

Dear SFBAC,

I earned my Eagle Rank in the SFBAC in 1978. (Troop 449 Fremont). I am currently the Scoutmaster of a troop in Orinda (MDSC) and am writing to encourage you to follow the lead of MDSC and push for change in the membership policy of the BSA.

I have been an active adult Scouter for the last 12 years and I can tell you the perception that Scouting is a discriminatory organization is the number 2 reason families give me for not participating in Scouting. (the number 1 is that they are just too busy).

In communities like ours where there are many other options for youth other than Scouting, this out of date policy provides a great excuse for not having boys join Scouts who would otherwise benefit from the many strong attributes of the program.

The recent incident in Moraga of the denial of Ryan Andresen's Eagle application was the last straw. Many of us have held our noses and tried to put the best face on the program while not agreeing with the policy. At this point though, enough is enough.

Please do the right thing and follow the brave lead of the MDSC and push to bring Scouting into the mainstream of American thought on this issue. If Scouting doesn't change it will very quickly become even more of a minority voice for youth development than they already are.

Even more businesses will withdraw support. States will aggressively withdraw support, and most importantly the American People will withdraw support.

Do the right thing.

A Scout is Brave.

James McFeely, MD
Scoutmaster Troop 57, Orinda