



# Scouting for All's Resolution to the Boy Scouts of America to End Discrimination in Scouting



Scouting for All attempted to meet with the National Boy Scouts of America Leadership in Irving Texas to discuss our proposal, August of 2001, and have made numerous attempts to dialog; but they continue to refuse to meet with us. Keep in mind Scouting for All was founded by an Eagle Scout and has 1,000s of Eagle Scouts as members. Scouting for All's Resolution offers hope to all who participate in Scouting in America. It is a Resolution that embraces all idealogies and offers scouting in America an inclusiveness of the diversity that is reflective of the American culture. Our Resolution is within the guidelines and expectations of WSOM, World Scouting leadership. We ask members of the Boy Scouts of America (individual members, scout units, chartering organizations, and scout councils) to review this Resolution and then ask the BSA National leadership to adopt this Scouting for All Resolution. Lets bring an end to the current divisiveness the BSA policy of exclusion has brought to Scouting in America. Lets begin to heal as a youth program and become once again united and proud that Scouting in America is for all youth, not just some youth and is a program that truly reflects the beauty of the diversity that radiates throughout the American culture.

August 20, 2001

Scouting for All is a 501C-3 nonprofit charitable organization inspired by the courage of a 12 year old Life Scout, Steven Cozza, who in 1997 took a stand against the BSA's policy of discrimination. Scouting for All was founded by members of the BSA. Today, Scouting for All's membership includes BSA current and past members, community and religious leaders, as well as persons of various ages, ethnicity, cultures, religious beliefs, and sexual orientations. We believe in Scouting and social justice for all. We therefore offer the Boy Scouts of America the following resolution to allow gay youth and adults and atheists into the Scouting program, as is the case with most of the other Scouting Associations throughout the world.

## Scouting for All's Resolution to the Boy Scouts of America, As It Relates to Gay and Atheist Youth and Adults in Scouting

**We believe** that the Boy Scouts of America must rescind its current policy of discrimination against gay youth, and adults and atheists.

**We believe** that the Boy Scouts of America, pertaining to gay youth and adults, should return to its historic standards and allow the chartering (sponsoring) organization and scout units to decide their own membership.

**We believe** that in allowing the chartering organization and the scout units to decide their own membership, the Boy Scouts of America should also establish that no person(s) shall be denied membership based on religious belief, disability, race or sexual orientation.

**We believe** that the Boy Scouts of America should allow those chartering religious organizations to continue to remain in Scouting even though their religious doctrine may reject those persons who are gay or atheist. In cases where youth or adults come out as gay or atheists, they should be allowed to relocate to another scout unit that accepts diversity of the human family. Should another scout unit not be available the scout could become a member of the BSA Lone Scout program. With respect to adults, they should be allowed to begin their own scout unit if another scout unit is not available in their community.

**We believe** that all those who have been kicked out of the Boy Scouts of America because of their sexual orientation and/or belief, be granted amnesty and allowed to return as members.

**We believe** that the Boy Scouts of America should include in their adult leadership training program, a workshop on cultural diversity that includes sensitivity training on the impact that sexism, homophobia, racism, and discrimination have on youth and their self esteem.

**We believe** that the Boy Scouts of America should create a new cultural diversity merit badge for youth in scouting. This merit badge would include requirements that would teach youth about cultural diversity, conflict resolution, and how we can help end sexism, homophobia, racism and discrimination among their peers.

**We invite** the Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America and the BSA National Council President to meet with the current leadership of Scouting for All for the purpose of opening up communication. Scouting for All has a genuine and sincere interest in preserving scouting in America and being part of a scouting program that embraces all youth.

Sincerely,

Scott Cozza, President  
Scouting for All Board of Directors  
Scouting for All Members and Other Supporters, including members of the Boy Scouts of America  
Scouting for All Alliance For Human Rights Members

**SCOUTING FOR ALL**

*COMMITTED TO SCOUTING, OPEN TO DIVERSITY*

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