



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Scouting For All Urges Boy Scouts to Change Policy Excluding LGBT and Atheist youth and adults

SAN DIEGO – January 8, 2010 – Scouting For All (SFA) will urge the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to change its discriminatory national policy excluding LGBT and non-theist scouts. There will be a candlelight vigil on February 6 from 5:30PM to 6:30PM in front of Boy Scouts headquarters at 1207 Upas. We will begin at The LGBT Center at 3909 Center Street (corner of Center and University at 5:30 and walk to BSA headquarters on Upas Street. After 100 Years the Boy Scouts of America still has not learned to treat all people equal. Their stance against gay and non-theist children and adults amounts to teaching hate by example.

Will they never learn? In the 50s they had segregated troops in the south. In the 60s to 70s they spent a lot of money to prove women could not be scoutmasters. Now this... "Scouting For All believes that Scouting is a wonderful program." said Howard Menzer, Eagle Scout and president of SFA. "Robert Baden-Powell, who founded the Scouting Movement in 1907, began the movement on the principle that Scouting would be offered to all youth, providing them with an opportunity to grow and develop as individuals and to help make the world a better place. In this vein, we oppose bigotry and discrimination in Scouting and seek to persuade the public to exert influence on the BSA to join the openness of world scouting so that all children and adults are once again welcome participants in the Scouting program." Scouting For All also opposes special treatment that the BSA, a religious based organization, receives from local governments, including the City of San Diego, which leases public property to the organization with taxpayer subsidies. The BSA continues to lease city-owned property in Balboa Park at a discounted rate and uses a boat dock on Fiesta Island without cost, despite a 2003 court order declaring the leases violated the constitutional separation of church and state.

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About Scouting for All, Founded in 1997, Scouting for All is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization that advocates the restoration of the traditionally unbiased values of Scouting as expressed and embodied in the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. The group seeks to influence the Boy Scouts of America to serve and include as participating members all youth and adult leaders, regardless of their spiritual belief, gender or sexual orientation. To learn more, please visit www.sdscoutingforall.org.

Please bring a flashlight instead of a candle for safety, signs you can make and bring with you:

THERE IS NO MERIT IN DISCRIMINATION

HAVING THE RIGHT TO DISCRIMINATE DOES NOT MAKE IT THE RIGHT THING TO DO

BE FAIR - LET THE LOCAL SPONSOR DECIDE THE CONTENT OF THE TROOP

GAY CHILDREN MAKE GREAT SCOUTS

HAVING 2 MOMS IS NOT A CRIME - DO NOT TREAT IT AS ONE

WHY ARE YOU HURTING CHILDREN.



(Continued)

Please bring a flashlight instead of a candle for safety, signs you can make and bring with you:

A 7 YEAR OLD WITH 2 MOMS IS NOT A BAD PERSON

NON-ATHEIST CHILDREN MAKE GREAT SCOUTS

STOP HURTING CHILDREN

HATE IN SCOUTING IS WRONG

Howard Menzer Eagle Scout
Scouting For All – President

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Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is the nation's foremost family-based organization committed to the civil rights of gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender persons. Founded in 1973 by mothers and fathers, PFLAG has 200,000 members and supporters in more than 500 chapters throughout the United States. To learn more, please visit www.pflag.com.