



# The Catholic Community Supports Scouting on Military Bases

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 LAW.

## The Program of the Boy Scouts of America

Community-based organizations receive local charters to use the Scouting program as part of their own youth outreach. These groups can then rely on the resources of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) through BSA local councils to support them in the delivery of that program to boys and young adults in their community. A church may receive charters to operate these units: a Cub Scout pack, a Boy Scout troop, and/or a Venturing crew.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## CUB SCOUTING

Cub Scouting has distinct, age-appropriate program levels. The Tiger Cub den is for first-grade (or 7-year-old) boys and their adult partners. The Cub Scout dens (Wolf and Bear) are for boys in the second and third grades (or 8 and 9 years old). The Webelos den is for boys in the fourth and fifth grades (through 10 years old). Cub Scouting is:

- Home-centered and family-building
- Filled with fun, action, and adventure to help build fitness, character, and good citizenship traits in boys through family emphasis
- A boy's first experience in growing up as a member of a group

**Purpose:** The Boy Scouts of America created Cub Scouting in 1930 to help advance the character development and spiritual growth of young boys. This central mission of Cub Scouting might be even more important to boys growing up in the 21<sup>st</sup> century than it was for the early Cub Scouts more than 75 years ago.

**Program:** Local Cub Scouting activities involve parents, adult leaders, and friends of Cub Scouts in home-centered programs and local camping and other outdoor activities that teach life skills, habits, values, and attitudes consistent with the interests of their faith and community. Millions of boys and their families participate in Cub Scouting, the largest of the three Boy Scouts of America membership divisions.

## BOY SCOUTING

Boy Scouting is for boys who are at least 10½ years old and have completed the fifth grade or are 11 through 17 years old. It is:

- Filled with troop and patrol activities designed to help build personal skills, teamwork, and leadership
- An action-packed way to teach leadership, service, and respect for others
- Adventure and fun outdoor experiences under the guidance of adult leaders
- A program that provides plenty of opportunity for individual growth at a boy's own pace

**Purpose:** 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 found in the Scout Oath and Law.

**Program:** Boy Scouts learn to develop personal strengths by example and through hands-on experience. Activities include fitness and leadership training, wilderness adventures, and merit badge incentives for boys mastering hobby and career skills. Scouting encourages boys to expand and test their personal initiative, courage, and resourcefulness.

## VENTURING

Venturing is a youth development program for young men and women who are 13 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years of age. It is:

- Designed to help meet the needs, wants, and problems of this young-adult generation
- A novel program that includes emphasis on high-adventure outdoor activities while providing members with community service, fitness, and social activities under the guidance of experienced adults
- A great way for young men and women to learn leadership and problem-solving skills that will help them to mature into confident, successful adults

**Purpose:** Venturing is an effective coed young-adult program designed to improve character, citizenship, and fitness through positive experiences and activities that prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.

**Program:** Venturing is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth and adult advisers serving as resources and mentors. The resulting program is filled with exciting and meaningful activities that help youth to pursue their special interests; to grow; to develop personal, social, and leadership skills; and to become good citizens.

## REASONS YOUR COMMUNITY SHOULD HAVE A SCOUTING MINISTRY

**Intentional ministry:** Scouting can be an effective, intentional outreach ministry of the local church.

**Evangelism:** Reaching youth and their families through Scouting provides an opportunity to introduce, nurture, and build a relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Service to your members:** Many of your church members have young people who would benefit richly from the Scouting program. Scouting will enhance the existing youth programs of your community and help you better serve your members.

**Proven youth program:** Since 1910, the BSA has provided strong, value-based programs that strengthen character, develop good citizenship, and enhance physical, mental, and emotional fitness in youth—traits that prepare young people to make the best decisions for today and tomorrow.

**It's your program:** The BSA grants a charter to you, and you operate the program in conjunction with your community's special needs and desires.

**Leadership training:** Scouting has highly developed leadership training programs for youth and adult members. The benefits of these training programs can positively affect other areas of your church and its ministry.

**Outdoor resources:** BSA local councils maintain camps for the exclusive use of their members. In addition to camps, many have high-adventure bases and specialized outdoor gear such as canoes, kayaks, and whitewater rafts available for use. The national organization maintains high-adventure bases around the country that Boy Scouts and Venturers can attend.

**“Duty to God”:** This religious-emblems program is available to all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers, allowing them age-specific ways to serve their faith and congregations more fully.

**Community service:** Scouting emphasizes “helping other people at all times.” Your church's Scouting ministry will promote spiritual growth and lead youth to be faithful in service to God and to their neighbors.

