



## **Guiding Principles of the Marin Council Regarding Scouting Membership Standards**

The dialogue our council leaders, parents, and supporters have undertaken regarding BSA membership policies has reaffirmed the role that Scouting in Marin has had and can continue to have in shaping the lives and values of young people. Of deep concern to many in the Marin Council is the exclusion of an entire group of people based on stereotypes and prejudices which is inconsistent with the personal beliefs of a majority of our membership as well as the Scout Oath, and Scout Law.

As a council, we believe that:

Scouts and Scouting volunteers should be judged by their conduct, their actions, and their character, consistent with the Scout Oath and Scout Law, not by stereotypes or group-related prejudices;

The Scout Oath and the Scout Law are foundational ideas that every person should be exposed to so that all people can benefit from the Scouting movement's principles, ideals, and values; and,

Regardless of sexual orientation, sexual topics and conduct—which include pointing out another individual's sexual orientation—are not part of Scouting and should not be tolerated. Further, Scouting should not permit its organization to be used as a vehicle to promote any personal, political, social, or other objective that is inconsistent with the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

In keeping with the Scout Oath and Scout Law and our guiding principles, the Marin Council will continue to encourage the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America to adopt standard policies applicable to all BSA councils which ends the isolation and exclusion of individuals from Scouting solely on the basis of sexual orientation.

*Guiding Principles Approved 4/23/13 by the Executive Board of the Marin Council, BSA*