



National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

P.O. Box 152079 • Irving, TX 75015-2079 • (972) 580-2114

January 19, 2021

Dear Diocesan Chairs and Chaplains,

The Boy Scouts of America have updated their Charter Partner Agreement. The new agreement has two changes which are of particular interest to us in the Catholic Church.

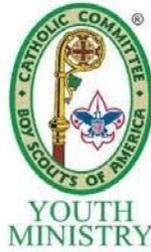
First, the BSA spells out much more clearly what both the local Scout council and the chartered partner are responsible for. Second, the BSA declines insurance protection for intentional or criminal acts. (The purpose for this is to assure that chartered partners are vigilant in selecting, training and supervising adult Scout leaders, as well as reporting any suspected criminal acts, just as we do with all adults who work with our youth.) The coverage basically remains the same as the old contract.

We have been able to affect a change in the Charter Agreement. Today it reads “Charter organizations must utilize the Scouting program to accomplish specific objectives related to one or more of the following: youth character development, career skill development, community service, patriotism and military and veteran recognition, faith-based youth ministry”. Instead of being last because it is the 12th point of the Scout Law, youth ministry will be second because of its importance. This will help to point out to the pastor when he signs the agreement that Catholic Scouting is a Youth Ministry.

The potential of Scouting as a means of youth formation in the faith requires conscious attention. As the chartered partner, the local parish or school owns the Scout unit. This has often not been clear to pastors, youth ministry leaders, and Scout leaders.

The role of the Chartered Partner Representative is critical. That person (either a staff person or volunteer) is supposed to assure, with Catholic-chartered Scout units, that the Scout program is a true youth ministry. Among other things, he or she encourages prayers at the beginning and ending of meetings, earning of the religious emblems, and supports the activities of the local diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting. There is a four part, one-hour training program available for Catholic Charter Organization Representatives that helps to explain how Scouting can be used as a youth ministry of the Catholic Church: Chartering to a Catholic Institution SCO_275, Reaching Youth through Scouting SCO_276, Your Role as a Catholic COR SCO_277, and Catholic Scouting under BSA Standards SCO_278. It is offered on-line through the scouting.org training web site. Every Catholic Charter Organization Representative will be required to take the course. Charter Organization Reps will have until May 1st to complete the courses. After that date, Catholic units will not be able to re-charter until this COR training is completed.

In April 2020, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting released a “Guide to Catholic Scouting”. This document helps the chartered partner and Chartered Organization



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Representative understand the structure of Catholic Scouting. It is available on line at <https://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/guide-to-catholic-scouting>

Of course, your own support of Catholic Scouting as Youth Ministry is important. The National Catholic Committee on Scouting is available to assist Catholic units and your diocesan committee.

Yours in Catholic Scouting as a Youth Ministry,

Jim Weiskircher

Rev. Joe Powers

National Chair 2019-2022

National Chaplain 2019-2022

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THE ANNUAL UNIT CHARTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN:

_____ and the _____ Council, BSA

Pack No. _____ Troop No. _____ Crew No. _____ Ship No. _____

(Please identify those units chartered by the Chartered Organization.)

The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) program is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values and principles taught in the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The Chartered Organization, as a duly constituted organization that serves youth, desires to use the program(s) of the BSA to further its mission respecting the youth it supports. The Local Council provides the support and service necessary to help the Chartered Organization succeed in its use of Scouting.

The Local Council agrees to:

