



Why Consider a Catholic Scouting Ministry?



The Mission of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting® (NCCS) is the 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.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Scouting Forms Christian Leaders

By Bishop Robert E. Guglielmo

Bishop Liaison, National Catholic Committee on Scouting

Over 100 years ago, a program developed in England to assist boys in the process of growing up, was introduced in the United States. As time went on, the Boy Scouts of America became much more than a program; it evolved into a movement that would eventually affect the lives of millions of boys as they advanced in age and maturity.

Scouting, with its inherent value system, came to be recognized as a powerful educational process that touched many aspects of a young person's life and gave him tools that continued to be useful well into adult life.

Within the first five years of Scouting's existence in our county, a Catholic bureau for Scouting was established and a few years later, the first Catholic Committee on Scouting was created. Early on, the connection between Scouting and the Catholic Church was recognized, and it was not long until a formal agreement between America's Catholic Bishops and the BSA was begun. That relationship has existed now for more than 75 years and has proven to be quite beneficial for both the BSA and the Catholic Church. Through a beautiful cooperative spirit and a well-executed relationship, the church has been able to utilize this wonderful movement to offer a viable youth ministry to our youth through manifold Scouting experiences. In the second half of the last century, the Scouting programs were open to young women, first in the Exploring programs, and more recently with Venturing crews.

In these difficult times for our young people, the aspects of self identity, confidence, and Christian leadership are all objects for growth in an environment that is wholesome, safe, and effective. The ideals of Scouting fit perfectly with the goals of Catholic education and formation.

The love and respect of the outdoors and all of God's creation are a major priority for Scouting; peer education and leadership development flourish

in its powerful programs; faithful and responsible citizenship are constantly presented and encouraged; respect for all people and appreciation for cultural interaction abound; churches and religious groups have real opportunities to catechize Scouts of their own faith through the very effective religious emblems programs.

In addition to all of this, Scouting provides the opportunity for strong adult role models in both its adult leadership opportunities and the possibilities of developing good healthy adult friendships. The many religious programs offered by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting are valuable tools in the work of vocations to priesthood and religious life. A large percentage of our current seminarians were Scouts; many are Eagle Scouts.

We, as Catholics, are blessed to have this magnificent youth ministry program that we may utilize in so many ways.

Support Scouting! Develop a parish pack, troop, or crew. Many of our Catholic young people are already involved, and many more could be. Wouldn't it be great if every parish could boast of at least one Scouting unit? Even greater if parishes would charter all three levels!

God Bless!
In the Lord's peace,

+ Robert E. Guglielmo



Nine Reasons to Consider a Scouting Ministry

1 Intentional Ministry

Scouting can be an effective, intentional outreach ministry of the parish, school, Knights of Columbus Council, or other Catholic organization.

2 Evangelism

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

3 Service to Your Members

There are many Catholic youth who will richly benefit from the Scouting program. Scouting will enhance your existing youth programs and help you better serve your members.

4 Proven Youth Program

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

5 It's Your Program

The BSA grants a charter to your church or school, and you operate the program in conjunction with your church's special needs, desires, and objectives.



6 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.

7 Outdoor Resources

Boy Scout 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.

8 "Duty to God"

The religious emblems program is available to all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers, allowing them age-specific ways to deeply serve their faith and congregations.

9 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 their neighbors.

Cub Scouting



Cub Scouting has distinct, age-appropriate program levels. Tiger Cubs is a one-year program for first grade (or 7-year-old) boys and their adult partners. The Cub Scout program is for boys who are in the second and third grades (or ages 8 and 9). The Webelos Scout program is for boys who are in fourth or fifth grade (or age 10). 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 21st century than it was for those early Cub Scouts more than 80 years ago.

Program

Local Cub Scouting activities involve 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 faith and community. Millions of boys and their families participate in Cub Scouting, which is the largest of the three BSA membership divisions.

