

Strong Values Produce Strong Leaders

More than 250 AME churches already use Scouting as a solid program of fun, character-building activities for their young people. These churches know that they share with Boy Scouts of America a strong basis in values, morals, and ethics, and they use Scouting as a way to instill in their young people caring and respect for others and duty to God and country. Scouting is a tried and true way to carry out the church's mission with young people and build in them the values and confidence they will need to truly succeed in life.



Dr. Daryl B. Ingram
Executive Director of Christian Education

When a church adopts Scouting, the church operates the Scouting units; its adult volunteers use BSA training and program materials to lead the Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and Venturing crews. The fun and adventure of Scouting can help mold your young people—like the more than 4,000 already in AME Scouting units—into the best parents and leaders of your church, your community, and our nation.

Steps for Organizing a Unit

1. The BSA organizing committee (unit commissioner, district executive, and member of the district membership team) meets with the executive officer/head of the religious organization to introduce and inform the organization about Scouting.
2. Working with an assigned unit commissioner from the BSA district, the executive officer/head of the religious organization and its church membership officially adopt Scouting and select a chartered organization representative. The new-unit application is signed with a charter fee.
3. The BSA organizing committee continues to work with the executive officer/head of the religious organization and the chartered organization representative to help select volunteer adult key unit leadership and committee members and to develop a succession plan for future key leadership.

4. All new volunteer leaders are required to take Youth Protection training before submitting an application for registration. They are then to register with the BSA and complete their adult volunteer applications.
5. New volunteer leaders are to be trained immediately with Fast Start online training, unit budget planning, and unit program planning training.
6. The unit commissioner and district program committee help plan the new unit's program for one year.
7. The BSA organizing committee helps the religious organization with recruitment of local youth members.
8. New youth and their parents complete applications and fees for registration with the BSA.
9. New unit meetings are planned and begin.
10. The BSA organizing committee helps present the religious organization with its first charter at a formal ceremony of the organization.

For further information, contact:

(Use local council stamp.)

www.scouting.org

Prepared. For Life.™



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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

A Scout Is Reverent



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.

Scouting and the AME Church

Scouting in the AME Church was established in 1938, and it is included in the AME Church Book of Doctrine and Discipline. The Scouting program is one of the ministries of Christian education administered by the Christian Education Department, which I head.

In 1993, we established the Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts to serve our 4,000 congregations in the United States. We believe this initiative provides an excellent opportunity for the church and Scouting to work together to live out the 12th point of the Scout Law, "A Scout is reverent."

We believe that Scouting is an alternative model of youth ministry that allows congregations to incorporate Scouting into their programs of leadership training and community outreach.

And finally, we believe that this initiative will assist the AME Church in reclaiming Scouting as part of its tradition, and will help the Boy Scouts of America to strengthen its relationship with our country's oldest African American denomination.

We look forward to our walk together.



Cub Scouting

Cub Scouting activities involve the parents, adult leaders, and friends of Cub Scouts in home-centered programs that teach life skills, habits, values, and attitudes consistent with the interests of their church. Millions of boys and their families participate in Cub Scouting, the largest of the three membership divisions of the Boy Scouts of America. Cub Scout activities encourage character development, physical coordination, family unity, and enthusiasm for learning.



Boy Scouting

Boy Scouting encourages boys to develop physical, mental, and emotional fitness, and to adopt and live by meaningful personal standards as a cornerstone for success in life. These values include the basic principles in the Scout Oath and Law. Activities include fitness and leadership training, wilderness adventures, and merit badge incentives for boys to develop hobby, life, and career skills.



Venturing

Venturing is an effective coed young-adult program designed to improve character, citizenship, and fitness. Venturers learn and exercise skills in leadership, citizenship, and fitness through social and outdoor activities and community service endeavors. Venturing provides a variety of challenging activities to teach young people ages 14 through 20, or 13 with completion of the eighth grade, the real-world meaning of values, ethical decision-making, and life skills.

Venturing teaches leadership and problem-solving skills to help young people mature into confident, successful adults. Each Venturing crew organizes around a special vocation or interest of the youth members. The specialty clusters include outdoors, sports, arts and hobbies, youth ministry, and Sea Scouting.



God and Country Program

God and Me

God and Me (grades 1–3) encourages children to tell the story of their lives, think about the life and teachings of Jesus, and, finally, see how God is present in their lives today. Parents or other adults are encouraged to work side by side with the child, serving in the role of counselor.



God and Family

God and Family (grades 4–5) helps children understand their relationship to God in the context of family, friends, community, and the future. Parents, with the help of their pastor, are encouraged to serve as counselors.



God and Church

God and Church (grades 6–8) is a thorough study of the church's structures and objectives. It also requires the youths to participate in service projects to help them better understand the mission of the church. The pastor (or an appropriate lay church member) should serve as counselor.



God and Life

God and Life (grades 9–12) helps youth better understand their lifelong relationships to God and prepares them to face decisions on how they will relate to the world. A counselor or minister is designated by the church to work with this age group.



Adult Mentor Program

The adult mentor program is designed for an adult to work with a young person who is enrolled in the God and Country program. It prepares adults to be positive Christian influences and to share their faith with youth as they work together on the God and Country curriculum.

God and Service

The God and Service Award recognizes deserving adults who serve youth in the church through Scouting (and other civic youth agencies). It is conferred by P.R.A.Y.

