

Scouting Programs

Cub Scouting



Cub Scouting is a family- and home-centered program for boys in the first through fifth grades (or who are 7, 8, 9, and 10 years old). First-grade (or 7-year-old) boys begin the program as Tiger Cub Scouts under the

sponsorship of an adult partner; the Tiger Cub program stresses leadership, learning about the community, and family understanding. The Cub Scouting experience follows in second and third grades (or ages 8 and 9) as the boys first advance to Wolf Cub Scout status and then become Bear Cub Scouts. Fourth- and fifth-grade (or 10-year-old) boys are called Webelos Scouts (**WE'll BE LOyal Scouts**) and participate in more advanced activities that begin to prepare them to become Boy Scouts. Cub Scouting's emphasis is on the interaction of boys and their parent(s) learning through fun-filled activities.

Boy Scouting

Boy Scouting is for boys ages 11 (or have completed the fifth grade) through 17. Boy Scouting is designed to achieve its aim of citizenship, physical fitness, and moral development through a vigorous outdoor program and peer leadership with mentoring provided by adult leadership.



Venturing



Venturing is for young men and/or young women who are 14 (and have completed grade 8) to 21 years of age. Venturing seeks to provide positive experiences through exciting and meaningful activities that help youth

pursue their special interests, to grow and develop citizenship and leadership skills, and to prepare them to be positive influences within their schools, congregations, and communities.

Developmental Assets

Scouting: a Resource for Youth Ministry

Your Lutheran congregation or school wins:

- Scouting becomes a valuable resource and an important part of your youth ministry programs.
- Scouting will help keep your young people connected to your congregation's or school's beliefs and teachings, as well as connected to positive role models.
- The religious emblems program will help create an arena in which young adults can interact with religious leaders.
- Scouting provides a program that can attract other young people in the community to an ongoing involvement with your congregation's activities and beliefs.
- Scouting in your youth group will help display your Christian concern and action in the welfare of the community.

The youth win:

- Scouting stimulates youth interest in wholesome, fun activities sponsored by your congregation or school and can strengthen their commitment to their faith and help them live out that faith in their church and community.
- In Scouting, young people are taught hands-on leadership skills such as planning, listening, teamwork, communication, and delegation.
- Scouting's advancement programs help young people feel recognized, provide a sense of belonging, and build positive self-esteem.

The adult volunteers win:

- Scouting provides an opportunity for greater community involvement.
- Scouting enhances communication, planning, and program development skills.
- Scouting encourages a greater commitment to service.
- Volunteers receive specific program suggestions that can be tailored to the needs of the youth group.

Scouting Resources for Religious Organizations

- Access to local BSA camp property for religious retreats and team building
- Training for adult volunteers
- Youth protection training video for youth and adults
- Fast Start training video for new leaders
- Professional guidance:
 - How to organize the program
 - How to recruit new young people
 - Connections with other young people active in Scouting
 - How to conduct an annual planning meeting
 - Help planning and tailoring your program to achieve your aims
- Religious emblems program
- Program helps:
 - Monthly/weekly meeting plans
 - Leader manuals
 - Audiovisual training tapes
 - Computer-based training aids
- Service projects to benefit the religious organization
- Liability and accident insurance

Religious Growth Programs

Religious growth programs for Lutheran young people and adults in Scouting include:

Youth Religious Emblems

God and Me. For boys in grades 1 through 3 (Cub Scouts). This program encourages children to tell the story of their lives, think about the life and teachings of Jesus, and see how God is present in their lives today.

God and Family (Lutheran). For boys in grades 4 and 5 (Webelos Scouts). This program fosters growth in relationships to self, God, family, friends, neighbors, community, and the future.

God and Church (Lutheran). For young men in grades 6 through 8 (Boy Scouts). This program provides children with an opportunity to understand the church's structures and objectives, and to participate in service projects that will give them a better understanding of the mission of the church.

GOD AND COUNTRY



LUTHERAN



LUTHERAN



God and Life (Lutheran). For young adults in grades 9 through 12 (older Boy Scouts and Venturers). This program helps young people grow as Christians by fostering in them a closer relationship with their Lord, a heightened awareness of their worship experiences, an eagerness and ability to be personal witnesses to their faith, and enthusiasm for sharing in the outreach efforts of their congregations.



God and Country mentor program (adult curriculum).

A mentor is someone who serves as a living example for another person. The God and Country mentor program is designed to help adults look directly at what it means to serve as a Christian mentor, and it suggests how to have a positive, Christian influence on a child. The mentor curriculum is designed for an adult working with a young person enrolled in the God and Country program series. An adult who completes the mentor studies will receive a certificate and lapel pin for non-uniform wear. The mentor program is not to be confused with the Lamb and Servant of Youth Recognitions (see below).

