

Topic:Girls in scouting

Rick [guest]



Girls in scouting

Posted 1-9-2001 21:47

We have girls who wish to join our troop. Several of our male and female leaders, and some Scouts have expressed concern over this. Historically, we are a male only group and this is the first year girls have shown an interest in joining. We are curious to know of other troop's experiences in handling the coed issue.
We have tossed around the idea of starting a Girl Scout troop, for girls only. Our leaders and Scouts are interested in ideas around this also.

Webmaster



Girls in Scouting

Posted 1-10-2001 17:01

First, are you in Canada? If you are, then you have no option but to go Co-Ed.
You cannot segregate into male and female troops.

Second, check out the Co-Ed pages to get some pointers
(<http://www.scoutscan.com/resources/coedres.html>)

Third, some troop's like it, others don't. It depends on how it is presented. Positive or Negative.
But, as I stated in the first point - in SC now, you have NO option.

Hope this helps.

YIS

Webmaster@scoutscan.com

Laura [guest]



Girls in Scouting

Posted 5-2-2001 20:24

Hi: I am a female scout leader in a large troop of 36 youth of whom, six are young women. I think having girls in scouting is fun, exciting and makes the program better. The young women who want to join scouting are there for the right reasons--they want to learn about the out of doors, they have a desire to absorb information and want to be challenged.

Yes, they are different than the boys. In my troop they are more focussed, less goofy and more interested in doing a good job. Our Chief Scout Award group always has girls in it.

The boys like having the girls around and appreciate that they are in many cases better scouts and far better organized. They work really well together in mixed patrols.

I do find you need to have a critical mass of girls--at least 4.

So my advice is sign those girls up and find a woman with lots of sons who always wanted daughters to be your female leader!

Bob [guest]



girls

Posted 7-3-2001 15:06

Hi All,

First, let me preface this by saying that three of my eighteen Scouts are girls, and at our end of the year awards banquet last month, I presented one of those girls with the troop 'Scout of the Year' award. One of the best Scouts I have ever seen, and I mean that honestly.

That being said, I am opposed to co-ed Scouting. Not because of any particular devotion to tradition, nor because of any belief that girls are incapable of participating in Scouting activities. I am opposed to co-ed Scouting because I fully believe that 12 year old boys and 12 year old girls do not mix.

Despite the advances made by our society over the last twenty-odd years towards the advancement in the status of women, there are certain facts about 12 year olds that have not and will not change. We can even forget for a moment that both groups are become giant balls of hormones at 12.

At 12, boys are gross. They like to fart, and spit and play soccer with the deer skull they find on the beach (yes, I know that one from experience!). While it isn't written in any handbook, I think that these are important components to being a Scout - allowing adolescent boys to be just that. None of our girls wanted to come and play Kick the Head, but the boys thought it was hilarious. They are beginning to grow rapidly, and have to deal with things like the awkward adjustment to a larger body, a cracking voice, and the like. At 12, boys are show-offs; they actively seek recognition from their peers and their leaders. At 12, boys act first and think later. They like rough and tumble games, and they particularly like a leader who is willing to rough and tumble with them. These are the experiences I had myself as a Scout. These are also the experiences I had as a leader before the co-ed option was introduced.

At 12, girls are more mature (both physically and emotionally) than boys. They are becoming increasingly aware of things like appearance and (God forbid) hygiene. They almost always think before acting, and often don't want to participate in activities that might seem 'stupid' or 'childish'. At 12, many girls are stubborn to the point of insubordination. They are secretive, and share their secrets with only one or two others. Because they are more physically matured, they often out-perform boys their age in many sports, but like organized athletics much better than spontaneous rough housing. It has been my experience that 12 year old girls want to be allowed to participate in Scouts, but don't want to integrate with the boys once they are there. We even had one girl almost quit when she found out that Scouts Canada and Boy Scouts of Canada were the same thing. Last year, before I was with the troop, one of the parents complained to the former leader "when will the Scouts be doing things that girls are interested in?" That particular girl quit, and joined Guides.

I came back to Scouting last September after a ten year hiatus. This was the first year that I had ever worked with a co-ed troop. I came back with an open mind, intending to treat the girls no different than the boys. Our troop was co-ed, our patrols were co-ed, our leadership team was co-ed. And I am completely dissatisfied with the watered-down version of the Scouting program that I delivered in order to accommodate the considerations of a co-ed structure. My idea to treat the girls the same as the boys lasted less than an hour into the first meeting; we were playing soccer, and I fell over one of the girls. Instead of breaking my fall, the thought that flashed through my mind was "Oh my God, be careful where your hands land".

