



Scouting for All

Committed to Scouting, Open to Diversity

May 15, 2005

To: Roy Williams, Chief Scout Executive
John C. Cushman III, President

Cc: Stephen Medlicott, Director
Marketing & Communication

Subject: Boy Scouts of America's National Administration continues to refuse to meet with Scouting for All

Dear Mr. Williams and Mr. Cushman,

I received your letter dated May 9, 2005, refusing to meet with myself and Father Correll, Catholic Priest. You state in your letter, "We respect your right to your position on this issue and we ask that you give us the same respect." Scouting for All does respect your right to chose your own membership as a private organization. We do not respect your harmful and destructive policy that excludes gay and atheist youth and adults. We believe this policy if very harmful and destructive to all youth. It is also a policy that is not driven from any document in Scouting except your Resolution of February 2002. The Scout Oath and Law says nothing about excluding gay or atheist youth from Scouting. The Girl Scouts USA also has a Oath that includes God, but they don't exclude those young girls who are not believers. In fact, if you are not aware of this your organization, the Boy Scouts of America is the only youth organization in America that is not run by a religious group that discriminates against gay and atheist youth and adults.

You have the right to decide your own membership, but that does not mean that you then have to discriminate. The Supreme Court ruling said nothing about who you exclude. The ruling only gave you the right to chose your own membership as a "private" organization. So your decision to discriminate against two segments of our society, the homosexual and atheist communities is in fact contrary to both the Scout Oath and Scout Law. You have corrupted both the Scout Oath and Scout Law for your own political and religious agendas.

I also must remind you that you are also not a religious organization. It says in your By-laws that the Boy Scouts of America is a nonsectarian organization. That means that you should not be driven by any particular religion or religious belief, but accepting of all members and chartering organizations.

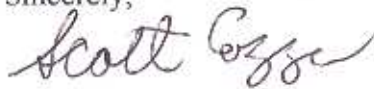
Scouting for All has requested to dialog with national executives and yourselves many times since '98, only to be denied. May I remind you Scouting for All wrote a resolution to end discrimination within the Boy Scouts of America that is inclusive and that also respects and acknowledges religious groups like the Mormons who exclude the homosexual and atheist communities. Our resolution said, if a religious group because of its religious belief didn't want homosexuals or atheists in their scout units then that would be acceptable, but that their own policy would not dictate national policy. We believe healing change within religious groups comes from within the members of that particular religious community. We must not forget it was not to long ago that the Mormons excluded African Americans from its religious community. Our resolution would not deny homosexuals and atheists, BSA membership. They would be allowed to become members of more inclusive scout units.

Scouting for All has spoken to scout council executives, chartering organizations, and individual members as well as scout units. They all agree that you should not impose your exclusionary policy on them. Your policy has caused dissension among your members. As well, you have scout councils under investigation by the FBI for fraud, membership for traditional scout units has declined steadily since 2002, your policy of exclusion against both the homosexual and atheist communities is immoral, and one of your national executives was arrested for receiving and distributing child pornography.

Your lack of moral leadership has lead to the above noted immoral transgressions. We who believe in a once great program, the Boy Scouts of America ask in the best interest of the Boy Scouts of America, and ultimately in the best interest of all the youth under your charge, that you Mr. Williams and you Mr. Cushman step down from your BSA leadership positions. Only then can the healing begin for an organization once embraced and respected by many as an icon youth outdoor program. Your lack of leadership has brought shame to the Boy Scouts of America.

Scouting for All also asks that your BSA members and local councils demand that you both resign from your positions in the best interest of the organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Cozza".

Scott Cozza, President
Scouting for All