Dear Scouting Leader:

Earlier this week, the National Boy Scouts of America released a statement indicating that the National Board of Directors will, at the next board meeting, consider changing its membership requirements to remove any mention of sexual orientation.

We realize and respect the diverse opinions of our Scout leaders and families on this issue. We promise to keep you informed as the National organization continues its discussion.

Please note that all membership policy decisions are handled at the national level. While the Shenandoah Area Council is NOT involved in the decision-making process, we are listening to our Scout families and volunteers, and communicating those messages to the national organization. Our management staff views any and all input as important and it is appreciated.

Another key note – is that this proposal if passed would only remove the wording of the membership policy regarding sexual orientation, the charter organizations that oversee Scouting will continue to select membership of youth and leaders based on their own organization's mission, and/or religious beliefs.

This remains an internal discussion of the National Board of Directors, and as such we do not have any additional details. What we do know and what we can promise is that the Shenandoah Area Council and local board will continue its focus on providing a high-quality Scouting program for the youth of our community.

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