

31 May 2013

Thank you for all you do to oversee and deliver the Scouting program to our South Carolina Lowcountry community. Your time and commitment to young people play a key role in making our organization a success. As an integral part of the Scouting family, I want to take a moment to update you on our membership standards policy.

In February, the Boy Scouts of America embarked on the most comprehensive listening exercise in its history to consider the impact of potential changes to its membership standards policy on the organization and gather perspectives from inside and outside of the Scouting family. This review created an outpouring of feedback from both those who agree with the current policy and those who support a change.

On May 23, following this review, the voting members of the Boy Scouts of America's National Council approved a resolution to remove the restriction denying membership to youth on the basis of sexual orientation alone. The resolution also reinforces that Scouting is a youth program, and any sexual conduct, whether heterosexual or homosexual, by youth of Scouting age is contrary to the virtues of Scouting. A change to the current membership policy for adult leaders was not under consideration; thus, the policy for adults remains in place. As the National Executive Committee just completed a lengthy review process, there are no plans for further review on this matter.

We understand that you may have questions about this announcement and that you may receive questions, and I want you to know that Coastal Carolina Council is here to support you. Please feel free to reach out to me or my staff at (843) 763-0305 or legare.clement@scouting.org so we can assist you with your needs.

America needs Scouting, and our policies must be based on what is in the best interest of our kids. We believe good people can disagree and still work together to accomplish great things for youth. With your help, the Boy Scouts of America will continue to focus on reaching and serving youth in order to help them grow into good, strong citizens.

We thank you for your commitment to empowering our nation's youth and look forward to working together for many years to come.

Sincerely,
Legare Clement
Scout Executive
Coastal Carolina Council