For example, an atheist organization is calling for the removal of “God” from the BSA oath.
- A change in policy would mean that young boys will be forced to consider issues of sexuality that have nothing to do with Scouting and which are the exclusive right of parents to discuss with them.
- The pressure to change the policy for the most part comes from outside the Boy Scouts, who only last year completed a two-year study in which Scout parents overwhelmingly said



they wanted to keep the present policy. The organization has a responsibility to its membership first and foremost.

- Why should the Boy Scouts become a laboratory for social experimentation or a forum for scoring political points with pressure groups? If there really is a demand for a boys' organization that includes homosexuals, it should have no trouble thriving. Is it fair to ask the Scouts to surrender their values to the homosexual agenda?
- There is little doubt that the Scouts will lose significant membership if they change the policy. And many faith-based organizations, because of their religious convictions, will drop their sponsorship of Scouts.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

How can we preserve Scouting as its founders envisioned it – as a resource for young men to develop in morally, mentally, and physically healthy ways, free to be boys and teens without the invasion of cultural controversies? Here are some suggested ways:

- ✓ Request a meeting with the Scout officials in your area to express your concerns.
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/councils/all.aspx>
<http://www.scouting.org/LocalCouncilLocator.aspx>
- ✓ Write, email, and call Scout officials in your area and state to express your concerns.
- ✓ Ask the local Evangelical and Catholic media (for example, Christian radio stations) to cover this story.
- ✓ Urge local Scouts and Scout leaders who want to keep the current policy to write their newspapers and blog on social media regarding their beliefs.
- ✓ Ask your pastor to speak about this issue from the pulpit and to distribute bulletins in support of the Scouts:
<http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF13B83.pdf>.
- ✓ If your church charters a Scout troop, ask the Scoutmaster of the troop to contact his superiors and let them know the church will seriously consider leaving Scouts should a change of policy be enacted.
- ✓ If your church is part of a denomination historically affiliated with Scouts, urge the Scoutmaster to note that the denomination's departure from Scouting will result in X-number fewer Scouts and X-dollars less in revenue for the BSA.
- ✓ Spread the word on social media and with your email lists. Share and Like Facebook posts in support of the Boy Scouts, from coalition partners like www.OnMyHonor.Net and Facebook groups like "BSA Stand Strong," "Save Our Scouts," and "Moms of Boy Scouts."
- ✓ Link to FRC's BSA petition: <http://www.frc.org/alert/the-scouts-need-your-help>
- ✓ Place ads in local newspapers asking the local Boy Scouts Council to take a stand, FRC's staff can personalize the ad for you: (sample ad: <http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF13B06.pdf>)

KEY DATES

April 17: BSA board drafts resolution.

April 22: Draft resolution will be sent to stakeholders prior to National Annual Meeting.

May 5: Family Research Council's nationwide "Stand with the Scouts Night" simulcast.

May 22: Pre-meeting rally in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Join Us!

May 22-24: BSA annual business meeting in Grapevine, TX. (Please note: the 23rd is the day of the vote.)

FOR LINKS TO ALL THESE RESOURCES GO TO FRC.ORG/BSA

FRC'S INVOLVEMENT

Family Research Council (FRC) immediately recognized the importance of the Boy Scouts of America's policy. Within 24 hours of learning about the proposed policy change FRC convened a nationwide call of key religious, conservative and Scouting affiliated organizations. FRC's staff now leads weekly coalition meetings to inform and coordinate action between other leaders from across the country. In addition, FRC has produced ads urging the BSA to retain its historic policy, with more than 40 other like-minded organizations co-signing. FRC leaders have appeared in national TV and radio news programs to discuss the controversy. Additionally, the subject has been repeatedly featured on FRC's new daily radio program, "Washington Watch." FRC opinion pieces have appeared in the *Washington Times*, *Arizona Republic*, *Christian Post*, and *Religion Today*. FRC leaders have been interviewed by the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *TIME Magazine*, and other national, regional, and local media.

FRC sent Scout General Counsel Richard Mathews and other Scout leaders a memo we coordinated with several public interest law firms regarding potential legal ramifications should the current policy be reversed. The letter can be found at frc.org/bsa. FRC paid for robo-calls to the grassroots which lead to thousands of calls into the BSA HQ successfully preventing a change of policy in February. FRC also sent several million action alerts to our grassroots and used social media which has put the message before millions more on Facebook and Twitter. FRC produced a YouTube video on the controversy featuring current Boy Scouts; a link can be found at frc.org/BSA. FRC engaged its network of more than 23,000 pastors nationwide, sending them a bulletin insert developed by the Rev. Dr. Kenyn Cureton which contains a petition for church members to forward to Scout leadership. These efforts and those of our allies successfully prevented a change of policy in February.

For more information go to frc.org/BSA. Also, for breaking news we encourage you to subscribe to Tony Perkins Washington Update email. For your free email subscription, go to frc.org/connect.



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Family Research Council's vision is a culture in which life is valued,
families flourish, and religious liberty thrives.

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