

Ralf and Nancy Schoenbrunner
746 Crossbrook Dr.
Moraga, CA 94556
January 10, 2013

Mr. John Fenoglio, Scout Executive/CEO
Mr. Lou Paulson, Council Board President
Mount Diablo-Silverado Council
Boy Scouts of America
800 Ellinwood Way
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Dear Mr. Fenoglio and Mr. Paulson,

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. We believe that the BSA national policy is not in line with the values of scouting and an increasing culture of tolerance in this country. We are appalled at the recent treatment of Ryan Andresen when he was denied the opportunity to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. We do not agree with the mandates of the BSA national organization that local councils and troops discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. What counts is that boys who are willing to abide by the values of the Scout oath and law should be able to participate in scouting.

Boy Scouts is a great institution that our son has and continues to profit from. He has been with scouting in Moraga Troop 234 for nearly five years and is currently working on the final requirements for Eagle Scout. We are proud of the actions taken thus far by our troop leadership to change scouting from within. Boy Scouts has taught our son so much about leadership, environmental stewardship and other life skills. This great organization is suffering from the bad press associated with the recent ill-informed decisions of the BSA to enforce policies of discrimination. Clearly, recruiting and fund raising efforts will suffer. The Boy Scouts may survive several years under such policies, but they will not thrive.

Furthermore, the inconsistent "don't ask-don't tell" policy endangers our youth. What is a scout leader to do when a boy is being bullied due to his sexual orientation? If the scout leader abides by the current official policies, then he would have to choose between expelling the youth from the troop and turning a blind eye to the bullying. How can such a policy be considered consistent with the Boy Scout values?

We would like to see, minimally, local councils being allowed to choose their own policy with regard to acceptance of homosexual youth-without fear of retribution from the BSA. Optimally, we hope that the BSA organization adopts a policy of tolerance.

Sincerely,

Ralf and Nancy Schoenbrunner