

# History of Girls in the Boy Scouts of America

In 1909, a group of girls appeared at a Boy Scout Rally in the UK. It was at this moment that Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Boy Scouts, decided that there should be a Movement for girls. Girl Guiding was introduced that same year to respond to the specific needs of girls and young women. A year later, the Girl Guide Association was officially established in the UK under the leadership of Agnes Baden-Powell, Robert's sister.

## A Brief History

**1907** - Army general Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founding father of the Scout Movement and first chief scout of the Boy Scouts Association, organized the first scout camp in the United Kingdom.

**1908** - Baden-Powell published a book based on his ideas for the training of boys. His book, titled *Scouting for Boys*, inspired thousands of boys around the country to join the Movement.

**1909** - The first Boy Scout rally, organized by Baden-Powell in Crystal Palace, South London, saw a number of girls attending and this prompted the founder to include girls and young women into the Movement.

**1910** - The Girl Guides movement was formally founded by Baden-Powell and his sister Agnes Baden-Powell. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was incorporated in 1910 by W.D. Boyce after his experiences and meetings with Baden-Powell.

**1930's** - Senior Scout Division Programs (later to become Exploring Programs) form in the BSA.

**1969** - Sea Scouts and the Exploring Program opened registration for young women ages 14 - 20 to join units.

**1998** - Venturing was introduced as a co-ed outdoor and camping program for young women and men ages 14 - 21.

**2013** - The Boy Scouts of America launched a new, co-ed STEM Scouts program for boys and girls in 3rd through 12th grade.

**2018** - The Boy Scouts of America opened registration for elementary school aged girls to participate in the Cub Scout Program.

**2019** - Boy Scouts of America launches new Scouts, BSA program. This program allows young women and men ages 11 - 17 to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.



## Scouts, BSA

Scouts BSA is a year-round program for youth in fifth grade through high school that provides fun, adventure, learning, challenge, and responsibility to help them become the best version of themselves.

In Scouts BSA, young men and women go places, test themselves, and have one-of-a-kind adventures that can't be found anywhere else.

For the first time in its 100+ year history, the iconic program of the Boy Scouts of America is open to young women as well as young men, all of whom will have the chance to earn Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout.

**The Scouts BSA program is not co-ed.** The leadership of the BSA determined that the best way to welcome girls and serve today's families was to offer a unique model that builds on the proven benefits of our single-gender program, while also providing character and leadership opportunities for both boys and girls. The Scouts BSA program brings the entire spectrum of Scouting programs to male and female youth of all ages. **The organization name of the Boy Scouts of America is not changing.**