



## National Catholic Committee on Scouting

### Statement Supporting the Chartering of Boy Scouts of America Units

The purpose of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting is to utilize and ensure the constructive use of the programs of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) as a viable form of youth ministry with the Catholic youth of our nation.

As a church committee of concerned Catholic Laity and Clergy, which is advisory to the Boy Scouts of America, and relates to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops through its USCCB Episcopal Liaison, we make this statement in support of the BSA charter organization model for Catholic parishes and entities who engage in Catholic Scouting.

What is a chartered organization?

A chartered organization is a community-based group whose objectives, mission and methodologies are compatible with those of the BSA. It agrees to use the Scouting program to further its mission to serve young people

As a Chartering Partner, the Catholic parish or entity:

- owns the unit (pack, troop, venture crew, or ship) and sets direction of the program especially as it relates to faith formation.
- has a Charter Organization Representative (COR) who is appointed by its Pastor or Institution Head.
- is a beneficiary of the BSA Liability Insurance policy and is issued a Certificate of Insurance.

The Chartered Unit (pack, troop, venture crew, or ship) is

- a Youth Ministry of the Church
- an integral part of the parish community and its mission

The Charter Organization Representative (COR)

- is a liaison between the unit and Pastor as well as between the Parish and the Local BSA Council and District.
- recommends leaders to the Pastor or Institution Head, who officially selects and approves them.
- ensures that the program is integrated into the Youth Ministry of the parish.
- promotes the NCCS religious emblems and religious activities programs.
- supports the activities of the local Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting and Youth Ministry programs of the diocese.
- Completes the 4-part Catholic COR training on [scouting.org](http://scouting.org).
- Is a voting member of the BSA Council and District.

Catholic parishes and entities who elect to host units chartered to other entities via a Facilities Use Agreement, instead of chartering the unit themselves, should note the following:

- The chartering organization, (local BSA Council or other organization,) selects and approves the leaders.
- The Parish or Catholic entity does not own the unit and does not have the right or authority to create policy, set the direction of the program or approve leadership for the Unit.
- Although the chartering organization may be required to show proof of insurance to the host parish or entity, the parish or Catholic entity is not necessarily protected from exposure.

Additional information:

In a letter dated September 14, 2021, and issued to the Scout Executives of local councils, the Boy Scouts of America encouraged all Chartered Organizations to consider the following:

- Scouting is a safe program thanks to its youth protection protocols, which are continually reviewed and refined. Most of the claims against the BSA are historical, predating adoption of these protocols.
- The insurance protections that have been in place for the last 45 years provide *complete* protection for Chartered Organizations. Going-forward, the BSA's insurance coverage is even more robust – with \$135 million of coverage in 2021. The BSA's premier youth protection policies and this insurance coverage will continue to provide protection to Chartered Organizations,
- Chartered Organizations and Scouting share a mission to develop youth of character consistent with the shared values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. That is best accomplished when we work together to ensure suitable leaders provide an outstanding program in a safe environment.

With all of the above in mind, the *National Catholic Committee on Scouting* recommends and encourages both diocesan and parish leadership to support and adopted the Charter Organization model for units that seek to meet on properties owned by Catholic parishes and entities, as the best model to both protect the interests of the church as well as facilitate effective youth ministry.

Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Mr. Jim Weiskircher, Chairman, National Catholic Committee on Scouting at [jim.weiskircher1@gmail.com](mailto:jim.weiskircher1@gmail.com)