

Q & A's Related to Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the USA

Isn't Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the USA the same organization? Are the two related?

- No. BSA and GSUSA are two separate organizations with no organizational ties to each other. Because of BSA's 2017 decision to accept girls, there has been increasing misconception that the two organizations are the same. This is incorrect. GSUSA was founded by Juliette Gordon Low in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia with a mission to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. GSUSA is the world's premier leadership development organization for girls. GSUSA is a standalone organization with no ties to Boy Scouts of America.

What about the claims that Boy Scouts made the switch to accommodate families?

- Although Boy Scouts publicizes itself as a one-stop shop, parents have consistently told GSUSA that they're focused on what's best for **girls**. Parents want their daughters to have the chance to develop leadership skills, and experience empowering programming while remaining safe. Girl Scouts is that safe space where they can grow and nurture their own special abilities, and feel empowered to have a voice in their communities and in the world as a whole.

What's the difference between Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts programming?

- Girl Scouts understands the vital connection between young girls' development and their future success, and we offer a leadership experience like no other. At Girl Scouts, everything we do is designed with and for today's girls so they can become tomorrow's leaders. No other organization is bringing together time-tested, research-backed methods with exciting, modern programming that speaks to today's girls and is designed to cater to the strengths of girls' leadership development. The exciting, modern programming we offer meets the needs and interests of today's girls where they live—in both the outdoor and digital worlds of today—and helps them become the builders of tomorrow's world.

Why is a "single-gender" environment important? How does it make a difference?

- Advocates for single-gender education argue that when children learn with single-gender peers, they are more likely to thrive because the environment better supports their learning. Girls are more likely to attend to their studies, speak more openly in the classroom, and feel more encouraged to pursue their interests and achieve their fullest potential.

How does "single-gender" relate to Girl Scouts?

- Studies by the Girl Scout Research Institute and others show that girls value girls-only "safe spaces" where they can confide in trusting adults and other girls. In girl-only settings, girls feel free to talk about issues they wouldn't necessarily talk about with boys, try out new activities without a fear of failure, and experience less pressure to look or act a certain way. This is one of the many reasons Girl Scouts of the USA stands by their girl-focused, single gender foundation — and will remain as such.

The Boy Scouts have indicated that they are making the change to accept girls in their program to be “family-friendly”. Does that mean that Girl Scouts is not family-friendly?

- Girl Scouts is family-friendly, and we encourage every girl to have at least one family member actively participate at least once during the Girl Scouting year. That said, Girl Scouts of the USA has learned through research, and from the girls themselves, that they grow and thrive *best* when they are given the chance to learn from other adults and girls. Some of our parents specifically choose Girl Scouting so that their daughters can have our premiere leadership experience away from Mom and Dad. In this way, we empower the girl — to empower herself.