

Steps for Organizing a Unit

1. The BSA organizing committee (unit commissioner, district executive, and member of the district membership team) meets with the executive officer/head of the religious organization to introduce and inform the organization about Scouting.
2. Working with an assigned unit commissioner from the BSA district, the executive officer/head of the religious organization and its church membership officially adopt Scouting and select a chartered organization representative. The new-unit application is signed with a charter fee.
3. The BSA organizing committee continues to work with the executive officer/head of the religious organization and the chartered organization representative to help select volunteer adult key unit leadership and committee members and to develop a succession plan for future key leadership.
4. All new volunteer leaders are required to take Youth Protection training before submitting an application for registration. They are then to register with the BSA and complete their adult volunteer applications.
5. New volunteer leaders are to be trained immediately with Fast Start online training, unit budget planning, and unit program planning training.
6. The unit commissioner and district program committee help plan the new unit's program for one year.
7. The BSA organizing committee helps the religious organization with recruitment of local youth members.
8. New youth and their parents complete applications and fees for registration with the BSA.
9. New unit meetings are planned and begin.
10. The BSA organizing committee helps present the religious organization with its first charter at a formal ceremony of the organization.



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BSA Mission Statement

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 Association of Baptists for Scouting and the Boy Scouts of America

Baptist churches have a rich history of chartering BSA packs and troops because churches have found Scouting to be a successful way to minister to community youth and families.

Mission

The mission of the Association of Baptists for Scouting is to bring youth to Christ through the Baptist Scouting ministry.

Theological Foundation

Baptist churches are independent and voluntarily join together for ministry beyond what one local church can do through associations, fellowships, and conventions. Baptists strive to be biblically based in worship, doctrine, and practice. Most Baptist churches have a written doctrinal statement called a “confession of faith” that summarizes their principle beliefs. Depending on the Baptist church and its relationship with other churches, these confessions may be merely for information or they may also serve as tools of discipleship. Baptists place a high emphasis on the priesthood of all believers.

Scouting: A Baptist Outreach Ministry

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”
—Proverbs 22:6

Five Reasons to Establish or Expand Your Scouting Ministry

1. Scouting provides an outreach opportunity.

Baptist churches focus on evangelism and discipleship, seeking to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (Matthew 28:18–20).

More than half of the young people involved in Scouting have no church home. A Scout program offers an opportunity for your congregation to welcome young people and their families to your church, where they may be nurtured as disciples of Jesus Christ.

2. Scouting provides opportunities for spiritual growth.

Awards offered through Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) provide opportunities for church leaders to educate young people about the denomination and help them grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Four age-appropriate awards enable young people to grow in the faith.

3. Scouting provides a ministry to the community.

While many Scouts may never become part of your congregation, you are providing valuable experiences for young people in your neighborhood. Through Scouting for Food, Eagle Scout projects, clean-up efforts, and other service initiatives, Scouts minister to their communities and the world.

4. Scouting is intergenerational.

Often, older adults and youth become isolated from one another. Scouting provides an opportunity for adults to become merit badge counselors, mentors, leaders, or committee members.

5. Scouting may be co-educational.

The Venturing program is for young men and women ages 14 through 20, or 13 with completion of the eighth grade. Its structure and activities complement your church’s youth ministry. BSA local councils offer the use of their Youth Protection training, leadership education, and access to high-adventure activities, in addition to low-cost liability and accident insurance for Venturing crews.

Awards and Recognition Programs for Local Churches

The Good Shepherd Award

This award recognizes adult leaders who have given exceptional service in the use and promotion of duty to God in Scouting ministries in a local Baptist church. Involvement in promoting and leading P.R.A.Y. classes is generally expected. Five years of service is required.



The Baptist Unit of Excellence Award

This award recognizes Baptist Scout units who meet the BSA’s criteria for the Quality Unit award and also have met certain benchmarks in religious emblems participation, unit worship when camping, participation in Scout Sunday, and Baptist membership involvement in leadership.



P.R.A.Y. Awards

P.R.A.Y. awards are the religious program designed for use by the BSA and other youth agencies. However, any young person who is a member of a Sunday school class or other church group may use the P.R.A.Y. program, regardless of whether he or she is in Scouting. For more information, please visit www.praypub.org.