

On October 11, 2017, The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) announced that they would allow female participants into the organization for all programs in 2018 and that they would create an all female program to start in 2019. The Boy Scouts of America has historically been a male-only organization, until the 1971 when the BSA created their Exploring Program, and later their Venturing program, for 13-20 year old scouts. However, the majority of BSA programs stayed single gendered groups, including the ability to rank from Cub Scout to Eagle Scout. We, The Eagle's View Staff, disagree with the BSA's decision to allow female membership to their younger programs.

Boy Scouts chose to open its programs to girls, mainly due to declining membership. Michael Surbaugh, Chief Scout Executive of the BSA, said, "We strive to bring what our organization does best – developing character and leadership for young people – to as many families and youth as possible as we help shape the next generation of leaders." The BSA will implement this policy while remaining single-gendered in most areas, by mandating separate "dens" for current packs.

Although the Boy Scouts will now be allowing female participants, a scouting program for girls exclusively has existed for as long as the BSA themselves: The Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA). Originally, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts were created around the same time for the same purposes and for the same reason—the only difference being the gender of participants. Since then, the purpose and process of the scouting groups have changed drastically, unlike many other countries, who have cooperative or combined Boy and Girl Scouts. The GSUSA has indirectly responded to the Boy Scouts of America's formal decision to allow female participants. On the same day the Boy Scouts made the announcement, the Girl Scouts issued an article titled, "Girl Scouts is the Girl Leadership Expert." The benefits of these historically single gendered environments are still contested, but many people believe that these criteria help give young children an opportunity to rise to leadership positions and to instill many of the other values that the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts encourage.

Since the Boy Scouts are choosing to now accept girls, there will seemingly be much competition between the respective groups. If it was be possible, it would be easiest to combine the two groups, as has been done in other countries. However, due to the drastic differences and competition between the two organizations in America, the combination of the Scouts will likely never happen. Instead, due to the allowance of girls into the Boy Scouts programs, the two groups will continue their different missions and increase the competition for membership over all young children. So far, the Boy Scouts provides leadership among male participants, and the Girl Scouts provides leadership among female participants. Simply, the Boy Scouts of America allowing girls to join in 2018 is a decisive issue that is, with the existence of an all female scouting group, entirely absurd.