

To : john.fenoglio@scouting.org; lou.paulson@scouting.org

I am writing to express my delight that the MDSC council of the BSA is pursuing an anti discrimination policy at all levels. I have long felt that the Youth Protection Policies, and the laws of the United States, and the State of California provide good protection for scouts against abusive practices. I feel deeply that using sexual orientation as a membership criterion is a terrible act against our youth, not just the gay members of BSA, but also to all members, since it wrongly stigmatizes a subset of our youth.

I am proud of our local scout troops, and how much they have done for our community. I am also proud of how much our scouts have grown in leadership and in caring for our community and environment through their experience. However, I have had to hold my nose when it comes to the discriminatory practices of scouting. Like many parents and scout leaders, I have chosen to ignore this aspect of the BSA as much as possible, even though it pains me to see the discrimination in action, and causes me personal embarrassment when I talk to people about my family's role in scouting. Now I can be proud again, with your initiative to change this policy.

A change in local policy would certainly encourage me to be more generous to our local council, since I could be confident that I am supporting an organization whose philosophy I can agree with completely.

Yours sincerely
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