

## From NCAC Home Page - More on Transgender Scouts

Following the recent announcement of BSA's updated membership policy, BSA has released some additional resources and background materials. Unit leaders may wish to review with their committees these documents on Using Respectful Language and the BSA Gender Identity Statement.

Here are some additional guidelines:

Effective January 30, 2017, the BSA will process applications and accept youth members based upon the gender identified on their application.

Very few units are likely to receive applications from youth identifying themselves as transgender.

If a unit receives an inquiry from or about a transgender boy or an application from a transgender boy, they should advise the individual that transgender boys are eligible for membership and that a meeting to discuss their participation will be scheduled with a council professional as soon as possible.

Immediately thereafter the unit leader should advise the district executive or other designated council professional who will assist the unit in determining whether the unit is prepared to accept and accommodate the youth or if another unit may be more appropriate.

After a preliminary review, the council professional, appropriate unit leader(s), youth and parents will meet and discuss matters related to privacy, participation and a plan to ensure that a safe and welcome environment is provided.

If a unit is aware of a transgender boy already participating in a BSA program, they should engage the appropriate council professional to ensure that the same issues pertaining to new participants have been properly addressed.

Every youth and their needs present different opportunities for unit leaders to help them in their development. Transgender youth are no different than any other youth in that regard.

Local council professionals have been provided with Transgender Inclusion Guidelines on how to facilitate the necessary discussions and planning required to define expectations with all involved to assure that the youth's, parent's and unit's expectations are all defined to ensure the youth has a successful and positive Scouting experience.

Unit leaders whose religious chartered organization's faith beliefs may prevent the unit from being able to accept the youth should immediately contact the council Scout Executive for assistance and potential referral to another unit.