**OUR MISSION**

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

**SCOUT OATH**

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

**HOW DOES ALPHA PHI ALPHA BENEFIT?**

- Scouting is a program Alpha chapters can use to help children and young adults become a part of the mainstream of the community. Scouting also helps children and young adults develop pride in their heritage.
- It’s a practical way for Alphas to help neighborhood people work with their children and young adults.
- Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of young men will learn about Alpha Phi Alpha.
- Scouting offers additional community contacts and opportunities for a wider African American presence.
- Scouting helps build future leadership for Alpha Phi Alpha and your community.

**HOW TO GET STARTED**

Call the BSA local council service center in your area. It is listed in the white pages of the telephone directory under “Boy Scouts of America.” Make an appointment to talk with the Scout executive about Scouting in Alpha Phi Alpha. Ask the Scout executive to send a representative to meet your chapter or board to discuss the Scouting program. Then decide how your chapter will organize a Scouting unit or otherwise use Scouting for youth development.

The resource kit *Alpha Phi Alpha and Scouting*, No. 11-039, is available at no cost from the BSA local council office. It has more in-depth information about Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing.
WHY SCOUTING?

Scouting and Alpha Phi Alpha are a natural alliance. They share many goals. They can help each other fulfill these goals. Scouting is an established program that Alpha Phi Alpha can use as a resource for youth development.

The Boy Scouts of America has a support system in place to help your organization use the Scouting program. Alpha’s board of directors endorses Scouting as one of its official youth programs.

Alpha says, “Servants of all.” Scouting says, “To help other people at all times.”

WHAT IS ALPHA PHI ALPHA?

Alpha Phi Alpha is the oldest predominantly African American Greek-letter organization in America, founded in 1906 on the campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

In addition to promoting academic excellence, the fraternity has increasingly supported community service activities, particularly to aid the disadvantaged. The organization has a membership of 150,000, with chapters throughout the United States and in Europe, Asia, and the West Indies. There are more than 700 college and alumni chapters.

Whitney Young, for whom the Whitney M. Young Jr. Scouting Service Award is named, was an Alpha brother.

OPERATING A SCOUTING UNIT

The chartered organization (your Alpha Phi Alpha chapter) owns each of its Scouting units (Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, or Venturing crew). As the chartered organization, your chapter uses Scouting to reach out to youth, helping them to make positive life choices. You select the unit leadership, provide a meeting place, and guide the unit program.

Typical Questions

If we do all that, what does the Scouting organization provide? The Boy Scouts of America provides a program that has proved to be successful since 1910. It provides training opportunities for the leaders and volunteers to assist the unit in planning a quality Scouting program. Your BSA local council conducts various activities and provides access to camping facilities.

We are ready to start a Scouting program. What do we do first? The first step is to appoint several interested individuals who will select the key unit leadership. The chartered organization representative (usually a chapter officer) is a volunteer who becomes the liaison between the Scouting unit and the chapter membership. Your BSA local council has both the volunteers and career staff members ready to assist you in organizing your Scouting program.