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Subject: Homosexual youth OK as members?
From: GORDON STIEFEL <[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>
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May I begin by sharing the 2004 revised policy from BSA...

- Youth Leadership

Boy Scouts of America believes that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the obligations in the Scout Oath and Scout Law to be morally straight and clean in thought, word, and deed. The conduct of youth members must be in compliance with the Scout Oath and Law, and membership in Boy Scouts of America is contingent upon the willingness to accept Scouting's values and beliefs. Most boys join Scouting when they are 10 or 11 years old. As they continue in the program, all Scouts are expected to take leadership positions. In the unlikely event that an older boy were to hold himself out as homosexual, he would not be able to continue in a youth leadership position.

The policy change seems to have occurred circa 2004.

Does this mean youth 11 - 20, who are gay can now be members - just not leaders?
I am confused and concerned especially in light of yesterday's mass readings

I thought we, the adults, according to BP were suppose to be like shepherds who welcomed all the kids in to the BSA, the BSA is the greatest youth movement in the world or flock.

We are not here to divide the sheep but to meet them where they were at and help them develop character and values built on the Scout Oath and Law to be the leaders of tomorrow as members of the flock.

We, I thought, are suppose to welcome Christians, Greek, Jews, Muslims, Mormons, et al, equally and help them grow in their own religious values - not worry that oh you are one of those - but see the BIG PICTURE of helping as many kids as we can mature and grow with the Scout Oath and Law as a guiding light including helping them grow in their religion as a Scout is Reverent. And we grow and are better for having been of service! Just like BP the military leader welcomed all into the military service regardless.

A child announces to the world I am gay. Ok, so what does that mean? It could mean many things and nothing. It could be as simple as I am confused or a cry for attention or reflect the beginning of a sexual identity struggle with the onset of puberty. Or worse things at home or school. It is simply beyond me as to what it really means at ages 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14. By the time the kid is 15, it is all different I would suggest..

There is the old Catholic joke about teen agers... Jesus was teaching in the Temple for three days and his parents searched frantically for him. When they found him and he was well, his parents, Mary and Joseph, grounded him until he was thirty like any good Irish family would!

All I know for sure it means is we have a child who we all need to rally around, minister to and help the youth! Our faith affirms being gay is morally wrong or a sin; time and again, I have heard a pastor say love and minister to the sinner, hate the sin.

So, if it is now OK for a youth who is an announced homosexual to be a member of the BSA where does that leave the poor charter partner who says NO WAY.

HELP

Humbly grateful to be your companion
on the journey...

Gordon P. Stiefel
Phone: 708 246 5151
Fax: 708 246 9144

"All great change in America
begins at the dinner table", Ronald Reagan.

"Now more than ever, in a world all too often deprived of light and
the courage of noble ideals, it is not the time to be ashamed of the Gospel (cf. Rom 1: 16).
Rather, it is time to preach it from the rooftops (cf. Mt 10: 27)!"
National Meeting of Young Catholics of Switzerland (2004), Address of John Paul II

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