

A Scout Is Reverent



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

BSA Mission Statement

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

The Catholic Church and the Boy Scouts of America

With the founding of the Boy Scouts of America in 1910, Catholic boys and men quickly recognized the value of the Scouting program. The first Catholic unit, Troop 1 in St. Paul, Minnesota, was also chartered in 1910. As Catholic Scouting grew, so did the need to organize a Catholic committee on Scouting, which was done in 1922. In 1933, the first Plan of Cooperation between the BSA and the Catholic committee was approved and has been renewed every year since.

What Is the National Catholic Committee on Scouting?

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting is a body of Catholic clergy and laity who act as advisers to the BSA and relate to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops through the Bishop's Liaison. The purpose of the NCCS is to utilize and ensure the constructive use of the BSA program as a viable form of youth ministry for Catholic youth in the U.S. The NCCS seeks to sustain and strengthen the relationship between the BSA and the Catholic Church through continued cooperation.

Molding Future Leaders

Much has changed for both the BSA and the NCCS over the years, but the values and ideals of both have remained the same, particularly in the goal of molding future leaders. The NCCS, like the BSA, is committed to providing youth with the tools to succeed in life. The NCCS wants its youth to develop a faith-based moral compass, to be strong in body and mind, to be good citizens and strong leaders, and to live their lives using the Scout Law and Scout Oath as their guide.

Scouting as Ministry to Youth

The Catholic Church is the largest denomination in the United States but ranks third among religious affiliations to which Scouting units are chartered.

The NCCS pledges its continued support for the BSA and encourages all Catholic parishes, Catholic schools, and other Catholic organizations that do not have any units to consider making Scouting part of their youth ministry program.

For those Catholic entities that have one or more Catholic units, the NCCS encourages them to consider providing the whole BSA family of Scouting (packs, troops, and crews). For those Catholic entities that do, the NCCS encourages them to continue to furnish an environment in which those units can grow and prosper.

Also, all Catholic chartered units are encouraged to complete a Good Turn project for their chartered organization at least once a year.

Keeping Children Safe

If insurance is a concern, know that the BSA has an insurance program that in many ways exceeds what is provided by the diocese or entities within the diocese. The unit—not the chartered organization—is responsible for the cost of premiums. Regarding youth protection, the BSA requires criminal background and reference checks for all adult leaders, who are also required to be trained in the organization's Youth Protection program. Leaders must be recertified every two years. If the diocese has a youth protection program for adults working with youth, leaders are also obligated to complete that training and recertification as required.

Reasons to Establish or Expand Your Scouting Ministry

Reasons to consider a Scouting ministry are:

- Intentional ministry
- Evangelism
- Service to your members
- Proven youth program
- It's your program.
- Leadership training
- Outdoor resources
- Community service
- Duty to God

Awards and Recognition Programs

The NCCS offers many programs and activities to supplement BSA programs and activities. The NCCS is most proud of the religious emblems offered to the Catholic youth in BSA units. Each is intended to supplement and strengthen Catholic formation and catechism.



To learn more about awards and recognition, go to <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/emblems/index.php>.

To learn more about the **Rosary Patch** series, go to <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/activities/RosarySeries.php>.



To learn more about the **Footsteps of American Saints**, go to <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/activities/FootstepsOfAmericanSaints.php>.



In addition to the medals and patches that can be earned by Catholic youth, the NCCS has two special opportunities for Catholic Scouts in high school. The first is the Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Distinguished Scout Scholarship. The NCCS gives out five \$2,000 scholarships to outstanding Catholic high school seniors who are Scouts in a BSA program and continuing their education in college. To be eligible for consideration, they have to have earned either the Eagle Scout rank in a troop or the Silver Award in a Venturing crew and their respective religious emblem. For more information and an application, visit the NCCS website at www.nccs-bsa.org.

The other opportunity, the St. George Trek, occurs every two years and involves hiking Philmont Scout Ranch backcountry. The event brings together interested young men and women in high school from all over the U.S., who are considering entering the clergy or religious life as a possible vocation. Each crew is paired with a priest and seminarian (young women are paired with two nuns). For more information, see the NCCS website.

To prepare Scouters involved in Catholic units, the NCCS offers a number of training opportunities, beginning with Fast Start, diocesan training opportunities, regional training conferences, workshops offered at the NCCS biennial conference, and the Scouting in the Catholic Church course at Philmont. The weeklong Philmont course includes NCCS Structure, Scouter Development, Renewing the Vision, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The NCCS also has a close working relationship with the following organizations that are interested in seeing Catholic Scouting be successful: Knights of Columbus, USA Council of Serra International, Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George, and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

For more information about the programs, activities, and awards offered by the NCCS, contact the local Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (DCCS) or visit the NCCS website at www.nccs-bsa.org.



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(Use local council stamp.)

www.scouting.org

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