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Scouting's Future With Boys And Girls

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The Boy Scouts of America made the historic decision to allow girls in scouting, which will change scouting from being mostly a boy and father/mother association to more of a family association.

As a leader of a Cub Scout pack, I have always included scouts' sisters and parents when hosting various events, such as pinewood derby, overnight camping trips, and hiking. I believe the Girl Scouts will lose a few girls, but I believe both organizations can continue to stay alive. This may also lead to losing some scouts in the BSA, as not everyone has the same views.

Now that I am also a leader for a Boy Scout unit, I see sisters watch their brothers being dropped off at camping events. Some comment that they wish they could stay and participate. I have had several mothers and

fathers over the last two years come to me and ask if girls can join, or if they will ever be accepted to scouting so that they can camp and hike on trails as well. I ask them why they don't do that with Girl Scouts, and the response is often that they want their children to be together and share activities together. With more families involved with school events, sports, church and now scouting today, it's much easier for parents to drop off both kids at the same location. Scouting does a great job at making sure every leader is properly trained and has youth protection training. My hope is that this change positively impacts the youth.

The leaders are positive role models and do their best to teach the youths positive living skills, no matter the gender. I believe everyone should have equal scouting experiences in today's world.