

By Golden Empire Council  
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## Golden Empire Council Supports LDS Church Changes to Scouting in Young Men Programs

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Golden Empire Council, BSA Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Sacramento, CA — On May 11, 2017, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced, “the Church will no longer charter Varsity or Venturing units with the Boy Scouts of America .... effective January 1, 2018. We express sincere appreciation and gratitude to all adult leaders who have supported young men in these programs and are grateful for our long-standing and continuing partnership with the Boy Scouts of America. Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs will continue to be chartered through local wards and branches. Young men who desire to continue to work toward the rank of Eagle Scout .... should be encouraged and supported in their efforts and should be properly registered as Scouts. Adult leaders who are assisting with merit badges or rank advancement with older boys should also be registered and complete required training.”* You can read the entire statement and see the answers to frequently asked questions [here](#).

The Golden Empire Council is and always will be committed to serving our community and chartered partners, including The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We offer programs and facilities that are geared toward helping LDS leaders “Be with [youth], connect them to heaven, and let them lead.”

The Golden Empire Council offers a variety of programs from Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts to STEM Scouts, Exploring and Venturing, and our chartered partners are in the best position to decide which programs most appropriately meet the needs of the youth they serve. The LDS Church remains committed to using the Cub Scout and Boy Scout program, and we look forward to providing Scout programs to all interested youth, including those age 14 and older who are interested in participating in the Boy Scout program as they work to earn the Eagle Scout rank.

In an effort to better serve our largest chartered partner, we have spent the last several years building programs and providing resources that help LDS youth build strong relationships with their leaders, peers, and Father in Heaven through high-quality, youth-led activities. We have also opened our camping programs and facilities to stakes and wards, inviting them to bring their young men and young women to camp for meaningful, outdoor experiences where they practice leadership, build faith, gain confidence, and prepare for church and missionary service. Thousands of youth have participated in these programs. We will continue to expand our efforts to provide resources and facilities that specifically serve older youth to help local LDS wards and stakes provide high quality programs for their youth classes and quorums.

Scouting continues to fully support the LDS Church in its effort to “meet the spiritual, physical, emotional and intellectual needs of young men.” We continue to work closely with our LDS Church leaders to provide the resources they need to serve their youth of all ages.

Key messages:

- We fully support the LDS Church and want to help them be successful in serving their youth. We are excited to provide activity support and outdoor facilities to youth of all ages.
- We will continue to expand our efforts to provide resources, including outdoor facilities that specifically serve older youth, to help local wards and stakes provide high quality programs for their youth classes and quorums.
- We look forward to providing Scout programs to all interested youth, including those age 14 and older who want to continue participating or are on the trail to Eagle. Of those who earn the Eagle Scout award in our council, over 95% complete the requirements at age 14 or older, the average age a Scouts attains the Eagle rank is approximately 16 1/2.

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