



Date

Dear **Chartered Partner**,

As an organization committed to positive youth development, Scouting is always looking for ways to better meet the needs of young people and their families in our community.

As you have likely heard, the **National Council of the BSA is expanding Cub Scouting to include girls in 2018**, with Boy Scouting following in 2019. This decision comes after years of receiving requests from families and girls, the evaluation of numerous research effort results, and input from current members and leaders as well as from parents and girls who have never been involved in Scouting.

At Northern Star Council we are excited to be in a position to offer opportunities that many of our families, volunteers and Chartered Partners have been asking for. There is much to do to get ready.

Important highlights of this new option:

- **Opening your pack to girls is a choice and is optional.** Chartered Partners, unit leaders, and parents will determine what format (single gender or both genders) best meets the needs of the children in their community and their pack. We do need to know your decision so we can properly direct new girl recruits.
- **This change meets the needs of families and their children,** offering families an important additional choice in meeting the character development needs of all their children. Programs that can serve the whole family are more convenient and appealing to dual-earner and single-parent households.
- **This is new and implementation details are still being developed.** Volunteers and staff are working hard to have resources in place in time for the 2018 fall recruitment for Cub Scouts. Chartered Partners and Cub Scout packs who believe they are ready to include girls into their unit may begin doing so as early as March 1, with Council approval.
- **Northern Star Council has created a task force** to prepare and support our youth, volunteers, Chartered Partners, and Cub Scout Packs for changes in three primary areas: facilities, program & training, and marketing. The task force and the sub-committees are made up of local volunteers from all levels of Scouting and various backgrounds, and will be providing more information over the next year.
- **Your Cub Scout pack leadership should contact you** in the coming weeks to discuss how your pack can best meet the needs of your community, youth, and families.

We will all be learning throughout this exciting time and Northern Star Council will do its best to keep everyone informed as we go forward. Information regarding girls in Scouting in our council will be updated on a special page on our Council website at: <http://www.northernstarbsa.org/programs-for-girls>

If you have further questions please contact Colleen Brazier, Deputy Scout Executive, at 763-231-7210.

Thank you for everything you do for youth and our local communities.

Sincerely,

John Andrews  
Scout Executive