Adult Lutheran Religious Recognitions

The **Servant of Youth** and the **Lamb** adult recognitions are given to acknowledge distinguished volunteer service in ministry to young people through one or more civic youth agency programs.

A **Servant of Youth** recipient may be Lutheran or an active member of another Christian congregation who has a minimum of five years' service to Lutheran youth.

A **Lamb** recipient must be Lutheran and have a minimum of ten years' service to Lutheran youth. Applications for these awards are available from P.R.A.Y. and local BSA councils. An adult does not apply for these awards, but is nominated by other leaders and the Lutheran congregation that they are affiliated with.

Information and materials concerning the religious emblems programs can be obtained from any local BSA council office, the National Lutheran Association on Scouting (NLAS), or from Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.). Information concerning NLAS can be obtained at www.nlas.org or from the NLAS secretary at the P.R.A.Y. address: 11123 South Towne Square, Suite B, St. Louis, MO 63123-7816; 800-933-7729; www.praypub.org, e-mail info@praypub.org.



Getting Started

Organizing a Scout Unit in Your Congregation or School

Secure a commitment from the head of your Lutheran congregation or school.

Call a briefing meeting of key leaders. The head of your congregation or school calls a meeting of key members in the organization with a representative from the BSA local council in attendance. The representative can

- Explain how Scouting works within the framework of the congregation or school
- Determine the market for Scouting within the congregation or school and the community
- Describe adult leader roles and responsibilities; discuss prospects to fill adult leadership positions

- Help identify a key adult to serve as the chartered organization representative—a liaison between the congregation or school and the Scouting units (pack, troop, crew)

Conduct planning and training meetings. Youth Scouting committee and leaders meet with a BSA representative to

- View the *Scouting: a Resource for Lutheran Youth Ministry* video
- Begin leader training
- Plan program for the first six months

Schedule the organizational meeting.

- Youth members are recruited.
- Unit meetings begin.
- Unit is installed and charter is presented at a formal service before the entire congregation or student body.

It's Our Turn to Make a Difference!

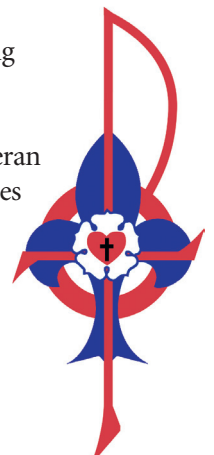
It's Our Turn to Make a Difference!

Scouting is a good place to make a difference in the life of a child. A Louis Harris Study of boys and young women in the various Scouting programs demonstrates that Scouting supports health development among youth. Harris also found that boys involved in Scouting learn to get along with others, give their best effort, have confidence in themselves, set goals for themselves, care for other people, treat others with respect, and take better care of the environment. These programs have been an avenue to reach disadvantaged youth in inner-city neighborhoods. An important finding was the high correlation between Scouting and future achievements, taking the form of improved high-school and college graduation rates and higher household incomes.

Scouting meets developmental needs through age-specific programs. In Cub Scouting, the strong bonds between boys and their parents are reinforced with interpersonal time of doing projects together, going places together, and just talking together. Parents have found that character-related values communicated to Cub Scouts result in boys respecting the environment, staying away from drugs, and even helping out more at home.

As boys grow older and develop a need for greater independence, they enter Boy Scouts, which is designed to foster their growth in skills and personal character. Boys have indicated that Scouting has encouraged them to feel pride in America, to learn the difference between right and wrong, and strengthen their relationship with God. We know that high portions of the membership of the Boy Scouts feel that Scouting prepared them for a successful future by teaching those skills they may not have learned elsewhere. Recognition by the worldwide community of Scouting's value system bears strong testimony to the value of personal growth in self-esteem and sense of usefulness gained by members at meetings.

The National Lutheran Association on Scouting (NLAS), along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), assists Lutheran congregations using the programs and resources of the Boy Scouts of America and other youth organizations as a means of extending their ministry to children, youth, and families.



“To equip Lutherans and other Christians to minister to young people, using the programs of youth-serving agencies.”

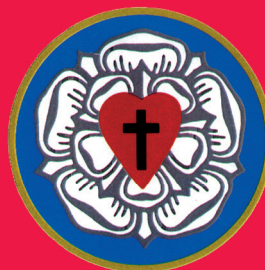


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SCOUTING



A Resource for
Lutheran Youth
Ministry in
Congregations
and Schools



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