

Girls in Troop 97

Since When?

Troop 97's troop for girls began in February, 2019, the same month the national organization first allowed troops for girls. And the "linked" Troops 97 (one for boys & one for girls) united as "family" Troop 97 in mid-2024 for a year-long pilot program, now approved by the national organization.

Eagle Scouts?

So far four of our female Scouts have earned Scouting's highest award, and one of them was Larimer county's first female Eagle Scout.

Female Adult Leadership?

We currently have 18 registered women, including five uniformed Assistant Scoutmasters and four troop committee members. Seventeen have been on campouts, from one-nighters to multiple weeks of summer camp to one- to two-week high adventure treks. Twenty-three women have spent one or more weeks at summer camp, and 28 have been leaders on one or more high adventure treks.

Girls in Leadership Positions?

Scouting teaches leadership, and our female Scouts have led both other girls and boys. Six girls have held the troop's highest elected position (Senior Patrol Leader), and all led both boys and girls.

Women & Girls at Summer Camp?

We've had women spend the week at summer camp every year since 2004. Since girls were allowed in Scouts (in 2019), we've averaged more than four women providing adult leadership each year to the girls and boys who went.

Women & Girls on High Adventure?

The T97 annual high adventure treks, expeditions, and 'SuperTreks' challenge our older Scouts and adults. Twenty-eight women and 11 girls have taken the challenge to backpack high-altitude trails, canoe remote rivers almost to the Arctic Circle, paddle & portage canoes in Quetico (the more remote Canadian side of the famous Boundary Waters), bicycle the US & Canadian Pacific Northwest, and sail in the Caribbean.

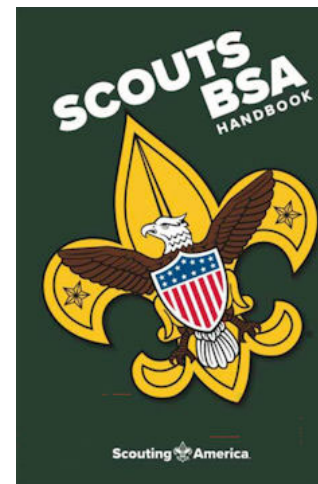


Girls in Scouting America

(Boy Scouts of America / BSA)

[We're not the Girl Scouts]

Here are some answers to your questions



Troop 97 BSA

for Girls and Boys

(5th grade to age 18)

Email info@troop97.net

1. Just when did “coed” Scouting start?

Is “coed” Scouting common in other countries?

Robert Baden-Powell founded the world Scouting (or Boy Scouting) program in 1908, then founded the separate world Guiding (or Girl Guiding) program in 1910 with his sister Agnes. In the US, William Boyce founded the Boy Scouts of America in 1910, and Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Guides of America in 1912 (Low confusingly renamed her program “Girl Scouts” in 1913 in order to improve recruitment). All world Scouting/Guiding programs were single-gender in the early years, and virtually all Girl Guide/Girl Scout programs remain single-gender today.

Worldwide Scouting, on the other hand, has gradually opened its ranks to girls, starting in the 1960’s. Today well over 90% of all world Scouting programs are open to girls. Scouts Canada, for example, became fully coed in all program sections in 1998. Boy-only Scouting continues mainly in several predominantly Muslim countries in Africa and the Middle East.

2. OK, so when did *Scouting America* become coed?

Actually, beginning over 50 years ago, in 1969! *Scouting America*’s high-school and college-aged Explorer program (renamed Venturing in 1998) began admitting girls as unregistered “associate members” in 1969, then as full members in 1971. Sea Explorers (renamed Sea Scouts in 1998) also opened to female membership in 1971 [although the Eagle Scout award was closed to girls until 2019].

The first adult position open to women was Den Mother, in 1936. Other adult positions gradually opened to women until 1988, when *Scouting America* opened all positions in all programs to men or women.

Cub Scouting (Kindergarten through grade 5) began admitting girls in 2018. Cub Scout packs can be boy-only, girl-only, or coed (*Scouting America* calls the last category ‘family’ packs).

Scouts BSA (formerly called ‘Boy Scouting’) began admitting girls in 2019. Scout troops can be boy-only, girl-only, or (as of December 2025) can also choose to be coed (which *Scouting America* calls ‘family’ troops). Troop 97 has actually been a family troop since being selected to be part of the national Combined Troop Pilot Program in mid-2024.

3. What about the *Boy Scouts of America* (BSA)?

After opening all its programs to girls, from kindergarten through adulthood, the BSA needed to change from “Boy Scouts”, so renamed the corporation to *Scouting America* in 2024.



4. What about Troop 97?

Troop 97 began in 1952. In 2019, the ‘linked’ Troop 97 for girls became one of the first two female troops in the county. And in 2024, as part of the national ‘Combined Troop Pilot Program’, Troop 97’s boys and girls combined into a single troop. This especially simplifies life for those families that have both a daughter and a son in Troop 97.

All adult positions in the troop are open to either men or women. But note that BSA requires at least one BSA-registered woman over age 21 be present on any activity involving girls, so we strongly encourage as many moms as possible to register with Troop 97.

5. What about the ‘Girl Scouts’?

GSUSA (Girl Scouts of the USA) and *Scouting America* have always been separate organizations, and their programs are significantly different. Note that girls in Scouts BSA are called ‘Scouts’ and not ‘Girl Scouts’. Girl-only programs in most countries are called Girl Guides rather than Girl Scouts.

6. Terminology

Scouting America has four traditional Scouting programs (it also has non-traditional school- and work-based programs):

- **Cub Scouts**—Youth members are called Cub Scouts (grades K–3) or Webelos Scouts (grade 4) or Arrow of Light (AOL) Scouts (grade 5) and are part of a ‘pack’.
- **Scouts BSA**—Youth members are called Scouts and are part of a ‘troop’.
- **Sea Scouts**—Youth members are called Sea Scouts and belong to a ‘ship’.
- **Venturing**—Youth members are called Venturers and belong to a ‘crew’.

Note that youth age 14 & up can opt to be Scouts, Sea Scouts, or Venturers.

