



March 5, 2013

To: Registered Adult Scouters - Council, District, Unit Leaders and Committee Members  
Charter Organization Representatives  
Parents of currently registered Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Ventures and Explorers

From: Craig Younkman, Ph.D., Area 2 President, Central Region, BSA  
Fred Wallace, Area 2 Director, Central Region, BSA

Re: BSA Membership Standards Policy Development Overview/Input – Scouting Family

Meeting: **Tuesday, March 19, 2013, 7:00 p.m. (EDT)**  
**The Henry Ford, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, Michigan**

As a valued member of our Scouting family, you are invited to an important **invitee's only** meeting that will explain the history, status and written method for providing input into the Membership Standards policy development process of the Boy Scouts of America's national organization. We are fortunate that you and many leaders are passionate about Scouting and the positive impact it has in the development of young people as they grow toward responsible adulthood. As you know firsthand, America needs Scouting, now more than ever, and our policies must be based on what is in the best interest of our nation's children.

Since 2004, as a result of a 2000 US Supreme Court decision affirming the "private" status of the Scouting movement, the BSA has had the following membership policy:

*The applicant must possess the moral, educational, and emotional qualities that the Boy Scouts of America deems necessary to afford positive leadership to youth. The applicant must also be the correct age, subscribe to the precepts of the Declaration of Religious Principle, and abide by the Scout Oath or Promise, and the Scout Law.*

*While the BSA does not proactively inquire about the sexual orientation of employees, volunteers, or members, we do not grant membership to individuals who are open or avowed homosexuals or who engage in behavior that would become a distraction to the mission of the BSA.*

After careful consideration and extensive dialogue within the Scouting family, along with comments from those outside the organization, the volunteer officers of the Boy Scouts of America's National Executive Board concluded that the organization needs time for a deliberate review of its membership policy.

To that end, the executive board directed its committees to further engage representatives of Scouting's membership and gather their perspectives and concerns. This will assist the officers' work on a resolution for membership standards.

We are currently in the process of a careful and deliberate review of our membership policy. Scouting is a family and we believe it is important that every perspective from within the family is included in this process. We are dedicated to the integrity of this process and trust that our 1,400 voting members of the national council will fairly and accurately determine the most appropriate path forward.

Thank you for your continued support of Scouting. Your service and commitment to our organization helps deliver important services for young people throughout Michigan. I urge you to continue to be a part of this process by staying engaged and continuing your role in Scouting. The youth in your community need you.



## BSA Membership Standards Policy Development Overview/Input Meeting – Scouting Family

- WHO:** Registered Adult Scouters:  
Council, District, Unit Leaders and Committee Members  
Charter Organization Representatives  
Parents of currently Registered Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts,  
Ventures and Explorers
- WHAT:** BSA Membership Standards Policy Development  
Overview/Input Meeting for the Scouting Family
- WHY:** To learn about the existing National BSA Membership Policy  
Standards currently under review  
To provide **written input** into the process that leads to the possible revision or  
continuation of this policy at the National level.
- WHEN:** **Tuesday, March 19, 2013, 7:00 p.m. (EDT)**
- WHERE:** **The Henry Ford, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, Michigan**
- PROGRAM:** **Scouting family members** in attendance will be provided with history,  
information, and an overview concerning the current Membership Standards  
policy and the process by which they can express their written input to the  
National organization. To protect the integrity of the process and to assure  
individuals candid input in a Scout-like atmosphere, **this meeting will not be a  
discussion, debate, nor open forum**, but will provide the opportunity for  
attendees to learn and then provide clear, organized written input to the  
National policy development process.
- COST:** No cost for attendance
- If you want additional information, think of additional input,  
or are not able to attend this meeting, please go the following sites:**  
[www.bsamembershipstandards.org](http://www.bsamembershipstandards.org), [www.scouting.org/ContactUs.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/ContactUs.aspx)