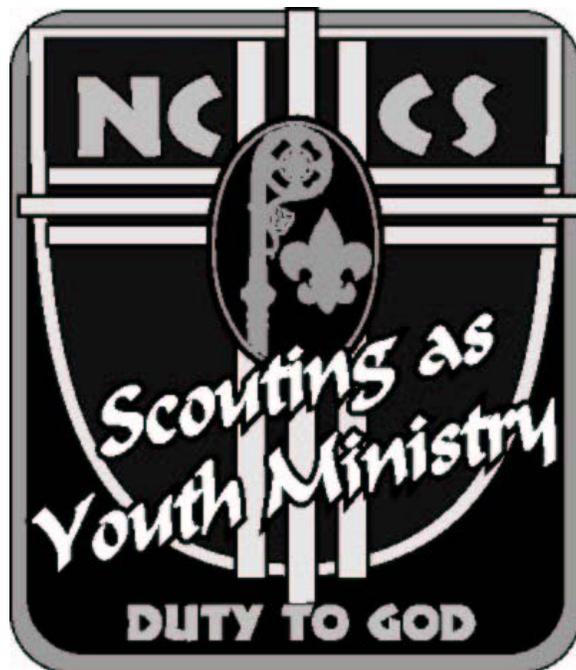


CATHOLIC SCOUTING – TEACHING VALUES TOGETHER

GUIDELINES FOR DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCOUTING COMMITTEES AND UNIT SERVING EXECUTIVES

For presentations to Pastors, Youth Ministers and Parish/School Administrators



NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING®

Boy Scouts of America Relationships Division

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CATHOLIC SCOUTING – TEACHING VALUES TOGETHER

Introduction

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) and the Relationships Division of the Boy Scouts of America are delighted to bring to you this resource for membership and new unit development. We have titled it “Catholic Scouting – Teaching Values Together”. This theme addresses two significant needs, relationships and values.

First, let’s discuss relationships. This great program of Scouting that develops character can only be delivered to the youths of America through a relationship with other organization – churches, schools, service clubs and businesses. All of them want the youths of their institutions or neighborhoods to be good citizens with strong values and character. As we work together we can give our youths and families the opportunity to benefit from the program and leadership of Scouting in Catholic parishes.

BSA MISSION STATEMENT:

“It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and in other ways prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law.”

The second part of our theme is “Teaching Values Together.” Nothing is more important than teaching Catholic values to our youths during their formative years – values that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

The relationship between the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and the Catholic Church is long standing. In 1934 the Catholic Church in the United States established the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS). In that year the BSA and the Catholic Church in the United States ratified *A Plan of Cooperation*. This plan, now incorporated in the *NCCS Bylaws and Handbook of Operation*, outlines the responsibilities of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

NCCS MISSION:

The mission of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting is to make constructive use of the program of the Boy Scouts of America as a viable form of youth ministry with the Catholic youth of our nation. The committee seeks to sustain and strengthen the relationship between BSA and the Catholic Church in the United States. Through interaction and dialogue with the Secretariat on the Laity and Family Life the NCCS works cooperatively with various other groups involved in youth ministry in the United States.

The recent nationwide Harris research study “The Values of Men and Boys in America” acknowledges the declining values in America today. On the other hand it also reports that youths in Scouting are more likely to graduate from high school and much more likely to graduate from college. The vast majority of Scouting parents agree that Scouting helps build character. Scouting fills the void in the development of our youth. The only way we can provide the great benefits of Scouting to more youths is to maintain our current units at full strength and to organize additional units. America needs it; families need it; and our youths want it. It’s up to us to give America’s youth the opportunity to be in Scouting.

CATHOLIC SCOUTING – TEACHING VALUES TOGETHER

Preparing Your Team

For Scouting to continue to grow and respond to the needs of our society, we must share the Scouting story with others. In your role as a member of your diocesan Scouting committee or as a unit-serving Scouting executive, you need to learn the communication skills to convince others of what we already know: that working together to organize and support new Scouting units will benefit all of us. As we work to form relationships with parishes, we can learn from the principles used by sales professionals. Selling Scouting is the use of those specific skills, plans, and tools to show an organization how it will benefit from providing Scouting.