- Provide primary general liability insurance to cover the Charter Organization, its board, officers, Charter Organization Representative (COR), employees, and adult volunteers for authorized Scouting activities. Indemnify the Charter Organization in accordance with the resolutions and policies of the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America.
"The general liability policy issued to the Boy Scouts of America provides primary liability insurance coverage for all chartered organizations for liability arising out of their sponsorship of a traditional Scouting unit. Evanston Insurance Company provides the first \$1 million per occurrence coverage. Additional policies, all providing primary coverage to the chartered organization, have been purchased so that more than \$10 million in primary coverage is provided. There is no coverage for those who commit intentional or criminal acts. Liability insurance is purchased to provide financial protection in the event of accidents or injury that is neither expected nor intended."
- Respect the aims and objectives of the Charter Organization and assist the Charter Organization by making available Scouting resources.
- Assure that adults selected as unit leaders are willing to accept Scouting's values and meet any other requirements of membership, having the appropriate number of leaders for the unit and review and sign each application.
- The local council will conduct criminal background checks on adult leaders.
- Make available to the Charter Organization and members program training, program resources, and other Scouting support services.
- Make available training and support for the Charter Organization and for the Charter Organization Representative, the primary link between the Charter Organization, the local council, and the BSA; track and **require all unit leaders** to complete **BSA Youth Protection Training**. YPT training is located on the My.Scouting website. (*no leader is registered w/o YPT*)
- Provide camping opportunities, administrative support, and professional staff to assist the unit in developing a successful Scouting program.
- Provide unit money earning opportunities for the unit to support their annual program.
- Support the unit with recruitment strategies, resources and materials to grow the BSA movement.

The Charter Organization agrees to:

- Use Scouting to further the Charter Organization's aims and values for youth.
- Charter organizations must utilize the Scouting program to accomplish specific objectives related to one or more of the following: youth character development, faith-based youth ministry, career skill development, community service, patriotism and military and veteran recognition
- Conduct the Scouting program consistent with BSA rules, regulations, and policies. Located on the My.Scouting website and online at: www.scouting.org/about/membership-standards/.
- Charter Organization representatives are also auto-matic voting members of the council and district selected by their respective Charter Organization" **BSA Rules & Regs, Article IV**
- Encourage adult leaders to receive additional applicable training made available by the council.
- Be a good steward of unit resources and adhere to BSA Fiscal Policies. ie. Unit Money Earning projects
- Actively participate in the local councils annual giving campaign and product sales to ensure quality Scouting throughout the community. (ex. Friends of Scouting campaign, popcorn, camp card, etc.)
- Encourage the unit to maintain accurate and timely registration records of all its youth and adult members. Utilizing BSA's online registration tools like membership leads, online applications, and online recharter. (*no leader is registered w/o YPT*)
- Units must not use the Scouting program to pursue any objectives related to political or social advocacy, including partisan politics, support or opposition to government action, or controversial legal, political, or social issues or causes.
- Maintain and support the unit committee(s) made up of at least three persons for each unit.
- Ensure appropriate facilities for the unit for its regular meetings to facilitate the aims and methods of the BSA.

- Coordinate with the local council to provide annual recruitment opportunities to grow the BSA movement as well as publicize BSA through inhouse publications.

Updated January 2021

_____	_____	_____
Charter Organization	Title	Date
_____	_____	_____
Charter Organization Representative	Title	Date
_____	_____	_____
Unit Committee Chair	Title	Date
_____	_____	_____
Local BSA Council	Title	Date

Resources

1. Chartered organizations must use the Scouting program to accomplish their objectives in a manner consistent with the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, guidelines, policies, and other publications available on the BSA national website located at www.scouting.org/about/membership-standards/.
 - The Charter and Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America
 - The Mission of the Boy Scouts of America
 - The Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America
 - The Scout Oath and the Scout Law, including Duty to God
 - BSA youth protection policies and guidelines, including mandatory reporting
 - *The Guide to Safe Scouting*
 - The Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety
 - Scouter Code of Conduct
 - Incident Reporting <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/>
2. Chartered organizations must not use their charter organization affiliation or the Scouting brand as a means to imply Scouting’s endorsement of the objectives of their organization except with respect to youth development consistent with the goals and objectives of the Scouting program. Scouting units should utilize the BSA Brand Center for all branding guidelines, images, and logos. The BSA Brand Center can be located at www.scoutingwire.org
3. Charter organizations must not use the Scouting program to obtain financial support or assistance except as authorized for the chartered unit.

Scout Mission:

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.

Scout Oath:

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law:

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

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