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(www.scoutingforall.org)

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 I would like to Volunteer. Please contact me.
 Yes, I will gather signatures for Steven's Petition.
 I will join the "Alliance."

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Please note:
Our membership, volunteer and mailing lists are strictly confidential.
Please mail this membership/volunteer form to:

Scouting For All
P.O. Box 600841
San Diego, CA 92120-0841
U.S.A.

Special thanks to Lee McClendon, Sr., Eagle Scout '59 for his contributions in the development of this Scouting For All Reaching Out To Youth brochure.

PLEASE
PLACE
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HERE



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Reaching Out To All Youth

A call from Eagle Scout, Steven Cozza for other youth to join with him in asking the Boy Scouts of America to allow ALL youth to participate in Scouting, regardless of their sexual orientation.

“Someday the Boy Scouts of America will accept the diversity of the human family and end their practice of discrimination... How can the Boy Scouts of America, who is supposed to represent the very best in our society, embrace the very worse.”

Steven Cozza, Eagle Scout 2000



“The Boy Scouts of America through their policy of discrimination just teaches us scouts to discriminate. I’m ashamed of that and have decided to take a stand against this hurtful policy. Please stand with me.”

Steven Cozza, Life Scout 1/98

THE SCOUT LAW

“A scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.”

The Scout Law is the heart and foundation for the world scouting movement.

THE SCOUT OATH

“On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.”

It says in the ‘98 Boy Scout Handbook, in defining morally straight... “You should respect and defend the rights of all people.” Now ask yourself, are the Boy Scouts of America following their own Scout Law and Oath when they discriminate against people who are gay?

There is nothing in the Scout Law or Oath that should prevent any gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered youth from participating in Scouting. All youth should have the opportunity to join with other youth to receive the character-building benefits that participation in Scouting provides.

A MESSAGE FROM STEVEN

Being gay is normal. Being lesbian is normal. Being transgender is normal. Being bisexual is normal. And do you know something? Even being heterosexual is normal. As a people, we are like a rainbow with many colors, shapes, and sizes. Our diversity gives us strength. Everyone of us is special, important, and of value in this life. The next time you look into the mirror, say: “I am gay (lesbian, bisexual or transgender) and I love who I am. I am special.”

Some institutions like the Boy Scouts of America and individuals are homophobic, sexist, and bigoted. Because of this, some may make fun of you, try and hurt you, and discriminate against you. Remember, for everyone of them, there are 10 of us to embrace you and love you for the beautiful person you are. Always remember you are not alone. Reach out to a gay or straight friend.

I’m asking all gay and straight kids to stand together against discrimination of any kind. Form a Gay/Straight Alliance at your school. You may have a gay brother, sister, mother, father, friend or you yourself may be gay. We need to reach out to one another to help end social injustice: discrimination, homophobia, sexism, racism, intolerance, indifference, and bigotry. We need to help make the earth a better place; a place that will recognize, cherish, and honor our diversity as a people.

I ask each of you to take a stand. You can take a stand by not doing drugs because drugs just keep you from becoming the beautiful person you are. You can take a stand by reaching out to a kid in school who is being made fun of. You can first take a stand by not buying into negative messages you receive from those who are bigoted and ignorant and instead love yourself for the beautiful person you are.

Remember you can make a difference. Let’s reach out to one another, both gay and straight, to help make this earth a better place. Then, maybe the Boy Scouts of America will someday come to see how they hurt us, both straight and gay, by their policy of discrimination. Maybe someday the Boy Scouts of America will learn to honor and cherish the diversity of the human family.

My parents have taught me, the message is more important than the messenger. Taking a stand against the social injustice of the BSA is about being part of something larger than ourselves. As my dad says, “It is about honoring the gift we have as human beings to find the courage to reach out to one another with love, acceptance, and understanding even in the face of the social diseases of bigotry, homophobia, racism, sexism, hatred, discrimination, and apathy. Remaining silent only colludes with the discrimination of the BSA.” Stand with us and help make a difference, as the BSA would say to help make the earth a better place.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

(for details go to www.scoutingforall.org)

- Join our National Campaign. The S4A National Campaign addresses 5 strategies you can become involved in to help get the BSA to rescind its policy of discrimination. These 5 strategies are listed on our web page.
- Join S4A's Alliance for Human Rights. The "Alliance" is made up of individual grassroots organizers, community based organizations, and national organizations. The Alliance has been established in our attempt to help mobilize, network, and support efforts across the country and internationally to get the BSA National to rescind its practice of discrimination against gay youth, adults and atheists.
- Contact a Scouting for All Regional Director in your area by clicking your region on the web page map or by contacting our national office.