Before you make new unit sales calls to parishes and other Catholic organizations become familiar and learn the steps for making a successful call on a new-chartered organization. Keep in mind the youth ministry goals of the Church are to:

- Empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.
- Draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community.
- Foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

Some Facts You Should Know

Catholic Churches

The term “Catholic” refers to various Catholic Churches of different traditions. These are some of the Catholic Churches you may find in your locale:

<u>Catholic Church</u>	<u># of Parishes</u>	<u>U.S. Membership</u>
Roman (Latin)	19,005	63,683,000
Byzantine	236	143,000
Ukrainian	202	106,000
Maronite (Lebanon)	61	53,700
Melkite	35	27,000
Romanian	15	5,300
Chaldean (Iraq)	12	7,000
Syriac (Syria and Lebanon)	8	12,000
Armenian	7	26,000

Others include Russian, Ruthenian, Syro-Malabar (India), Coptic (Egypt), and Ethiopic

These churches have different liturgical practices but the methods for starting Boy Scout programs in their parishes will not differ widely. The Scouts in these different churches can earn Catholic emblems sponsored by the NCCS and participate in local Catholic events.

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Some Facts You Should Know, Continued

Dioceses and Parishes

The policies of the Church are administered at the local level by the local bishop. Each diocese* is a legal, separate corporation. Parishes provide the local church structure and leadership in the Catholic faith. Parish operations usually include departments for Liturgy, Spiritual Formation (religious education, youth ministry, adult education, and sacramental preparation), Social Concerns, Administration, Education (if there is a school) and others.

Diocesan Catholic Committees on Scouting

Every diocese is encouraged to have a Boy Scout committee to enable and facilitate the relationship between the diocese and the local BSA councils. There are approximately 180 operating diocesan scout committees.

Local Scout councils should develop a close working relationships with the diocesan Scouting committees in their areas. The Catholic committee on Scouting has five key functions, one of which is membership. The chair of the diocesan membership committee can work collaboratively with the local district executives and district membership chairmen to start new units in parishes. One key reminder here is to be sure to check with your district executive or membership chair before deciding to start a new Catholic unit in a parish. A secular unit may already be serving well the youths of that parish and starting a new Catholic chartered unit could jeopardize the health of an existing unit.

Other recommended diocesan committee functions include religious emblems, religious activities, training, and communications.

*The terms diocese and diocesan refers also to archdiocese, eparchy, and archeparchy.

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Some Facts You Should Know, Continued

People in the Parish

Parishes are usually headed by a pastor, an ordained priest (normally referred to as Father), but the pastor may have other priests and deacons and religious brothers and sisters assisting him as well as lay parish administrator(s), such as a business manager, a director of religious education and a youth minister. The pastor is the decision-maker of the parish. The pastoral council is an advisory body to the pastor. It can consist of a pastoral council president, chairmen of standing committees, chairmen of ad hoc committees, representatives of areas of concern within the parish and also may include member-at-large appointments made by the pastor. Here are a few key positions that may affect youth activities:

Pastor – A priest and the head of the parish, responsible to the bishop for all operations of the parish. The pastor is responsible for the spiritual, physical and financial health of the parish and is the ultimate decision-maker.

Associate Pastor – In moderate to large parishes the pastor may be assisted by one or more associate pastors (priests). The pastor delegates duties and youth ministry is often moderated by an associate pastor.

Coordinator or Director of Religious Education or Formation (CRE/DRE) – A lay person or religious (sister or brother), usually with professional credentials in education, who is responsible for religious education programs. These programs may include a school of religion for non-parochial school children and youth, sacramental preparation, teen and adult formation programs (retreats, days of recollection, etc.)

School Principal - A lay person or religious (sister or brother) with professional credentials in education and/or administration responsible for the operation of a parish or diocesan school.

Parish Youth Minister – A person trained to work with youth from high school through young adult (15-35 years). May be involved in sacramental programs and parish children's religious formation. May be a volunteer or a shared resource among several parishes.

Parish Administrator – If present, is usually a professional lay person responsible for the day-to-day operations of a parish. In some parts of the country, a lay parish administrator or coordinator may operate the parish with a priest visiting for sacramental services.

