Consistent BSA Mission & Program
There is a legacy of pride and accomplishment in the BSA mission and program. The brand remains unchanged.

MISSION: to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Program content remains the same: The inspiration continues. The adventure continues.

Troop Structure & Arrangements. All troops will be part of the “Scouts BSA” program. Troop structure and leadership remain the same. Each troop must be all-boy or all-girl. If a chartered organization chooses to offer Scouting to both boys and girls, they may do so through two distinct troops or through “linked” troops. Overseen by one troop committee, linked troops may meet at the same general location at the same time and may share some resources and some program elements as long as they have separate youth leadership and separate Scoutmasters, conduct separate troop meetings (perhaps with a joint opening and/or closing), and plan their own activities (including possible participation in some joint program ventures). Linked troops may have two different numbers or may share the same number (with each unit having a distinct code in the BSA database).

Troop Adult Leadership. Each troop is required to have at least two Youth Protection trained and BSA registered adults, 21 or over, at every troop activity or meeting. Boy troop adult leadership may be all male, all female or mixed gender. Girl troop adult leadership can be all female or mixed gender but must include at least one registered female volunteer. There must be a registered female adult over 21 at any troop gathering where any female youth is present.

Facilities & Accommodations. Separate accommodations and separate restrooms/showers for male and female adults and for male and female youth are required. Youth sharing tents may be no more than two years apart in age.

Pathway to Eagle for Older Youth Joining in 2019. All youth joining Scouts BSA for the first time from February 1, 2019 through the end of 2019, whether female or male, will have the opportunity to earn Eagle. Youth under the age of 16 will have sufficient time to earn Eagle prior to their 18th birthday. For those joining at age 16 or over but not yet 18 in 2019, a one-time extension may be granted if the youth applies in writing to the National Council within 30 days after turning 18 and no later than January 7, 2020. Extensions may be granted by the National Council for up to 24 months and will be done on an individual basis in accordance with the youth’s age at the time of registration.

Order of the Arrow. Some youth in Venturing and Sea Scouts will now be eligible for election into the Order of the Arrow. The 15 nights of camping required for eligibility may be while the youth is registered with a troop, crew, or ship within the two years immediately prior to the election. At the time of election, youth must hold the Scouts BSA First Class rank, the Venturing Discovery Award, or the Sea Scout Ordinary rank or higher.

Youth Magazine. Boys’ Life, the iconic magazine for Scouting youth, will become Scout Life.

Resources. Two versions of the updated Scouts BSA handbook, one for boy troops and one for girl troops, share the same content but have visuals featuring either male or female youth. Leader guides are also being updated.

For further details, check the national website: scouting.org/familyscouting/.