

POLICY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE BSA PROGRAM BY THOSE LIVING IN EXILE

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) in its federal charter has the obligation to make the Scouting program available to all youth living in the United States. Youth and adults living in exile are invited to register and participate in the Boy Scouts of America.

The World Organization of the Scout Movement at its meeting in 1947 agreed that members of national Scout associations in exile should be recognized. This position was taken and reaffirmed during succeeding World Conferences.

"All Exile and Refugee Scouts who eventually take up residence in a country where there is already a recognized member organization of the Conference shall have the choice of becoming members of that association or of relinquishing their Scout membership. On settlement they cease to be in a state of transition and are bound by the laws of the country of their adoption."

The Boy Scouts of America reaffirms its deep understanding for freedom-loving people everywhere and extends an especially warm welcome to those who have immigrated to the United States. Recognizing that youth and adults of national Scout associations living in exile desire and need the Scouting program, the Boy Scouts of America urges all such organizations to affiliate with it, and therefore the World Brotherhood of Scouting.

To make this affiliation possible, the Boy Scouts of America establishes the following:

1. Youth and adults living in exile are encouraged to join the BSA as provided by the BSA Charter and Bylaws, and to participate fully in all council and district programs.
2. If they so desire, the leaders of these groups may continue to review unit charter applications and to collect reasonable registration fees for their own national association, in addition to the BSA. If they elect to collect fees, their accounts are subject to audit by the local BSA council.
3. Leaders of these groups may continue their own organizational lines of communication among themselves within the local BSA council boundaries where they are registered. Communication will take place in accordance with the guidelines contained in the Bylaws of the BSA.
4. The youth members of these groups will participate in the advancement program of the BSA. However, these exile organizations may provide additional requirements related to the history, flag, language, and culture, providing such additions have the concurrence of the local BSA council.

5. The adult leaders of these groups are encouraged to participate in the leadership development program of the BSA. They may, however, with the concurrence of their local BSA council, provide additional training experience in their own history, culture, and tradition.
6. That these groups are encouraged to present historical, cultural, and traditional performances at local BSA council and district events.
7. That members of these groups will wear the uniform and insignia of the BSA, without addition nor alteration.
8. This policy replaces "Participation of Ethnic Groups in the Boy Scouts of America", dated: 1968 and 1973.

Approved by International Committee on May 23, 1984

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