Deacons – Pastors may also be assisted by permanent deacons who are ordained for parish or diocesan service following an extended period of training and formation. Deacons are often men with families in the parish and can be a valuable resource for initial and following contacts.

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CATHOLIC SCOUTING – TEACHING VALUES TOGETHER

Some Facts You Should Know, Continued

Parish Councils

The Parish Council is a chartered committee of lay persons, elected and/or appointed in every parish, to advise the pastor (“a pastoral council”). Parish Councils often have significant administrative responsibilities for parish programs (education, liturgy, social action, fundraising, capital projects, maintenance, etc.) The Parish Council is responsible for coordinating most of the volunteer programs of the parish. The decision for a parish or other organization to provide all or part of the Scouting family of programs may be considered by the parish pastoral council or other organizational leaders. A presentation to these key leaders should be viewed as a tremendous opportunity to build grassroots support and enlist some of the new leaders for the proposed unit. Parish leaders will be interested in knowing how Scouting will strengthen their apostolates to children, youths and families.

Other Catholic Organizations

Parishes may or may not operate Catholic schools. Within each parish there are often other potential chartered organization partners. The pastor may suggest you contact one of them. Some of these potential partners include:

- Knights of Columbus
 - Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver
 - Catholic Knights of America
 - Catholic War Veterans
 - Ancient Order of Hibernians (Irish)
 - Serra International (chapters at the diocesan level)
 - Greek Catholic Union
 - United Societies (Byzantine)
 - Catholic Home and School Clubs or Parent Clubs
 - Catholic High Schools
 - Catholic Hospitals
 - Neuman Clubs (on college campuses)
 - Other Catholic Charities’ youth-serving agencies
-

CATHOLIC SCOUTING – TEACHING VALUES TOGETHER

Preparing for the Sales Call

Identify the Opportunity

The local Catholic committee and BSA council should be working together to identify the best opportunities for new units.

The least difficult task will be to approach an existing chartered partner to add to the Scouting family. For example, to start a Cub Pack associated with an existing Boy Scout Troop.

Newly formed parishes and those that have never had a scout unit may also offer good opportunities. Every parish is looking for a way to start or sustain a teenage level ministry program and Venturing is a natural fit. Look also for parochial elementary schools without Cub Packs.

Knights of Columbus councils are associated with parishes and in many areas charter more than 20% of Catholic Cub and Boy Scout units.

Study your registration records to re-instate units that have lapsed. Opportunities for growth and leadership change as pastors are assigned to different parishes, pastoral council leaders and members are elected, and parish demographics change.

Prepare for the Contact

As leads develop your committee should be preparing for the “sales” contact.

Use the diocesan committee to find parish insiders who are able to help you understand parish organization and youth needs. These people may also be willing to help you make the first contacts.

Lay the groundwork for an effective sales call. Call or interview youth champions in the parish: the school or parish secretary, principal, youth minister, director of religious education, etc. Find out how the parish works, where the leaders are and develop key allies.

Use the Catholic Membership CD resource, 16-455, to prepare a directed presentation to the decision maker. Be prepared to discuss

- What Scouting is
- How a Charter works
- Support available from the BSA council and diocesan committee
- Youth protection and risk management concerns

Prepare a folder with resource material to be left with the decision maker.

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CATHOLIC SCOUTING – TEACHING VALUES TOGETHER

Preparing for the Sales Call, Continued

Make the Appointment

Now its time to arrange an appointment with the decision maker. This person has been identified in your preliminary work and is probably the pastor in a parish setting.

Attempt to secure an appointment with the pastor or his designee. The pastor may opt to include others in the meeting such as the school principal, the pastoral council president, the youth minister or the director of religious education. When the meeting occurs without the pastor he should be kept fully aware of what is being proposed. The pastor's support will be essential to the success of the new Scouting program. One example of a good approach is as follows:

“Hello Father (his Name), my name is (your Name), and I'm with the local council of the Boy Scouts of America or the local diocesan Catholic committee on Scouting. I'd like to set an appointment with you to discuss how Scouting can enhance your existing youth ministry programs. Would Thursday around 1 p.m. be OK? Or would Monday morning be better?”

