

God and Country Program

God and Me

God and Me (grades 1–3) encourages children to tell the story of their lives, think about the life and teachings of Jesus, and finally, see how God is present in their lives today. Parents or other adults are encouraged to work side by side with the child, serving in the role of counselor.



God and Family

God and Family (grades 4–5) helps children understand their relationship to God in the context of family, friends, community, and the future. Parents, with the help of their pastor, are encouraged to serve as counselors.



God and Church

God and Church (grades 6–8) is a thorough study of the church's structures and objectives. It also requires the youths to participate in service projects to help them better understand the mission of the church. The pastor (or an appointed lay church member) should serve as counselor.



God and Life

God and Life (grades 9–12) helps youth better understand their lifelong relationships to God and prepares them to face decisions on how they will relate to the world. A counselor or minister is designated by the church to work with this age group.



God and Service

The God and Service Award recognizes deserving adults who serve youth in the church through Scouting (and other civic youth agencies). It is conferred by the Commission for Church and Youth Agency Relationships.



Celtic Cross

The Celtic Cross Award recognizes an adult active as a youth leader for a minimum of two years associated with a Presbyterian church program. The nominee's work may include church programs of Sunday school, youth fellowship, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts of the USA, Camp Fire, or other youth-serving groups. The award is conferred by the church.



Note: The above programs are developed by the Commission for Church and Youth Agency Relationships and administered by P.R.A.Y. 11123 S. Towne Square, Suite B, St. Louis, MO 63123. God and Country program materials may be obtained from the BSA National Distribution Center, 800-323-0732, or from any Scout shop, local council service center, or official Scouting distributor, or from PRAY, 800-933-PRAY.

“The God and Country program is more than just a Christian education piece; it is also an effective tool for community outreach. Congregations that offer God and Country classes and open them up to Scouts in the neighborhood often report new families joining their churches as a result of the God and Country program.”

—Mark Hazlewood, executive director, P.R.A.Y.

“A number of families are now becoming part of the active membership of our congregation as the result of their participation in the troop.”

—Dr. Jonathan M. Hole, pastor,
First Presbyterian Church, Littleton, Colorado

Steps to Organizing a Unit

- Organization is informed about Scouting.
- Organization membership officially adopts Scouting and selects a chartered organization representative.
- Chartered organization representative appoints an organizing committee of local parents and interested club members.
- Organizing committee selects unit leaders and committee members.
- Leaders are trained in Youth Protection program planning.
- Program is planned for at least six months.
- Local youths are recruited.
- Paperwork is completed.
- Unit meetings begin.
- Unit is installed and the charter is presented at a formal ceremony with the organization.

For further information, contact:
(Use local council stamp.)

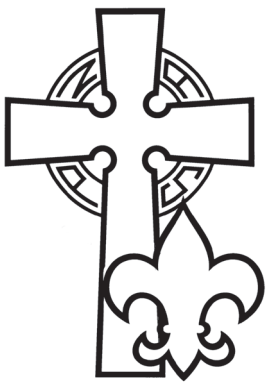


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SKU 522974



522-974 2010 Printing



Presbyterians
and
Scouting

Building Values Together



National Association of
Presbyterian Scouters
and the Boy Scouts of America

Scouting Builds Character



Robert J. Mazzuca
Chief Scout Executive,
Boy Scouts of America



The Boy Scouts of America is delivering a message to youths, our Scouting parents, and the general public that morals, values, spirituality, manners, ethics, caring, respect, and duty are as important today as ever. We are committed to our mission of providing a program of ethical values for young people.

There may never be a more important time than now to let the country know that Scouting still believes in America's young people and its traditional family values, and they are worth the investment of both time and money.

Mission Statement of the Boy Scouts of America

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 Scout Law.



Cub Scouting

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 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 the Cub Scout realize his own abilities and discover that his can-do attitude is the first sign of success in any endeavor.

Local Cub Scouting activities involve the 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 church. Millions of boys and their families participate in Cub Scouting, the largest of the three Boy Scouts of America membership divisions.

“Strengthen your current youth programs by adding a Scouting program. I guarantee you that you will see the results in changed lives in futures to come.”

—Frank Diaz, former executive director,
Presbyterian Church (USA), Dallas, Texas



Boy Scouting

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 to broaden their hobby and life skills and their career opportunities. Scouting encourages boys to expand and test their personal initiative, courage, and resourcefulness.

Boy Scouts learn some of life's more serious lessons while having fun. Boys learn about important values, such as helping yourself 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 campouts and meetings.

“Scouting is a program of character development on the sound principles of commitment to God and to country. A boy's training in Scouting is never forgotten and may shape the rest of his life.”

—Dr. George F. Hupp, pastor,
Montgomery Presbyterian Church,
Cincinnati, Ohio



Venturing

Venturing is an effective coed young-adult program designed to improve character, citizenship, and fitness. Venturers exercise leadership, citizenship, fitness, social, outdoor, and community service endeavors. Venturing provides a variety of challenging activities to teach young people ages 14 through 20, or 13 with completion of the eighth grade, the real-world meaning of values, ethical decision making, and life skills. Venturing teaches leadership and problem-solving skills to help youths mature into confident, successful adults. Venturing crews organize around a special vocation or interest of the youth members. The specialty clusters include outdoors, sports, arts/hobbies, youth ministry, and Sea Scouting.

“When a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) decides to charter a BSA unit, Scouting can become an important part of a church's ministry. A youth ministry program that combines healthy Christian beliefs, valuable leadership skills, and varied practical experiences will add a great deal to our youth's ability to live out their faith in a complex society. From days as a Boy Scout and an Explorer, to the days as a Cubmaster, the Scouting program has helped to strengthen my ministry.”

—The Rev. Dr. Donald G. Campbell,
director, Congregational Ministry Division,
General Assembly Council, Presbyterian
Church (USA)