

Press Release - Alameda Council

ALAMEDA COUNCIL OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA WILL VOTE TO END THE CURRENT BAN ON GAY SCOUTS

On May 23rd, the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America will vote on a proposed resolution that would amend the National Council membership standards to end the ban on open and avowed homosexual youth in Scouting. Alameda's voting delegates will vote in favor of this resolution.

In preparation for this meeting, the Alameda Council has actively solicited community input on these policies over the last several weeks. Over 32 percent of our local members responded to survey questions regarding the current policy, as well as possible scenarios should the policy remain the same or be changed. In summary, 79 percent of our older youth, parents, and leaders strongly or significantly opposed the current National policy. These survey results were repeated by a similar proportion of letter responses, and a representative cross-section of over 40 leaders and parents that met on May 15th.

The Alameda Council continues to extend membership to all youth and adults willing to follow the ideals of the Scout Oath and Law. Sexuality is not a topic for the Scouting program, and the Council does not favor any particular religious perspective for or against moral judgments regarding it. Our local membership includes differing viewpoints on this subject, yet we continue our long-standing practice of treating youth and adult members as individuals, without regard to labels or stereotypes.

The Executive Board of the Alameda Council BSA voted unanimously on May 16th to support the proposed resolution to amend the National membership policy, which will allow membership for all youth. The Board has charged our voting officers to vote in favor of the resolution at next week's national meeting. Furthermore, the Alameda Council will recommend that the National Council modify its policies further to allow adults Scouting membership without regard to sexual orientation, but only according to established Scouting codes of conduct and acceptable behavior.

For complete information on the proposed National BSA membership resolution we encourage those interested to visit www.scouting.org/membershipstandards. Comments on the national policy are welcome at www.scouting.org/contactus.

While many feel that the proposed change does not go far enough, we believe that this an important first step in a very positive direction for the Boy Scouts of America. Regardless of the results of the national vote on May 23rd, Alameda Council and its 300+ adult volunteers will be here on May 24th, ready to continue to serve the largest youth-serving organization in Alameda. Just as we have been for the last 97 years, we will be here for the kids.

Executive Board
Alameda Council – Boy Scouts of America