

2.9 - GENDER EQUITY

This statement is intended for the guidance of Leaders in ensuring that female and male youth members are offered equal opportunities to participate fully in the Scouting program. The statement refers to the Joey Scout, Cub Scout, Scout and Venturer Sections. Rovers are expected to govern their own behaviour.

Leader Teams (see P & R R5.4 (5), R6.4 (5), R7.4 (7), R8.4 (4))

Every effort should be made to have mixed gender Leader teams in all Sections. Mixed Leader teams are important:

- to provide to youth members models of active leadership and good citizenship by both men and women; and
- to meet family expectations of the supervision of youth members and the exercise of duty of care generally.

Activities

Activities undertaken by mixed groups of youth members, including meetings and overnight activities, should generally have a mixed team of adults to supervise.

If this is not possible, because of a lack of adults of one gender, or because of the nature of the activity, eg a Patrol Camp, the activity may nevertheless take place, as long as parents of all youth members participating know and consent to the supervision arrangements.

Provided that an appointed Leader is in charge, it may be appropriate for some activities to make up a mixed supervision team by including other adults such as parents.

Accommodation (see P&R R12.8)

Separate changing, ablution and sleeping arrangements are required for both male and female participants. Common sense should be exercised. For example, a Joey sleepover at a Scout hall would not usually require male and female Joeys to sleep in separate rooms or buildings. On the other hand it would be inappropriate for a male and female Scout or Venturer to share a tent.

In all cases, the needs and privacy of all members should be respected. No member should feel embarrassed or threatened about their accommodation and ablution arrangements.

Leaders should never sleep in a tent or small room with youth members.

AUTHORITY

This policy statement was approved by the Branch Executive Committee on 26 November 1997.