When you're ready to make your call to a pastor or other key leader in a parish, do not assume he understands the concept of charters and unit ownership. Explain the benefits of having Scouting as part of the parish's youth ministry program. When possible bring a Catholic Scouter who is also a member of the parish. Be sure to have specific program materials available and include the pamphlet “Scouting as Youth Ministry”. This meeting may include your lay chair, the diocesan chaplain and your professional BSA staff advisor and if possible, a key Scouter of the parish.

CATHOLIC SCOUTING – TEACHING VALUES TOGETHER

Making the Sales Call

- Preliminaries**
- Dress the Part
 - Be on time
 - Seek or arrange an appropriate environment for the meeting
 - Make an agenda and pay attention to time
 - Bring reference materials (use the Catholic Membership Folder 16-448 and materials recommended in the Diocesan Leaders Guide)
-

Introductions Make sure all parties are introduced (you should know their role in the parish and the parish leaders should know who you are)

Purpose Set an expectation for the meeting: – “We are here today to present a Scouting option for your parish youth ministry and hope to obtain your agreement to proceed with the formation of a Youth Ministry Venture Crew.”

Warm-up Spend a few minutes exploring the parish experience with Scouting and present youth ministry concerns. Be prepared to “break the ice”. You should be able to verify your knowledge of parish needs based on your preparatory work. Learn what you can about the parish so you can determine how Scouting can fulfill its needs. If it has the resources to become a chartered organization, it may be up to you to create a perception of need in the mind of the parish leader by asking about his youth ministry goals

- What are your primary youth ministry outreach goals?
- How many of your youths are already active in Scouting somewhere else?

Open-ended questions will give you the most information. They let the parish leader elaborate on the organization, its programs and any personal Scouting experiences he may have had. Take notes on hot spots or subjects that seem to get more response and be a good listener. Try not to begin active selling until you have as much information as possible.

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CATHOLIC SCOUTING – TEACHING VALUES TOGETHER

Making the Sales Call, Continued

Presentation

Your formal presentation may be prepared from the materials supplied on the Catholic Initiative CD, 16-455, and should be tailored to your knowledge of the opportunity.

You've identified the interests of the pastor or other parish leaders and the needs of the parish, it's time to use that information to make your presentation. That means creating even more interest by showing how Scouting can meet the parish's youth ministry needs. You can interject these ideas and concepts as you go through your sales presentation. Be sure to bring information about the Catholic religious emblems programs available for the youths of the parish. Also emphasize how the Scouting program can be of service to the parish and its members. Real life examples from other area Catholic Scouting units work well. Finally, tie in with the eight components of youth ministry (*Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*, USCC, No. 5-004 English, No. 5-005 Spanish) and the goals of youth ministry with the aims and methods of the Scouting program.

See page 11 for a review of Catholic Youth Ministry.

Close the Sale

Your next goal is to secure an agreement to charter a new unit. Success stories, along with our energy and conviction, will create a sense of excitement and urgency. The bottom line is the need to set a date with the pastor or other key leaders to pursue the next step in the unit chartering process, a school night, or parents' meeting for prospective new Scouting families.

One way to know when it's time to close the sale is to use some trial closing questions along the way, such as: Do you know anyone who might be willing to help organize a Scouting program here? How do you see Scouting serving as part of the youth ministry program here? If you're getting the right responses, you're ready to close the sale. If not, it's time to ask the parish leader directly, "Father, do you want to charter a new Scouting program?" If the response were positive, then follow up with, "Great! When can we have your organizational meeting?" If the response were negative, continue to ask open-ended questions to discover his concerns and what you can do to address them.

If you did not secure a commitment, ask to come back in about six months for further discussion.

CATHOLIC SCOUTING – TEACHING VALUES TOGETHER

Overcoming Hesitation and Objections

The pastor may be cautious about starting another organization within the parish. He may have difficulty staffing existing parish organizations. Unless he understands that the benefits far outweigh the additional commitment of time and talent, the presentation will not end successfully. Be certain that the “what’s in it for our parish?” discussion is included in the presentation.

Here are a few questions that could arise during the appointment with the pastor or other parish leader.

“We already have enough difficulty staffing the organizations we have now, why would we want to add Scouting?”

