



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
CAPE COD & ISLANDS COUNCIL, INC. #224

March 6, 2013

Dear Friends:

You may be aware that Boy Scouts of America is considering changing its membership policy. The BSA's membership policy, which has been in effect for 103 years, is:

"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."

In 2012, the organization's leaders determined that, at that time, the current policy was in the best interest of the organization. But, the decision to maintain the policy began a deep dialogue within Scouting. Out of respect for the diverse beliefs of Scouting's chartered organizations, the volunteer and professional leaders began a discussion about the issue.

The volunteer officers of the Boy Scouts of America's National Executive Board concluded that the organization needs time for a more deliberate review of its membership policy. Accordingly, the officers authorized its committees to further engage representatives of Scouting's membership and listen to their perspectives and concerns.

As local councils, we have been asked to seek input from our members on this issue that can be shared with National. This information will be used to formulate the resolution that will be acted on at the National Annual Meeting in May. In support of that request we will be hosting 4 meetings around the council where you can share your opinions. The meetings will be:

- Tuesday, March 12, 7:00 PM, St. Barnabas Church, Main St., Falmouth
- Thursday, March 14, YMCA, Martha's Vineyard
- Monday, March 18, 6:00 PM, Camp Richard, Nantucket
- Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 PM, Brewster Baptist Church, Route 6A, Brewster

We will also take this opportunity to share with you important information about upcoming programs and events and address other questions or concerns you may have about the Scouting program.

We look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely yours,

Robert MacGregor
Council President

Alan Beal
Council Commissioner

Michael Riley
Scout Executive

247 Willow Street
Yarmouth Port MA 02675

P (508)362-4322
F (508)362-4323

www.scoutscapecod.org

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