

## **All Scouting is local.**

**The Boston Minuteman Council** of the Boy Scouts of America has responsibility to administer, implement and grow the Scouting program in Boston, Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Brookline, Burlington, Cambridge, Carlisle, Chelsea, Concord, Dedham, Dover, Everett, Hanscom AFB, Lexington, Lincoln, North Reading, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Milton, Needham, Quincy, Reading, Revere, Somerville, Stoneham, Wakefield, Waltham, Watertown, Westwood, Winchester and Woburn.

In 2001, the Boston Minuteman Council adopted this **statement of nondiscrimination**:

*The mission of the Boston Minuteman Council, Boy Scouts of America is to provide character development, citizenship training, growth in physical and mental fitness, and leadership opportunities for the young people of the Boston metropolitan area. We pride ourselves on the diversity of our members, and we are committed to providing young people with an educational and stimulating environment in which to learn and grow. Through the Scout Oath and Law, we pledge to respect all people and to defend the rights of others. Bias, intolerance and unlawful discrimination are unacceptable within the ranks of the Boston Minuteman Council.*

*The Boston Minuteman Council serves youth through volunteers in Packs, Troops and other units without regard to color, race, religion, ethnic background, sexual orientation or economic status.*

**We have done our best** to live up to this statement in the decade since its adoption.

**Our duty** to youth members is to see that they enjoy a great Scouting experience with all the growth opportunities Scouting offers. Our duty to adult leaders is to provide support as they lead our youth..

**Since our founding** we have worked through sponsoring institutions: religious, civic and other organizations that host Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Varsity Teams, Venturing Crews and Sea Scout Ships. Our duty to these institutions is to help make Scouting a key part of their youth program.

**The national officers** of the Boy Scouts of America recently reaffirmed the membership standards of the organization, particularly relating to people who are avowed homosexuals. We agree with the national organization that the discussion of sexual orientation and sexual behavior in the context of Scouting can be a distraction to the mission of Scouting. We also believe that the exclusion of persons from Scouting because of sexual orientation can be a distraction to the mission of Scouting, particularly in the area we serve.

**We believe** that sex, sexual orientation and their discussion are important. But we also believe that Scouting is not prepared and equipped to be a fruitful forum for this discussion, and such a discussion in the context of Scouting risks trivializing, politicizing and “soundbiting” the topic. Discussions of sex and sexual orientation are appropriately held in the family and with educational, religious and medical counselors.

**These are the principles** which we teach youth and try to live by:

### **The Scout Oath**

On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country  
and to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times,  
to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

### **The Scout Law,**

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous,

Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, Reverent.

**Youth participate in Scouting** for fun and adventure and to enhance citizenship, character and fitness. Adults participate in Scouting to help youth grow. Scouting cannot and will not be a forum for the pursuit and advancement of adult agendas.

**We reaffirm our statement of non-discrimination.** We believe that all people should at all times be treated in accordance with the Scout Oath and Scout Law. We strongly oppose treating anyone in any way that is contrary to the Scout Oath and Scout Law, because of sexual orientation or for any other reason.

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