Point out that finding leadership to staff any volunteer organization is a challenge. We have found that there are men and women in most parishes who are willing to serve but who have not been matched with positions requiring their particular skills or interests. For instance, some may really care for youths but they do not feel equipped to teach a religious education class. They feel far more competent outdoors or in teaching important life skills they themselves have learned through a Scouting experience as a youth. Enlisting such individuals actually broadens the parish’s leadership and ministry bases.

“We already have enough programming for youths.”

While nothing worth having is totally free, Scouting pays its own way. Though a presence in the parish budget is one visible means of church support, the Scouts and leaders will raise most of the money needed for Scouting. They will learn important life skills as fundraising efforts are planned and implemented.

“Our parish has a policy against letting outside groups use our facilities.”

Point out that Scouting is not an outside group. The parish owns the unit(s), selects the leaders, and sets the policies for operation in accordance with standards of the Catholic Church and the Boy Scouts of America.

“We want to dedicate our limited resources to the spiritual as well as physical, mental and social aspects of youth development.”

This concern is one shared by leadership at all levels of the Boy Scouts. Through the religious emblems programs for youths, participants study the tenets of their Catholic faith and participate in service projects for the local parish and community. A young person completing one or more of the Catholic religious emblems programs has a stronger understanding of Catholic beliefs and sacraments appropriate to his age level.

Remember, objections are not rejections. You can look at them simply as requests for additional information that you need to provide. After all, if the prospective parish leader were not interested, he wouldn’t have given you an appointment in the first place. If you prepare ahead for the kinds of objections that might come up, you’ll be ready to respond.

“Will Venturing compete with my youth group?”

The Venturing program is designed to complement and enhance your existing group. You choose the elements of Venturing that best complement your program. It is designed to be flexible and fit within the framework you have created. If you don’t have a youth group, it creates a framework to build on.

CATHOLIC SCOUTING – TEACHING VALUES TOGETHER

Catholic Youth Ministry

*Renewing the Vision*¹

“Youth ministry is the response of the Christian community to the needs of young people and the sharing of the unique gifts of youth with the larger community.

... **three essential goals:** (1) empowering young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today; (2) drawing young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the faith community; and (3) fostering the personal and spiritual growth of each young person.”

From the earliest days of Scouting in the United States, the Catholic Church has found it a useful tool for youth ministry.

Since its formation in 1934, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting has worked to ensure that Catholic-chartered Scout units and Catholic Scouts would have appropriate resources to integrate their faith experience with their Scouting experience – A Scout is reverent. A Scout promises to do his duty to God.

While the “Renewing the Vision” document is concerned with adolescent youths, Scouting for youths begins in the first grade and continues until the person turns 21 years old.

A comparison of the BSA Mission Statement with the vision document’s definition of youth ministry as well as a comparison of the BSA aims and the three essential goals stated in the vision document will show their compatibility. These pages presume familiarity with “Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry”

Mission and Aims of the Boy Scouts of America

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.

The **aims** are character development, citizenship training, mental and physical fitness.

Aspects of Catholic Youth Ministry

–ministerial and pastoral	specifically for young people
–relational	relations with families, Scouts, adult leaders
–goal-centered	a variety of programs to achieve the aims
–multidimensional	uses all 8 components of the vision document
–holistic and developmental	well-rounded response to youth needs
–people-centered and needs focused	addresses the individual and his needs

¹ “Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry.”, Office for Publishing and Promotion Services, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1997.

CATHOLIC SCOUTING – TEACHING VALUES TOGETHER

Catholic Youth Ministry, Continued

Goals

The goals of Catholic youth ministry match Scouting's three aims: Character development, preparation for responsible citizenship and physical and mental fitness.

Goal 1: To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.

Character: Scouting's values combine with the Gospel values taught by the Catholic Church are the basis for developing youths whose good character is based on the Gospel. The religious emblems programs offer a form of catechesis that is age- and grade-specific for each of the program phases of Scouting. Youth leadership positions in the Scout troop and Venturing crew offer provide opportunities for youths to put good Christian leadership into practice.

Goal 2: To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community.

Citizenship: The Scout unit is one type of community. The home, parish, and civic communities are others to which a Scout belongs. In Scouting programs and activities they learn how to responsible members of their various communities.

