



DATE

Dear **Cubmasters, Committee Chairs,**

I hope your Scouting year is going well. I would like to follow up on the historic announcement that the BSA is expanding Cub Scouts to include girls. **Including girls in a Pack is optional.** This letter and the accompanying form can help your Pack leaders, families, and Chartered Partner decide whether or not your pack will include girls in 2018.

The Cub Scout program will remain the same, now guiding both boys and girls towards the Scout Oath and Law.

The official rollout of girls in Cub Scouts for Northern Star Council will take place in August 2018, with the start of fall recruitment. Please start a conversation *now* with your Chartered Partner, leaders, and families. As we prepare our recruiting materials, we need to make sure that girls who want to join Cub Scouts are directed to Packs that are including girls.

The first step in the process is to schedule a meeting with your Chartered Partner to discuss how your local pack will serve families. Please do this in January or early February.

With your Chartered Partner, your pack can decide to either:

- Become a pack that serves both boys and girls
- Remain an all-boy pack (the Chartered Partner can also decide to start an all-girl pack if desired)

Tools and resources to help your decision making are available on a new page on our website; www.northernstarbsa.org/programs-for-girls This page will have the most up-to-date information, plans, and resources on girls in Scouting in Northern Star Council. Please carefully read through this material before your discussions with your Chartered Partner.

To help you with these discussions, please use the enclosed **Girls in Cub Scouts** form. Please return this form by February 15th. Note that we need the head of your Chartered Partner to sign this form.

Select Packs may have the opportunity to welcome girls as early as March 1st, 2018. Participating “Early Adopter” packs will be able to register girls before fall to provide additional experience and feedback before the fall rollout. See the included **Girls in Cub Scouts Early Adopter Application** for details.

Northern Star Council is committed to providing the best possible experience for our families and the girls who participate. Our volunteer committees are working on preparing training, program, facilities and marketing tools. Girls in Cub Scouts is an exciting new opportunity for all of us!

Questions about the rollout or any aspects of this optional expansion can be directed to your district leadership team – district chair, district commissioner, and program relations executive – or to Deputy Scout Executive, Colleen Brazier, who is serving as the staff advisor to the Girls Task Force.

Sincerely,

John Andrews
Scout Executive