



DIOCESE OF AUSTIN

YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT & CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

TO: PASTORS OF PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE OF AUSTIN
FROM: ALISON TATE, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT AND
CAMPUS MINISTRY AND REVEREND RYAN HIGDON,
PAROCHIAL VICAR, ST. MARY CATHOLIC CENTER
SUBJECT: BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA FAMILY SCOUTING OPTIONS
DATE: 4/16/2018

In 2018, the Boy Scouts of America expanded its options related to the formation of packs. A pack may now be established as:

- (1) a pack with only all-boy dens;
- (2) a pack with only all-girl dens; or
- (3) a pack with all-boy dens and all-girl dens.

The decision is to be made at the discretion of the chartered organization in consultation with its pack leaders. Given these options, pastors and pack leaders must now make such a decision if the parish is the chartered organization.

To make a thoughtful and collaborative suggestion, we suggest that:

- (1) pastors initiate a conversation with the leaders of the parish's pack, troop, or crew;
- (2) the parish obtain feedback from families in the community, especially those families with children involved in the pack.

After the parish makes its decision, the representative for the chartered organization should respond to their respective BSA Council survey about the chartered organization's decision.

The Boy Scouts plan to expand its programs in 2019 to include a program for girls to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout. More information about that program is to be released later.

Informational meetings for priests and scout leaders are scheduled for:

- (1) June 12, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in College Station;
- and
- (2) June 13, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at the Pastoral Center in Austin.

To assist us in planning these informational meetings, please send your RSVP to either meeting through email to alison-tate@austindiocese.org or by phone to (512) 949-2465.

Attachments: NCCS October 11, 2017 letter