

To: National Constitution Center
525 Arch Street
Independence Mall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106
(215) 409-6600
feedback@constitutioncenter.org

From: Scouting for All
National Headquarters

February 27, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to our attention that your museum is hosting a Boy Scout and Cub Scout Day on Saturday, April 21, 2007. We obtained this information from your museum's web site:

<http://www.constitutioncenter.org/education/ScoutDays/#boy>

While we do understand that you are a nonpartisan organization, we believe that this is inappropriate for your organization's stated mission. According to your mission statement, your organization is "...dedicated to increasing public understanding of and appreciation for, the Constitution, its history, and its contemporary relevance..." We believe that the Boy Scouts of America is an Unconstitutional organization.

One of the fundamental principles of our country is equality for all people. To date, every Constitutional Amendment in regards to personal liberties and civil rights has been on the side of increasing rights, not decreasing them. There is, of course, one exception, the 18th Amendment, which put prohibition in place. This Amendment was repealed by the 21st. All other additions to the Constitution which had any relevance to individual rights or liberties have been added to increase them, not decrease them.

The Boy Scouts of America exists under a Congressional charter. Because the BSA has taken a stance against gays and nontheists, it is currently calling itself a religious organization; in order to gain the protections afforded such groups. The Boy Scouts of America also receives large amounts of public funds every year, from local municipalities allowing free use of land and buildings, to financial grants from local, state, and federal organizations, to the use of Fort AP Hill, Virginia for the Boy Scouts National Jamboree.

The First Amendment states that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...” As long as the Boy Scouts of America was a secular organization, we believe that support for them by the US Government was acceptable. However, when they decided to start discriminating based on being a “private religious organization”, any support by the US Government, especially by Congress, became unconstitutional.

We believe that the congressional charter, the continued use of Fort AP Hill, the Save Our Scouts Act of 2005 and any other support of the Boy Scouts of America by Congress or any other branch of the government is not only wrong, but also unconstitutional.

By hosting a Boy Scout and Cub Scout Day at a museum dedicated to the Constitution, your organization is taking the implied stance that you believe that the discriminatory practices of the Boy Scouts of America are right and that our government's support of such a discriminatory “religious organization” is Constitutional. We urge you to rethink your position.

Kind regards,

The Scouting for All Board of Directors