

Preparing Vermont's Youth for Life

GREEN MOUNTAIN
BOY SCOUTS



COUNCIL
OF AMERICA

Family Scouting Update for Registering 5th-Grade Girls

Originally, the Green Mountain Council Executive Board decided not to actively recruit girls who are in the 5th grade in the fall of 2018 into a Cub Scout Pack, because of the fear that there would be no all-girl Scout Troop for them to join when they cross over (mixed-gender Troops are not allowed). The Board felt this would be a huge disservice to the youth and the family, and lead to frustration and disappointment.

Since that announcement was made, the BSA Executive Board has announced that registration of all-girl Troops will be accepted as early as February 1, 2019. As a result, there has been work to help accommodate crossover for 5th-grade girl Cub Scouts. To date, there are these options:

1. It is hoped that all-girl Troops can be organized close to existing Family Scouting Packs. If you or someone you know want to start a new unit, please contact the Council Service Center for more information and support on the process. These initiatives are underway:
 - a. The leadership of Boy Scout Troop 709, chartered to the Bethany United Church of Christ in Montpelier, is fully committed to an all-girl Troop by next February. If girls from other parts of the state want to make the commute and join this Troop, they are welcome.
 - b. The leadership of Three Rivers District (Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle counties) is working on organizing a “magnet” Troop, comprised of eligible-age girls from Burlington and its surrounding communities. Again, some of the girls would have to travel further than others to Troop meetings until such time as an all-girl Troop could be organized in their community. This is in its very early stages of development.
2. If there is no local girl Troop to join at crossover time, a girl could register as a Lone Scout and follow the plan outlined in the “Lone Scout Friend and Counselor Guidebook.” Obviously, this is not the best scenario, but it would keep the young lady involved until a girl Troop is established near to her.
3. If current conditions make it questionable as to whether there would be a Troop for these girls to join, it is recommended that these girls not be registered in Cub Scouts at this time. Again, doing so would be a huge disservice to the youth and the family; and particularly painful as they watch the other Webelos in their Pack move on to a Troop.

Each family who has a daughter of this age (5th grade in the fall of 2018) needs to be informed through personal conversation about the Scouting opportunities available to their daughter once the 5th-grade year is completed, and to ensure they understand their options.

We are excited about Family Scouting for all girls of all ages, but for this group, it will take more time and organization to get to where we have more choices for girls to cross over from Webelos to Troop.

For questions or to get more information, please contact the Council Service Center at 802-244-5189 or email info@scoutingvermont.org.

ACHIEVEMENT, ADVENTURE, & LEADERSHIP

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