

Family Den Pilot Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Family Den Pilot?

A: Ability for family packs, with permission from their chartered organization, to form dens with boys and girls.

Q: Why is this being piloted?

A: Family dens will allow the BSA to provide more joining opportunities for families by eliminating the potential barrier of lack of enough youth to form a den. A lack of critical mass in a den leads to retention issues for both youth and adults.

Q: I thought that the BSA said there are benefits to boys and girls being separate in Scouting. What changed?

A: Research collected in 2018 by the National Pilots Committee, concluded that at Cub Scout age, single-gender Scouting was not necessary. Packs were given the option to form a family pack, including both boys and girls in the program. It is not until Scouts BSA age the benefits of single-gender programming arise.

Q: Does this mean that Scouts BSA will have the option to have boys and girls in their troops?

A: No. Cub Scouting is a separate program with different content and delivery methods than Scouts BSA.

Q: Must one of the registered leaders be female?

A: Yes. A registered female adult leader who is 21 years of age or older must be present whenever female youth are present.

Q: Can Cub Scout family dens have coed youth buddy pairs?

A: No. Coed youth buddy pairs are not permitted in Scouting. There should be at least two youth of each gender in a coed den to ensure the buddy system is in place. In limited circumstances, the parent or legal guardian of a youth may serve as their child's buddy until a youth buddy of the same gender is available.