Issues by GS Level:

1. Daisies and Brownies – at these stages, you'll likely see children of LGBT+ families as well as trans girls who identified themselves early on. Remember: trans girls are girls and privacy should be taken for granted. As for families, do not assume "mom" and "dad" as the parents or caregivers. This is also more inclusive of families with non-traditional structures, like step parents, foster families, kinship care, etc. Even stating that early on, such as at a parent information meeting or via inquiry emails, makes LGBT+ families feel seen and welcomed.
2. Juniors – While you will still see some of the issues discussed in Daisies and Brownies, Juniors brings many other issues. Fourth and fifth grade Scouts seem to hit peak "mean girl" around this age and relational bullying is a persistent issue. This can be especially true around issues of gender expression and budding sexuality. Exploring issues of LGBTQ history, identity, pronoun use, etc, can help educate Scouts, while calling out problems, promoting team building activities, and calling in Scouts who seem to be actively engaging in that behavior also help.
3. Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors – Middle through high school is when you will see more and more Scouts coming out – as bisexual, lesbian, non-binary, and/or trans. Allow Scouts to be a safe place for adolescents to explore their identities. We have all seen the viral Goth Gold Awardee, but there are many other images of diverse Girl Scouts, including trans/nonbinary Scouts and Scouts with LGBTQ+ themed projects. Share these Scouts with your troop as a way of affirming the diversity and inclusion of GSUSA. For trans and nonbinary Scouts, emphasize the Scout part of Girl Scouts – a space away from hegemonic masculinity that empowers Scouts to learn leadership, entrepreneurship, and confidence. You may also have to allow some space for that Scout to leave and come back as they are comfortable. Always welcome them back!
4. Camping – Privacy should be expected for all Scouts in camping or other overnight experiences. For older transmasculine Scouts, speak to them about their preferences for being treated as a Scout member (sharing a tent/room), as a boy/man (sleeping apart), or some other accommodation. Scout comes before Girl in these situations!
5. Volunteers – Officially, all women are counted as women for the purpose of volunteering. That includes bi, pan, and lesbian women, trans women, and non-binary or intersex people willing to be counted as women. Men are also allowed as volunteers with some restrictions as to sleep arrangements and chaperoning. Cis men, trans men, and non-binary people who do not want to be counted as women are subject to those restrictions. Individual identity is obviously much more complicated than the simple binaries used on the GS registration forms, but the individual in question is the one whose preferences are followed.

GSA Scout Leaders > Facebook group

Kate Jenkins Supporting LGBTQ+ Scouts FALL Weekend 2026

Inclusive Language means using gender neutral terms:
Scouts instead of Girls or Ladies
Sibling or **Friend** instead of Sister in the GS Law
Parents or **Adults** instead of Mom and Dad
Default to **they/them** when pronoun use isn't known

When your Scout comes Out:

1. Read the context – are they scared or fearful? Are they happily announcing it? Make sure you take note of these context cues when responding
2. Thank them for trusting you with this information. It means they see you as a safe and supportive person with whom they can express their full self.
3. Inquire about their level of openness – is this confidential information or for all to know and see? Are they out to their parents/caretakers or other family members?
4. Ask how best to support them in the troop – a renaming, reconfiguring the Law to sibling or friend, etc, or keeping the news private completely. This may be a continual process as new things come up.
5. Depending on their openness and support needs, you may have to code-switch or hide information from parents. You are the safe adult and the Scout may perceive their family to be unsafe for them to be LBTQ+. This may be uncomfortable for you, but the priority is the safety of the Scout in question.

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- pronoun awareness
- other LGBT stuff