

## Developing Christian Leaders

In 1913, Knights of Columbus Council No. 1337 was chartered to operate Boy Scout Troop 1 in Monroe, Louisiana. In 1923, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council formally commended Scouting as “a fruitful activity for the Order” and said that local councils had “molded young boys” through the Scouting program. For more than 90 years, the Knights of Columbus has worked with the Boy Scouts of America to serve youth. The Knights continue to shape lives by serving more than 42,000 young people in more than 1,400 Scouting units. As of 2005, the Knights of Columbus had more than 150 Scouting units that had 50 or more years’ tenure and more than 800 Knights of Columbus councils were ensuring that young people receive a Scouting opportunity.



## Why Scouting

Our future lies within our children, but often the challenges and problems they face seem insurmountable. Today, more than ever, our young people need the guidance and mentoring of quality adult role models. By operating a Scouting unit, Knights can provide a positive alternative to the youth of their community.



A Scouting unit in your council:

- Provides a time-tested youth program with continuous identification with your Knights of Columbus council.
- Instills the Knights’ concept of Christian service in youth.
- Promotes interest in good government and involvement in civic affairs.
- Inspires respect for others, as well as self.
- Helps further develop community leadership.
- Builds better youth.
- Creates potential for increasing your council’s membership by exposing the parents of the youth served to the ideals of the Knights of Columbus.

## Organizing a Scouting Unit

- The Knights of Columbus council contacts the BSA local council service center for information about the Scouting program.
- The Knights of Columbus council officially adopts Scouting and agrees to organize a unit or units.
- The grand knight appoints a chartered organization representative.
- The chartered organization representative appoints an organizing committee of Knights and other interested adults.
- The organizing committee identifies and recruits unit leaders and committee members.
- Unit leaders, Knights and non-Knights, complete and submit the Knights of Columbus “Youth Leader” application for background checks and approval of the supreme advocate.
- The leaders are trained in program planning (BSA Fast Start training).
- The program is planned for at least the first six months.
- An orientation session is held with prospective Scouts and their parents.
- Youth are registered.
- Unit meetings begin.
- The unit is installed and the charter is formally presented at a meeting of the Knights of Columbus council.

For further information, contact your BSA local council service center, listed in the white pages of your local phone directory under “Boy Scouts of America.”



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## PROVIDING YOUTH MINISTRY THROUGH THE SCOUTING PROGRAM





# Scouting's Programs

## Cub Scouting

Cub Scouting’s fun-filled, action-oriented activities help build fitness, character, and good citizenship traits in boys through family emphasis. There are three distinct, age-appropriate program levels:



- **Tiger Cub dens** are for first-grade (or 7-year-old) boys. Many of these boys have their first experience in growing up as a member of a group while they participate in activities with an adult partner, usually a parent. Tiger Cubs emphasizes shared leadership, learning about the community, and family understanding.
- **Cub Scout dens** are for boys in the second and third grades (or who are 8 and 9 years old). Activities emphasize character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.
- **Webelos Scout dens** are for fourth- and fifth-grade (or 10-year-old) boys. Webelos Scouts participate in more advanced activities that begin to prepare them to become Boy Scouts.

**Purpose.** Cub Scouting began in 1930 to help advance the character development and spiritual growth of younger boys. This central mission of Cub Scouting might be even more important to boys growing up in the 21st century.

**Program.** Local 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, the largest of the three Boy Scouts of America traditional membership divisions.



**Methods.** Cub Scouting encourages each boy to strive for his personal best, a lesson that will help him achieve success throughout the rest of his life. Cub Scout 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 a 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 10½ years old and have completed the fifth grade or are 11 through 17 years old. It is:

- Designed to achieve the aims of Scouting through a vigorous outdoor program, using peer group leadership with the counsel of an adult Scoutmaster.
- 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 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 mastering 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 who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years of age. It 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 that prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.

**Program.** Venturing is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth and their adult Advisors, who serve 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 Boy Scouts of America and meet the needs of young adults. Included in the methods of Venturing are:

- **Leadership.** The program provides opportunities to learn and apply proven leadership skills.
- **Group Activities.** Many Venturing 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” leadership capacity.
- **Recognition.** The Venturing advancement program provides confidence-building recognition, as does 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, 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 life-long memories for these young adults.
- **Teaching Others.** All Venturing awards require Venturers to teach what they have learned to others. In so doing they strengthen their own knowledge, gain confidence, and acquire skills that can benefit them for the rest of their lives.

