

LEADERSHIP STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR SCOUTING

We have received inquiries from councils seeking statements from our national chartered organizations and religious relationships committees regarding the recent change in leadership standards. The following are excerpts from these statements. Additional statements will be shared as they become available.

We appreciate the support and leadership these organizations provide in helping serve youth and families in our communities.

General Commission on United Methodist Men

“We recognize that existing standards for adult leaders are still the foundation of Scouting including the adherence to the Scout Oath and Scout Law, the Declaration of Religious Principle, and the highest level of good conduct consistent with Scouting’s ‘codes of conduct.’

“The new policy will not change the process for selecting Scout leaders. The decision of who will lead a unit (Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, or Venturing crew) chartered by a United Methodist Church still resides with the local church. Local churches will continue to select and approve Scout leaders based on the church’s Christian convictions and the evaluation of the character and skills of potential Scout leaders.”

**Gilbert C. Hanke, General Secretary/CEO,
General Commission on United Methodist Men**

National Jewish Committee on Scouting (A national BSA Religious Relationship Committee)

“The time has come for us to renew our ties with those organizations that have previously been reluctant to participate in Scouting. The prospect for forming new units has never been greater.”

**Bruce Chudacoff, Chairman,
National Jewish Committee on Scouting**

National Catholic Committee on Scouting (A national BSA Religious Relationship Committee)

“The National Catholic Committee on Scouting recognizes that differences in religious beliefs among chartered organizations and society in general have played a part in the creation of this resolution. While this fluctuating situation will be increasingly challenging, we recognize the vital importance of providing a Catholic emphasis to Catholic Scouts and Scouters seeking ways to live out their ‘duty to God.’ We also recognize the increasing need for the Catholic Church to offer Scouting as a program of youth ministry. Chartering Scout units will ensure that youth within their faith communities are led by faith-filled role models who share the same interests in Scouting.

“If you are like us, you joined Scouting to make a difference in the lives of others. Our youth don’t want to leave Scouting. Catholic Scouters like you are still very much needed. Let’s continue this important journey together and pray for the future of Scouting!”

**Edward P. Martin, National Chairman,
National Catholic Committee on Scouting**

**Michael P. Hanifin, National Chaplain,
National Catholic Committee on Scouting**



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Association of Baptists for Scouting (A national BSA Religious Relationship Committee)

- “We urge Baptist churches to start or continue Scouting programs, and to have them led by adults who are faithful to the moral beliefs of that congregation, thereby aiding in the spiritual development of our youth. We believe conditions resulting in this policy change by the BSA provide clear evidence of the increasing need for current and future moral champions in our society.”
- “We believe that youth who are struggling with their own sexual identity are as much in need of character development programs such as Scouting as any other young person, and that Baptist congregations can and should be part of filling that need as an outreach and ministry program of their church.”
- “Even with this change, we continue to believe that the program made available by the BSA constitutes one of the most effective youth character development programs in existence. We emphatically believe that it continues to have the potential to be a powerful community outreach, evangelism, and ministry tool for any church, particularly in reaching families who currently have no religious or church affiliation.”
- “We encourage all Baptists in Scouting, both those in Baptist church chartered units and those in other units, to be a Christian witness within this mission field and to sustain their voice in Scouting at the local and national levels.”

**Affirmed by T.S. Spangenberg Jr., President,
Association of Baptists for Scouting**

Merri Bolen, Secretary, Association of Baptists for Scouting

International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians

- “Scouting was one of the original youth programs supported by Rotary Clubs, and in the BSA today, 1,182 Rotary Clubs sponsor Scouting units, with over 30,000 youth members. Together we build better communities and promote good citizenship.”
- “IFSR continues its strong support of Scouting worldwide ... including the Boy Scouts of America.”

**Harold C. Friend, MD
International President '14-'16,
International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians**