Methods

Cub Scouting encourages each boy to strive for his personal best, a lesson that will help him achieve success as he enters Boy Scouting—and throughout his adult life. Cub Scouting activities encourage character development, physical coordination, family unity, and enthusiasm for learning. Cub Scouting helps boys develop a sense of teamwork, achievement, self-confidence, and respect for others. Learning to master new skills helps the Cub Scout realize his own abilities and discover that his can-do attitude is the first sign of success in any endeavor. In fact, that's the Cub Scout motto: Do Your Best.

Boy Scouting

Boy Scouting is for boys who are at least 10 years old and have completed the fifth grade or are 11 through 17 years old. Boy Scouting 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 Scout 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 who master hobby and career skills. Scouting encourages boys to expand and test their personal initiative, courage, and resourcefulness.

Methods

Boy Scouts learn some of life's more serious lessons while having fun. Boys learn about important values, such as helping oneself by helping others and honoring the basic rights of others. Boy Scouting's active learning experiences include hiking, camping, and other outdoor expeditions; competitive individual and team sports activities; and community or religious service projects. Many Boy Scouts first practice basic leadership, self-government, and citizenship skills during regular troop meetings and campouts.

Venturing

Venturing is a youth development program for young men and women ages 14 through 20, or 13 with completion of the eighth grade. Venturing is:

- Designed to help meet the needs, wants, and problems of this young adult generation.
- A novel program that includes emphasis on outdoor, high-adventure 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 which prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.

Program

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



Methods

The Venturing program has been carefully designed to achieve the aims of the BSA and meet the needs of young adults. Included in the methods of Venturing are:

- **Leadership**—Opportunities to learn and apply proven leadership skills are provided to the Venturers.
- **Group activities** are interdependent group experiences in which success is dependent on the cooperation of all.

- **Adult association**—Working closely with adult advisors and other adult leaders, the youth officers lead the crew. The adults serve in a “shadow” leader capacity.
- **Recognition** comes through the Venturing advancement program and through the acknowledgement of a youth’s competence and ability by peers and adults.
- **Ideals**—Venturers are expected to know and live by the Venturing Oath and Code. They promise to be faithful in their religious duties, to treasure their American heritage, to help others, and to seek truth and fairness.
- **High adventure**—Venturing’s emphasis on high adventure helps provide team-building opportunities, new meaningful experiences, practical leadership application, and lifelong memories to young adults.
- **Teaching others**—All of the Venturing awards require Venturers to teach what they have learned to others. In so doing, they strengthen their knowledge, gain confidence, and acquire skills that can benefit them for the rest of their lives.

A Word About Youth Protection

Child abuse is a serious problem in our society, and unfortunately, it can occur anywhere, even in Scouting. Youth safety is of paramount importance to Scouting. For that reason, the BSA continues to create barriers to abuse beyond what have previously existed in Scouting.

The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on providing the most secure environment possible for our youth members. To maintain such an environment, the BSA has developed numerous procedural and leadership



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selection policies, and provides parents and leaders with numerous online and print resources for the Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venturing programs.

Effective June 1, 2010, the BSA implemented mandatory Youth Protection training for all registered volunteers.

New leaders are required to complete Youth Protection training within 30 days of registering. To take the training online, go to www.MyScouting.org and establish an account using the member number you receive when you register for BSA membership. If you take the training online before you obtain a member number, be sure to return to MyScouting and enter your number for training record credit. Your BSA local council also provides training on a regular basis if you cannot take it online. For more information, refer to the back of the BSA adult membership application, No. 524-501.

Youth Protection training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer does not meet the BSA’s Youth Protection training requirement at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be reregistered.

We encourage all adults, including all parents, to take the BSA’s Youth Protection training.

To find out more about the Youth Protection policies of the Boy Scouts of America and how to help Scouting keep your family safe, see the *Parent’s Guide* in any of the Cub Scouting or Boy Scouting handbooks, or go to <http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>.