



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA®
LONGHOUSE COUNCIL

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**LONGHOUSE COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, STATEMENT ON
HISTORIC NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP STANDARDS POLICY VOTE**

GRAPEVINE, TEXAS--- A delegation of leaders of Longhouse Council, Boy Scouts of America, participated in today's historical vote on Scouting's membership policy regarding sexual orientation of youth. A resolution eliminating sexual orientation as a criterion for membership eligibility for youth was put before the BSA's approximately 1,400 delegates and was passed with 61.44% support.

The resolution as proposed maintains a ban on avowed or openly gay adult leaders. Several resolutions lifting the ban on gay leaders were proposed, referred to committee for further debate and study, and may be considered in the future. The Longhouse Council has never barred or removed an adult leader for their sexual orientation.

The Longhouse Council opposes the inconsistency in membership eligibility between youth and adults and will continue to encourage BSA leadership to consider additional resolutions at the earliest possible opportunity to eliminate sexual orientation as a criterion for any BSA enrolled youth or adult leader. The Longhouse Council had previously declared its support for today's resolution.

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A declaration of religious belief by all members and a behavior ban on any open display of human sexuality of any nature within a Scouting environment remain official BSA policies and were not altered as a result of this vote.

As the official chartered Council for Boy Scouts of America in Central and Northern New York, Longhouse Council will abide by this vote, which establishes national BSA policy on membership standards for 2.7 million youth.

Longhouse Council represents Scouting for over 6,000 youth and 3,000 registered adult leaders in Cayuga, Onondaga, Oswego, Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Lewis Counties.