

Scouting & LDS Church 2020
A Letter to LDS Scouts and Scouters
Dave Henrichsen, LDS Scouter

The LDS Church and BSA have enjoyed a partnership that has lasted nearly 105 years. In 2020 the LDS Church will no longer be a charter-partner with BSA as the church will roll out a youth program that will serve all children and teens in the wards and branches both in and out of the US.

Scouting has played a big role in my life since I was 8 years old and will continue to be a part of my participation in the community. Many people have asked me what I thought of this change, I would like to share some thoughts from Mark Francis, LDS-BSA Relations director and some thoughts of my own.

First: **Share your experiences**, both in words and pictures. Let us continue to build on the legacy we have built together.

Second: **stay involved**. Even though the LDS Church will no longer be chartering Scouting units after 2019, I invite you to keep Scouting as part of your heritage. My family will always be actively involved in this life-changing program. We will still register in packs, troops and crews, we will still participate in summer camp, and still live the Scout Oath and Law. The Mount Baker Council is committed to helping you to connect with the excellent packs, troops, and crews in your neighborhood. You know these people, they are your neighbors and friends from school.

I believe that this separation—while potentially altering BSA registrations—will possibly reflect more accurate numbers of actively engaged youth, leaders and units. It is exciting to think how these quality numbers will grow when LDS members choose Scouting.

This transition will allow these new units to be filled with strong leaders who already love Scouting and are already trained. Youth members of the LDS Scouting programs will benefit of transitioning into a Scouting unit where they will enjoy all the benefits of the program they experienced within the Church units and continue the trail to Eagle Scout.

And finally, when parents are presented with several choices for extra-curricular activities, I am confident that they will still choose a values-based character-building organization for their child to be involved in. As an icon in our nation, Scouting will continue to be an honorable and commendable part of youth development. Scouting has never been more needed than now. I know that my family will continue to choose Scouting.