



BOY SCOUTS  
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SIMON KENTON COUNCIL

## Simon Kenton Council Statement on Diversity

On Sept. 18, 2014, the executive board of the Simon Kenton Council, Boy Scouts of America, approved and adopted a council-wide Statement on Diversity. The statement signifies the Council's desire to reflect the diversity of the communities it serves, and a belief that an inclusive organization will provide the best opportunities for youth to grow into strong citizens.

This statement and the following Q & A are intended to address questions for members of the Scouting family. Additional questions should be directed to Jeff Moe, Scout Executive/CEO at 614-310-1329 or Jen Koma, Director of Development and Marketing at 614-310-1333.

### Q&A:

#### Background

On Sept. 18, 2014, the Board of Directors of the Simon Kenton Council, Boy Scouts of America, approved and adopted a council-wide Statement on Diversity:

*The Simon Kenton Council does not believe  
in denying membership in our program to a youth or adult leader  
on the basis of sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, or  
economic status.*

#### Why did the board develop the statement?

The statement signifies the Council's desire to reflect the diversity of the communities it serves, and a belief that an inclusive organization will provide the best opportunities for youth to grow into strong citizens. The statement also is reflective of careful consideration by the board after extensive dialogue within the Scouting family and with community stakeholders.

### **How will the statement be used?**

The statement is an expression to the community of the council's desire to be a more inclusive organization.

As always, chartering organizations and parent committees for each Scouting unit (pack, troop, crew, etc.) are responsible for approving or not approving adult leader applications.

### **Will this statement change the local Scouting program?**

We do not anticipate changes to our program as a result of the Statement on Diversity.

The statement is aspirational. The council continues to be part of the broader Scouting organization and is bound by its policies. Our intent is to work through proper channels to ultimately affect a change in the national membership standards policy.

While the board recognizes that people have different opinions about inclusion, one thing is clear – the mission of Scouting has not changed, and that is what unites those who support the Scouting program.

The Simon Kenton Council will continue to focus on reaching and serving young people to help them become responsible, participating citizens and leaders within our 18-county territory of southern and central Ohio and northern Kentucky.