

Transgender FAQs

GSEMA welcomes non-binary youth and transgender boys in addition to all girls. As a youth serving organization, our priority is the safety and wellbeing of the young people in our community. Troop leaders, supportive families, and GSEMA staff can work together to support and empower transgender youth within Girl Scouting.

How to Support Your Girl Scout

Affirm your support for the Girl Scout! Let them know you want to best support them in this time.

Transgender identities should be kept confidential in the same way medical information is kept confidential. It is the Girl Scout and family's decision if, when, and how to share that information.

Not every youth will want to continue with Girl Scouts, and that's okay. For some trans people, Girl Scouting is a gendered space which does not feel affirming due to the gendered nature.

Remember: If the family is supportive of their child, this conversation can be had with the caregivers and child together. If the Girl Scout asks you to not share this information with their caregivers, please make sure to respect their privacy and keep it confidential.

Questions to Ask the Girl Scout

- 1) What name and pronouns do you want us to use with the troop?
 - Let the Girl Scout know they can let you know if this changes!
- 2) What name and pronouns do you want us to use with your family?
 - Let the Girl Scout know they can let you know if this changes!
- 3) How can we make Girl Scouts an affirming place for you?
 - If the answer is that it can't be that's okay! Have a conversation about how they can close out their Girl Scout experience
 - If the Girl Scout doesn't have specific examples, share what you are thinking of doing with their agreement. (example: We will try to stop using language like "ladies or girls" when we are talking to the group. We will make sure we to include examples of trans people when we are learning about leaders in the field. We will include LGBTQ community learnings.
- 4) How would you like to tell your peers if/when you are ready?

Questions to ask the Girl Scout's family (if applicable).

- 1) How can we support your child in Girl Scouts?
- 2) Do you want Girl Scout accounts updated with their new name? (We can update member names within the system, no legal name change required. This should not be a requirement to using someone's chosen name in troop settings)
- 3) Do you have any questions or concerns about your child continuing with Girl Scouts if they want to?
 - Affirm that their child is welcome to continue with Girl Scouting and will have access to all of our programming. We will not exclude an individual based on their gender identity. If you don't know the specific answer that's okay! Let them know you will check with GSEMA—contact customercare@gsema.org to be connected to a membership support staff member.

Resources

Trans Student Educational Resources

Trans Student Educational Resources ([TSER](#)) is a youth-led organization dedicated to transforming the educational environment for trans and gender non-conforming students through advocacy and empowerment.

Boston Alliance of LGBTQ+ Youth

The Boston Alliance of LGBTQ+ Youth ([BAGLY](#)) was formed in 1980 and is a youth-led, adult-supported organization committed to social justice, and creating, sustaining and advocating for programs, policies and services for the LGBTQ+ youth community.

Greater Boston PFLAG

[Greater Boston PFLAG](#) provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. They work to create environments of understanding so that all people can live with dignity and respect through:

- Support: to cope with an adverse society
- Education: to enlighten the public
- Advocacy: to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights

GLSEN

[GLSEN](#) works to ensure that LGBTQ students are able to learn and grow in a school environment free from bullying and harassment. Together we can transform our nation's schools into the safe and affirming environment all youth deserve.

Are there other conversations your troop needs help having?

Email customercare@gsema.org to let us know how we can best support you.