I had one girl who sat out of almost every game we played all year because "it's stupid". The patrol system - the foundation of the Scouting program - didn't work because the girls from each patrol had to sleep in one tent separate from the rest of their patrols. Co-ed serves largely as a divisive factor in an activity that is supposed to build teamwork. Now we're going to CJ, and the one girl who is going with us has to sleep in a tent by herself, rather than joining in on the late night giggles with the others. What fun is that? The real kicker came at the last camp of the year, when my three girl Scouts came to me and asked if next year we could have an all-girls patrol.

So there you have it, right from the mouths of babes (in the infant sense of course). The girls themselves would prefer to be separate from the boys. The boys simply ignore the girls. And the leaders are forced to make compromise after compromise to deliver a ho-hum Scouting program to everyone equally. Even our female leader is having her doubts about the co-ed troop!

I realize that Co-ed Scouting is here to stay. Once admitted, there is no way to reverse that decision, other than changing your Troops' affiliation from Scouts Canada to BPSA. I will continue to treat my girl Scouts as fairly as I do my boy Scouts. And I'm learning - next year I won't be so 'green' with the co-ed troop. One very important rule that I have imposed on myself and the other leaders is that there is never any discussion of the co-ed issue in front of the Scouts. But when I'm away from the troop, I will stand by my opinion that co-ed Scouts was a bad decision. I'm allowed to gripe, right?

Again, I think that Scouting has a lot to offer girls. I just don't think that they should do it with the boys (no pun intended). Despite what one of the other replies to this posting has said, I believe that it is possible to have an all-boys troop and an all-girls troop, providing that BOTH TROOPS BELONG TO THE SAME GROUP, share financial resources, equipment, etc. I know of several troops (via the internet) that have an 'A' troop for boys and a 'B' troop for girls. Given enough girls, that would be my personal preference. We simply don't have enough interested girls in our area to form a 'B' Troop (Guiding is very strong here). So, we will make do with an all-girl patrol.

Edo



Co-ed Scouting Sections

Posted 1-7-2002 07:18

I have been a Leader in all five sections.
Co-ed in Beavers and Cubs worked well. Meeting activities and camping activities went well.

In Scouts we had only boys. The boys would not have behaved well. The boys had several meetings with all girl groups. It was best for our group to not have co-ed in scouts. This would not exclude having a girl scouts troop.

The present Venturer Company would have no problem with the co-ed activity. Several girls have expressed an interest in joining. We were thinking of having an A and B company since the challenges for the boys may vary differently than the challenges for the girls. We hold 2.5 hour meetings each week for the challenge activities. After which we have 2 hours of games. Presently we meet on a Friday. Judo has become a part of Saturday activities for 7 of the 9 youth and myself.

The present Rover Crew is co-ed. No problems have come up. Some of the ladies have come through guiding.

My observations lead me to conclude that the Scout troupe may best be separated. The youth are in the age where they may benefit by having the "distancing" between the genders. Best in Scouting -----Have an lppon time

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It's Pat [guest]



Male vs. Female Leadership: Is there a difference?

Posted 1-11-2002 16:12

Is there a difference in the leadership styles between men and women? If so, how do the differences affect the delivery of Scouting programs?

Scouter C [guest]



girls in scouting

Posted 2-4-2002 06:34

I am a female leader of a coed troop. We have 4 boys, 3 girls. All the scouts like the coed arrangement, I haven't had to alter any parts of the program, not even the games. Before any youth's parents pay the registration fee I tell them to come to a meeting with their youth first. They see what goes on and their son/daughter participates fully to make sure they know what they are getting into, such as rough games and games involving tackling. At scout age they are really just kids, for the most part the boys aren't significantly stronger, and a couple of girls, due to puberty, are much taller and bigger than the boys and they don't stand a chance if one of those girls tackles them. The venturers sometime join us, 3 guys, and they will tackle me and roughhouse with me just as if I was a male leader. I don't mind and they know it, and that when they get me it won't be long before I nail them. Some of the older scouts like having female scouts, I guess they are maturing. The venturers wish girls would go camping with them!

As far as the camping goes, most of these kids (boys+girls) sleep over at each other's houses anyway (coed), so we either have 3 tents with the girls in one, which at night they prefer anyway to have "girl talk", or we all sleep in one big tent (7 kids and 2 leaders), or if we rent a cabin in winter we share the same way (simple one room cabin, nice and cheap). As far as winter goes, we have to rent a cabin as the kids just don't have the gear to sleep outside, and we're not about to pay twice the money for two cabins. The parents are always aware of these sleeping arrangements and are OK with them, they know we supervise. Besides, I know they're really just kids, though the boys surely have dirty thoughts sometimes I don't think there's anything to worry much about before venturer age. That's a different story.