



AIDS Peer Education eXchange (APEX)
American Friends Service Committee
Association for Sexuality Education and Training (ASSET)
Bainbridge Island School District's Multicultural Advisory Council
Benton/Franklin Council for Children and Youth
Bremerton-Kitsap County Health District
Center for Human Services
Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health
Central Washington University Women's Resource Center
Committee for Children
Dai Wai Association
Equality Washington
Evergreen Unitarian Universalist Fellowship - Social Action
Committee
Fairness Lobby
Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) of
Washington
Gay Lesbian PTSA of Greater Puget Sound
Greater Seattle Business Association
Home Alive
Ingersoll Gender Center
Issaquah High School Student Body Association
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
Lake Washington Education Association
Lambert House
Lavender Families Resource Network
League of Women Voters of Washington
Lesbian Resource Center
Multifaith Alliance of Reconciling Communities
Northwest AIDS Foundation
Northwest Coalition for Human Dignity
OASIS
Open Door Ministries/LC - Evangelical Lutheran Churches of
America
Out Front Labor Coalition/Pride at Work, AFL-CIO
Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG), the Pacific
Northwest Regional Office and eighteen of its local chapters:
Aberdeen/Harbor Area, Bainbridge/Bremerton/Kitsap County,
Bellevue, Bellingham/NW Washington, Clarkston-Lewiston/Quad
Cities, Ellensburg, Ephrata, Everett/Snohomish, Olympia, Port
Townsend, Seattle, South King County, Spokane, Tacoma, Tri
Cities, Vancouver/SW Washington, Wenatchee Valley,
Yakima/Yakima Valley
Peace Action of Washington
Pierce County AIDS Foundation
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Central and Western Washington
Pride Foundation
Providence Sexual Assault Center
Public Health - Seattle & King County
Queen City Community Development
Rainbow Center
Ravenna United Methodist Church
Region V AIDSNet
School Nurse Organization of Washington
SCI International Volunteer Service
Seattle Academy of Arts and Sciences
Seattle Commission for Sexual Minorities
Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities
Seattle Education Association
Seattle Office for Civil Rights
Seattle Public Schools' Inter-High (Student) Council and its
Offices of Comprehensive Health Education and Drug/Alcohol
Intervention
Sexuality Educational Services
Snohomish Health District's GLOBE Youth Program
Snohomish County Human Services Department
Spokane Public Schools' Equity Education Office
Stonewall Recovery Services
Stonewall Youth
Tacoma-Pierce County Department of Public Health
Teen Link
The Eastside Network (TEN)
Washington Association of School Social Workers
Washington Education Association and its Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual
and Allies' and Women's Caucuses
Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Washington State University's Department of Residence Life and
its Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Allies Program
Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation
Yakima Education Association
Yakima Youth Commission
Youth Eastside Services (YES)
Youthcare

The Safe Schools Coalition of Washington

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www.safeschoolscoalition.org

Barbara Schaad-Lamphere, President

September 6, 2000

Board of Directors
Seattle Public Schools
815 Fourth Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98109

Dear Ms. Schaad-Lamphere:

Many of your fellow Safe Schools Coalition members are concerned about the relationship between the Seattle Public Schools and the Boy Scouts. Because the Boy Scouts serve some children while shunning others and allow some children's parents to volunteer while excluding others.

We wouldn't ask you to deny them equal access. To do that would be illegal and immoral. But we do want to ask you to stop providing them extraordinary access and official sanction.

And we want to ask you to do it as quickly as possible, but to do it carefully, so that students don't suffer for it. Because students' needs are our primary concern in the first place.

So what we are asking is that you require that any organization, commercial or non-profit, be required to sign a non-discrimination agreement consistent with the district's own non-discrimination categories, if they want:

- free or reduced rent;
- access to students' names, addresses, or phone numbers;
- use of school district bulletin boards, newsletters, newspapers, etc. to advertise membership or their events;
- official school sanction or sponsorship;
- to provide color guards or entertainment for official school events;
- to send home literature through the children themselves, advertising their services or recruiting members.

In short we are asking that, unless the Boy Scouts agree to provide services to every child, their special privileges be ended.

As it is now, according to your policy # E07.01, the Boy Scouts rent your space for free, while most other community groups and church groups pay at least \$10/hr. and sometimes as much as \$104/hr. depending upon which space is being used, as long as it's used during regular building hours. The policy describes groups like the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts as "open to all interested participants." It's right about the Girl Scouts. It's wrong, of course, about the Boy Scouts who explicitly exclude kids who are gay or who don't believe in God. The policy needs to be updated and enforced. And the application form needs to ask groups, "Are you 'open to all interested participants' or do you serve only a certain segment of the community?"

On the matter of access to student records, we haven't been able to determine if this is still being done in Seattle, but for many years your school counselors were administering career aptitude tests provided by the Boy Scouts and, in return, providing the Boy Scouts with computer-generated lists of the results, including students' home phones, so the Scouts could use the

Helping to make Washington State schools safe places where every family can belong, where every educator can teach, and where every child can learn, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation

data for recruiting purposes. That is simply wrong, when they choose, as a private organization, to exclude certain kids because of their religious beliefs or their sexual orientations.

Also, as it is now, students are required to join the Boy Scouts in order to participate in the Garfield High School Outdoor Program. How can you allow only certain students into this stellar environmental studies program, based not on their grades, but on their religions and sexual orientations? That is simply wrong.

We wouldn't want to see the Outdoor Program end. We just don't want certain kids left out. So we want to suggest that the District commit to finding alternative ways of running the program. If insurance costs are the issue, as one concerned mother was told, get an insurance company that shares your commitment to non-discrimination, such as Safeco, to underwrite part of the cost. If expertise is the problem, get Campfire or Girl Scouts, neither of which discriminates, or the environmental studies department at UW, to take over sponsorship. But promise the community that, within one year from today, you'll have stopped denying this important program to certain students, just because they are atheists or gay.

Incidentally, when the staff at Nathan Hale were offered an Outdoor Program last year like Garfield's they told the Boy Scouts, "No, you discriminate and we can't let some of our students be hurt."

Seattle Public Schools has a Cultural Diversity Bill of Rights. We don't teach our children that some groups of people are morally inferior to other groups of people. That's a stereotype and officially sanctioning it is wrong.

Please put a stop to the Boy Scouts' extraordinary privileges.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Beth Reis,
Co-chair