Goal 3: To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

Physical and mental fitness: Scouting promotes holistic fitness. Some activities and programs are designed to develop healthful habits of diet and exercise. The challenges of learning new skills and exploring careers and hobbies through the merit badge program or high adventure activities stimulate the intellectual capabilities of the Scout or Venturer. The spiritual values imparted through the religious emblems programs, Scout retreats and the ideals of Scouting contribute to sound spiritual growth

Themes

RENEWING THE VISION

- comprehensive
- developmentally appropriate
- family friendly
- intergenerational
- multicultural
- community-wide
- leadership
- flexible,

SCOUTING

uses resources of local communities
programs are grade- and age-specific
family involvement appropriate for age
adults of all ages and youths work together
teaches respect for different ethnic and religious views
churches and civic community work together
adults and youths trained for and exercise leadership
adaptable programming a variety of programs for different needs

Meets these characteristics:

- variety of approaches
- small-group
- home-based
- one-on-one mentoring
- independent or self-directed programs
- variety of schedule options, program settings
- current technology

CATHOLIC SCOUTING – TEACHING VALUES TOGETHER

Catholic Youth Ministry, Continued

Eight Components

(essence of ministry with adolescents)

- catechesis
- prayer and worship
- community life
- pastoral care
- justice and service
- leadership development
- advocacy
- evangelization

(Scouting includes all eight components)

- religious emblems programs, developmentally and grade appropriate
Light of Christ – Tigers, 2nd-grade Cubs *Parvuli Dei* – Cubs and Webelos *Ad Altare Dei*, *Light is Life* – Boy Scouts *Pope Pius XII* – Boy Scouts, Venturers
- Scout Sundays, Mass when camping, mealtime prayers, prayers at meetings
- dens, patrols, crews, involvement in parish life, service projects
- caring adult leaders, youth protection training, training to reflect on experiences, learning conflict resolution, merit badge program, public recognition for accomplishments
- Scout law, service projects, Eagle service project, “Do a good turn daily”, wearing of uniforms reduces class distinctions, religious emblems activities teach Gospel values of justice and service
- training for and experience of leadership, youths work with youths earning Pope Pius XII religious emblem, troop conducts junior leader training, Scout council conducts junior leader training conference to teach leadership skills, Venturers receive leadership skill training
- adults work with Scouts, speak on their behalf in parish, Scout districts, councils and national level, developmentally appropriate youth protection training
- religious emblems programs, Scout retreats, pilgrimages, days of reflection, Scout Sundays, Mass attendance while on weekend trips, values in Cub Scout Promise and Law of the Pack, Scout Oath and Scout Law, Venturing Oath and Venturing Code, adults witness faith to youths, youths witness to one another, outreach to unchurched members of the unit

Scouting’s Methods and the Eight Components of Youth Ministry

TIGERS-CUB SCOUTS-WEBELOS	BOY SCOUTS	VENTURERS	EIGHT COMPONENTS
Ideals	Ideals	Ideals	Catechesis Prayer and worship Evangelization
Den and neighborhood	Patrol method	Group activities	Community life
Activities	Outdoors	High adventure	Community life
Uniform	Uniform		Justice and service
Home and family	Adult association	Adult association	Advocacy
Achievements	Advancement	Recognition	Pastoral care Justice and service
	Leadership development	Leadership	Leadership development
	Personal growth	Teaching others	Evangelization

CATHOLIC SCOUTING – TEACHING VALUES TOGETHER

Catholic Youth Ministry, Continued

Adult Leadership in Catholic Scouting

- The Scouting Coordinator, appointed by the pastor (or institution head), acts as liaison between a parish's Scout programs and the pastor and parish council and approves all adult leadership.
- Leaders are role models and witnesses to the faith in their daily interactions with Scouts.
- Leaders are apostles to youths.
- Adults and youth receive extensive Boy Scouts of America training in leadership.
- Adults receive training in youth protection norms.
- NCCS Scouter Development program trains adults for the lay apostolate of Scouting.
- A unit committee supervises the program.
- Adults serve as religious emblems counselors or moderators and are trained for this service.
- Scouters stay connected with their parishes that charter the Scouting units and are active in the parish's youth ministry.