



A program for Cub Scouts, Scouts, and Explorers

National Office—Boy Scouts of America

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February 13, 1978

TO: Scout Executives

FROM: Russ Bufkins, Director of Public Relations

SUBJECT: Homosexual Unit Members

National wire services have carried a story from Mankato, Minn., reporting that an Explorer post Advisor had refused to renew the membership of two young men who said they were homosexuals. The national office was asked if we supported the action of the post Advisor. Our reply may provide guidance in dealing with news queries in your council area. Although the newspapers did not report our position verbatim, here is our response:

"We support the decision of the Mankato, Minn., Explorer post Advisor regarding the denial of membership to youth members who declared themselves to be homosexuals.

It is our position that the Boy Scouts of America is a private organization and membership therein is a privilege, not a right.

We reserve the right to deny membership to individuals upon the basis of our own standards, consistent with the laws of the land."

Queries on individual cases may be referred to David Park, national legal counsel, or Russ Bufkins, director of Public Relations.

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