



Family Scouting Begins in January 2018

NCAC Welcomes Girls to Cub Scouts, Bringing the Iconic Program to All Youth

WASHINGTON, DC (January 9, 2018) — National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America is pleased to announce that it will be participating in the early rollout of new Cub Scout programs for girls starting January 15th of 2018.

An historic and unanimous decision by the Boy Scouts of America's volunteer-led board of directors this past October approved a plan to welcome girls into its Scouting programs starting in August of 2018. However, due to the readiness of eager new members and some Units in our region, NCAC has decided to move forward with what BSA is calling its "Early Adopters Program." The move means that starting in January 2018, girls in grades K-4 will all be able to experience the values-based, life-changing experience that is Cub Scouting. In addition, it will also bring convenience to families with busy schedules and limited free time who are looking for an activity to participate in together.

"This is an exciting time for Scouting families," says Les Baron, CEO and Scout Executive of the National Capital Area Council. "Girls have been participating with their brothers at many of our events for as long as I can remember. This policy shift will not only provide families with program options tailored to their needs, but also offer advancement opportunities to girls, and eventually young women, that were not available before."

Units taking part in this "soft launch" will provide new members with an expedited plan to advance in May alongside of those children already enrolled. A program for girls ages 11 to 17 will be announced in the coming year with a full introduction in 2019, and will enable young women to work toward the coveted rank of Eagle.

"Eagle is the most recognized youth achievement in America," says Baron. "We've seen young women excel in Venturing, Explorers, and Sea Scouting, and there's no reason to doubt that they will meet the challenges in this new offering with the same enthusiasm and success as in our other programs."

For more information or to locate a participating unit in your area, please visit www.BeAScout.org.

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About Boy Scouts of America & National Capital Area Council

Boy Scouts of America provides the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training, which helps young people be "Prepared. For Life.™" The Scouting organization is composed of 2.6 million youth members between the ages of 7 and 21 and more than a million volunteers in local councils throughout the United States and its territories. For more, please visit www.Scouting.org.

National Capital Area Council was organized in 1911 and today stands as one of the oldest and largest councils in America. The Council territory includes the District of Columbia; Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties in Maryland; and in Virginia the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Loudoun, Fauquier, Spotsylvania, Caroline, King George, Stafford and Culpeper as well as the independent cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Manassas, Manassas Park and Fredericksburg in Virginia; and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information, please visit www.NCACBSA.org.