

Dear Mr. Fenoglio and Mr. Paulson,

My name is Brad Prescott, and I am the Scoutmaster of Troop 241 in Lafayette. I am also an Eagle Scout, and have four sons; three Eagles and one Eagle candidate. I am a lifetime member of NESA, have received the James E. West fellow award, the Cliff Dochterman Boy Scout Service Award, a member of the International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians, have received the Unit Leader Award of Merit, am a Woodbadge graduate, and so on...

My point is that over the last 45 years, I have spent a significant portion of my life and energy supporting the Boy Scouts of America. I believe wholeheartedly in the tenets of this organization, or at least I thought I did.

It was quite a shock for me to learn this year that the official BSA policy is to discriminate against gay scouts. I had always believed that these policies were to pertain to adult leaders, not our scouts. But even Wikipedia clearly states that the Boy Scouts of America discriminates against boys who are homosexuals, atheists, and agnostics, so I guess I was the last person to fully understand our policies.

It is true that I am just the little guy on the front line that fuels the engine of the Boy Scouts of America, but even I can see the folly of our position. We are contradicting what I am teaching my scouts on a daily basis.

These policies of discrimination are archaic, and need to be changed now. Attracting new scouts, raising money, and encouraging new parents to continue in my footsteps will cease. If we continue, the title of Eagle Scout will be forever tarnished, and the Boy Scouts of America will fade away just as all hate groups do eventually.

As our council leader, I expect you to take a leadership role in the most important battle that we face. I think you should:

- 1) Contact each Scoutmaster in our council and find out what the sentiment is out there. Am I alone? I don't think so. If there is a consensus, then:
- 2) Create our own policies, either by troop, or by district, or by council so that we can end discrimination. This will allow us to make a small local step towards the future, which is:
- 3) Take an active role in communicating our feeling to the rest of the country, and to the national organization of the Boy Scouts of America.

I believe this organization is too valuable to let it fade, and if we don't try and start this inevitable change ourselves, it may not get done in time. I will await your reply regarding my request. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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