## ADULT LEADERS IN CATHOLIC SCOUTING

- There are many ways adults can serve in Catholic Scouting: The unit committee chair and members supervise the program.
- A chartered-organization representative acts as liaison between a church's Scouting programs and the BSA local council.
- Some adults are trained to serve as religious-emblem counselors or moderators.
- Scouters stay connected with their parishes and churches chartered to operate the Scouting units and are active in the parish's youth ministry.

Adults who serve in Catholic Scouting receive much in return:

- They are role models and witnesses to the faith in their daily interactions with Scouts.
- They are apostles to youth.
- They receive extensive Boy Scouts of America training in leadership.
- They receive training in youth protection norms.
- Through the NCCS Scouter Development program, they are trained for the lay apostolate of Scouting.

## WHAT DO WE AGREE TO?

1. The church agrees to administer the Scouting program within the rules and regulations of the church and of the Boy Scouts of America, as a part of its overall youth programming.
2. The church agrees to provide a place for regular unit meetings, usually weekly.
3. The church agrees to provide and approve adult leadership for the unit(s).
4. The church agrees to encourage unit participation in district and council activities.



## WHAT DO THE BSA LOCAL COUNCIL AND DISTRICT PROVIDE?

1. The BSA provides resources to aid the Scouting program in the church.
2. The BSA provides program opportunities for the church's units.
3. The BSA provides training and support for the adult and youth leaders.
4. The BSA provides techniques for selecting quality leaders from the parish.
5. The BSA provides primary liability insurance to cover the church, its board, its officers, the chartered organization representative, and employees against all personal liability judgments during the course of executing the Scouting program within the guidelines of the Boy Scouts of America. This insurance covers all attorneys' fees, court costs, and any judgments brought against the aforementioned individuals. Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, and Crew Advisors are covered in excess of their own personal coverage. Vehicles owned by or loaned to the church for the purposes of the units are also covered for the church's benefit.
6. The BSA provides camping facilities, a service center, and full-time professional staff to assist the church in every possible way.

## ORGANIZING A SCOUTING UNIT

- Parish community leadership is informed about Scouting.
- The parish or church officially adopts Scouting and agrees to organize a unit or units.
- The chaplain appoints a chartered-organization representative.
- The chartered-organization representative appoints an organizing committee of local parents and other interested adults.
- The organizing committee identifies and recruits unit leaders and unit committee members.
- The leaders are trained in program planning (Fast Start training).
- The program is planned for at least the first six months.
- An orientation session is held with prospective youth members and their parents.
- Youth are registered.
- Unit meetings begin.
- The unit is installed and the charter is presented at a formal ceremony held at a meeting of the parish community or church.

**The future of Catholic Youth is in your hands!**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CATHOLIC SCOUTING, CONTACT:

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## ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA

Office of the Vicar General



November 4, 2013

Dear Father:

As the Scout Chaplain of the Archdiocese I am pleased to encourage military Catholic faith communities to develop Scouting as an important component of comprehensive Catholic youth ministry.

For over one hundred years, Scouting programs have promoted spiritual growth and encouraged leadership that is faithful in service to God and neighbor. Scouting also develops healthy opportunities for positive adult mentoring among young men and women.

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting collaborates with Boy Scouts of America to promote discernment, service, and outreach ministry. The Archdiocese partners with NCCS to encourage these efforts.

Military-connected youth are seeking a place to belong and discover their gifts. Chartering a Scouting group in your community may offer a place where Scouts and adult leaders support each other in living their faith every day.

Details for organizing a Scouting Unit are provided in this brochure. Contact the AMS Office of Evangelization for additional support at 202-719-3648/3649.

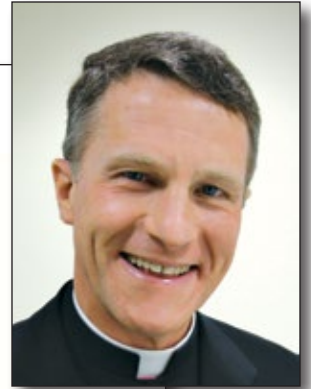
In the Lord,

The Reverend Monsignor John J. M. Foster, JCD  
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia

JJMF/mm



ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP



November 4, 2013

Dear Father,

The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA is a member diocese of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, Boy Scouts of America. NCCS has several initiatives that foster positive mentoring relationships, leadership skills, and character development for young people.

Scouting ministry provides programs that effectively contribute toward the implementation of a comprehensive approach to Catholic youth ministry as articulated in the US Bishops' 1997 document, *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*. Young people need the guidance of happy, healthy, and holy adult role models willing to share their faith in both word and action.

I encourage your Catholic faith community to consider chartering a Scouting unit as an effective outreach to youth and families. The NCCS collaborates with the Office of Evangelization to foster the growth and development of Scouting units within military settings. They will point you in the right direction to obtain a charter and get started.

Fraternally in the Lord,

(Most Reverend) Timothy P. Broglio  
Archbishop for the Military Services

TPB/mm