

Mr. Rick Pickering, Council President
Mr. Kenneth C. Mehlhorn Scout Executive/CEO
San Francisco Bay Area Council
1001 Davis Street
San Leandro, CA 94577

Dear Mr. Pickering and Mr. Mehlhorn:

I am writing to request that you stand with me to change the Boy Scouts of America's discriminatory membership policy that excludes leaders and members based on sexual orientation. This policy is intolerant and wrong, undercuts the tremendous good that scouting could otherwise provide, and contradicts Scouting's and our community's values.

We want to be able to support the Boy Scouts of America, but we won't be able to do this until the membership policy is changed. The first step is for the San Francisco Bay Area Council, the council that represents the youth in our community, to take a stand.

We ask that you and the Executive Board of the Council adopt a resolution similar to that passed by the Mount Diablo Silverado Council on March 16, 2013.

A. Scouts and Scouters should be judged by their conduct, their actions, and their character, consistent with the Scout Oath and Scout Law, not by stereotypes or group related prejudices.

B. The Scout Oath and the Scout Law are foundational ideas that every person should be exposed to so that all people can benefit from the Scouting movement's principles, ideals, and values.

C. Regardless of sexual orientation, sexual topics and conduct, which include pointing out another individual's sexual orientation, are not part of the Scouting movement and should not be tolerated. Further, the Scouting movement should not permit its organization to be used as a vehicle to promote any personal, political, social or other objective that is inconsistent with the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

D. The support from our volunteers and our community has reaffirmed the role that the Scouting Movement has had and can continue to have in shaping the lives and values of young people. However the current BSA membership policy clearly excludes an entire group based on a presumption of behavior rather than on the actions of individuals. Excluding an entire group of people based on stereotypes and prejudices is inconsistent with the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The current membership policy is of deep concern to many in our Council for its potential to undermine the future vitality of the Scouting movement.

E. Chartered Organizations have always and will continue to create Scouting Units that are consistent with their organizational faiths, standards and deeply held beliefs. However, we believe that the national BSA board should not pass this important decision from BSA's governing body to Chartered Organizations. Rather, we believe that the national board should adopt a standard policy, consistent with the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and the principles documented within this report, which ends the isolation and exclusion of LGBT individuals.

We believe that the council executive board should vote to support these Membership Standard Principles. Further, we believe that the board should vote to advocate for these principles. Finally we believe that the board should vote to encourage their national board representatives to vote in a manner consistent with these principles.

We hope to see the leadership and bravery that the Boy Scouts are famous for in your actions.

Sincerely,