



March 25, 2005

TO: Board of Directors
State Presidents
State Offices

FROM: Linda Hodge, National PTA President

RE: Boy Scouts of America

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The following information updates National PTA's position on PTAs' participation with Boy Scouts of America. Participation with Boy Scouts should be determined on a case-by-case basis, based on the benefits derived by PTA. As with participation with any outside organization, it is very important to read and understand the documents provided to the PTA by the outside organization before making the final decision.

The Handbook section of *Annual Resources for PTAs 2005–2006* will be revised to reflect this clarification. The section will include information to the effect that local units should check with their state PTA and be familiar with the state policy on participation with the Boy Scouts before making a commitment. National PTA will provide the new wording to you as soon as it is written so that you can respond to inquiries you might receive on the topic.

Boy Scouts of America and PTA

Supporting scouting units has been a topic of discussion for PTA for several years. This paper neither encourages nor discourages this practice; it is simply meant to provide additional information on the topic. National PTA primarily encourages local, district, council, and state PTAs to participate in specific PTA programs and activities. The decision to support a scouting unit should be made on a case-by-case basis to determine the best course of action for the individual PTA. It is very important to read and understand all of the official documents provided to the PTA when engaging in any outside program, group, or organization.

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In the information that follows, PTA is referred to as the “chartered organization” and the scouting organization is referred to as the unit, district, and council.

Per the Scouting Annual Charter Agreement, the chartered organization agrees to

- Conduct the scouting program according to its own policies as well as those of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).
- Include scouting as part of its overall program for youth and families.
- Appoint a chartered organization representative who is a member of the chartered organization and will coordinate all scouting unit operations within it. He or she will represent the chartered organization to the scouting district and serve as a voting member of the local BSA council.
- Select a scouting unit committee of parents and of members of the chartered organization (minimum of three) who will screen and select scouting unit leaders who meet the chartered organization’s standards as well as the leadership standards of BSA.
- Provide adequate facilities for the scouting unit to meet on a regular schedule with time and place reserved.
- Encourage the scouting unit to participate in outdoor experiences, which are vital elements of scouting.

The BSA council agrees to, among other things:

- Provide primary general liability insurance to cover the chartered organization and its board, officers, chartered organization representative, employees, and volunteers currently registered with BSA. Coverage is provided with respect to claims arising out of an official scouting activity with the exception that the coverage is in excess of any insurance which may be available to the volunteer for loss arising from the ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle or watercraft. This insurance is only available while the vehicle or watercraft is in the actual use of a scouting unit and being used for a scouting purpose.
- Provide insurance to unregistered scouting volunteers through the BSA general liability insurance program in excess of any other insurance the volunteer might have to his or her benefit, usually a homeowner’s, personal liability, or auto liability policy.

BSA would be considered an alliance or a cooperating organization of the PTA. It is recommended that the voting body of the PTA approve such agreements.

Finally, it is recommended that all PTA units be incorporated to add an extra layer of protection for the officers and volunteers while they are engaged in PTA-sponsored activities of all types.