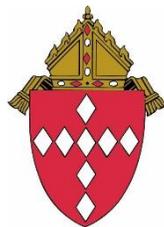


Scouting America in the Diocese of Raleigh

A Guidebook for Pastors



The Office of Evangelization and Discipleship of the Diocese of Raleigh
in cooperation with
The Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Diocese of Raleigh



Please Note

The information in this booklet is meant to help guide Pastors as they work with your Chartered Scout Units. Material for this booklet has been gathered from the following sources, among others:

Agencies & Organizations

Scouting America (Formally Boy Scouts of America)

National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM)

National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS)

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)



Introduction

For decades, Pastors and their parishes have chartered Scouting Units within the Diocese of Raleigh. Many likely cherish fond memories of Scouting events, badges, and of overall learning, fun and friendships along the way.

In the Catholic Church, Boy Scouting can be a contributing partner to the development of character, values and conscience in our young people. Indeed, the twelfth point of the Scout Law ("A Scout is Reverent") has traditionally been the point of connection with religion and parish life.

In that spirit, this booklet for "Catholic Scouting in the Diocese of Raleigh" has been created to offer operational and programmatic guidance to Pastors who choose to charter Scouting America units at their parishes, consistent with protocols for other youth ministry programs. In particular, Pastors and parishes should work to weave chartered Scouting America units into their broader youth ministry programs. As detailed within this booklet, that involves, among items, Pastors actively involved in the oversight of scout troop activities (on and off parish property), the selection of troop leadership, coordinating closely with local councils, and making sure that the requirements for units under the chartering agreements are being implemented satisfactorily. Pastors should ensure that all adult leaders and adult volunteers of Parish Chartered Scout Units meet all requirements of the Diocesan Safe Environment Protocol.

If there are any questions you can contact:

Fr. Scott McCue
Diocesan Scout Chaplain
919-946-6941
Fr.Scott.Mccue@raldioc.org



Some Basic Terms to Understand

Scouting America is the largest scouting organization and one of the largest youth organizations in the United States. There are 5 main parts to the Scouting America program. They are:

- **Cub Scouts** is a Scouting Program for boys and girls who are in fifth grade or lower (typically age 5-10).
- **Scouts BSA** is a Scouting Program for boys and girls in sixth grade or higher (typically ages 11-18).
- **Sea Scouts** is a Scouting Program that is co-ed for teens aged 14 and up.
- **Venturing Crews** is a Scouting Program that is co-ed for teens aged 14 and up.
- **The Exploring** program connects boys and girls ages 10-20 with mentors, businesses, and agencies within their communities to help them discover future career paths.

DORCCS is the Diocese of Raleigh Catholic Committee on Scouting: scouting.dioceseofraleigh.org.

Charter is a signed agreement that enables the parish to use the Scouting program under adult leadership they (the parish) approve of in order to accomplish its objectives and to serve the parish youth and families. It is signed by the Pastor. As the chartered partner, the local Parish owns the Scout unit.

Charter Organization is the Parish of the Diocese where the Scouting Unit is chartered.

Chartered Organization Representative (COR) is the person chosen by the Pastor to be the go between from Parish and the Scouting unit.

Institution Head is the Pastor at the Parish where the Scout unit is chartered.

LSEC is the Local Safe Environment Coordinator. This person at the Parish serves as a liaison between the Parish and the Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection. They ensure compliance of diocesan policy at the Parish level and maintain and verify all documents and rosters for their Parish. They also ensure that all Safe Environment lists are up to date at that Parish.

NCCS is the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

UNIT is the Cub Scout Pack, Scouts BSA, Venture Crew or Sea Ship that has a signed Charter with the Parish.

YPT is Youth Protection Training from Scouting America that is required for all adult volunteers. It is similar to the Diocese of Raleigh Safe Environment Training.



Chartering with Diocesan Parishes

Effective March 1, 2021 if a Diocese of Raleigh Parish is to Charter, or renew a Charter with a Scouting Unit, the following will be the requirements and expectations of that agreement:

- Each Pastor will appoint a Charter Organization Representative.
- The Charter Organization Representative will maintain regular, ongoing communication with the Pastor on the status and activities of the Scout Unit.
- The Scout Unit is considered a Parish Ministry and is to be treated as such.
- The Pastor provides spiritual guidance to the unit and passes on Catholic teaching as appropriate.
- All Adult Leaders and Volunteers of the Scout Unit will be screened and approved by BSA and be in accord with BSA policies.
- All Adult Leaders and Volunteers of Parish Chartered units will follow and maintain all Safe Environment procedures and the policies of the Diocese of Raleigh.
- Each unit is encouraged to have at least one trained Religious Emblems Coordinator.
- The Scout Unit will regularly promote and provide support for the achievement of Catholic Religious Emblems and Awards.
- The Chartered Organization Representative must complete the “NCCS COR Training” modules found on the my.scouting.org website.
- The Pastor is responsible to ensure that the guidelines of this booklet, along with all compliance of BSA and the Diocese are followed in their parish.
- The Charter Organization Representative will supply a yearly listing to the Pastor that all Adult Leaders and Volunteers have completed and are up to date with all Scouting America and Diocesan Youth Protection Requirements.
- The Pastor will keep the COR’s listing of all Scouting America Youth Protection Clearance of the Units Adult Leaders and Volunteers with the signed copy of the Charter.
- All adult personnel involved with the scouting unit must be fully in compliant with both BSA policies and Diocesan policies relating to child and youth protection. Those not fully compliant with both will not be permitted to participate in any activities of the scouting unit.



Chartering with Diocesan Parishes or Schools

As Per the Scouting America Charter Agreement 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 automatic 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 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 in- house publications



Safe Environment for Diocesan Chartered Units

In addition to following all BSA YPT requirements, all adult leaders and adult volunteers of Parish Chartered Scout Units MUST meet ALL requirements of the Diocesan Safe Environment Protocol.

Clearance by Scouting America does not supersede or replace the requirements by the Diocese of Raleigh.

The Chartered Organization Representative should work with the Parish or School Local Safe Environment Coordinator to ensure the following procedures are followed for each of the adult volunteers:

1. Complete a Diocesan volunteer application.
2. Attend the Safe Environment class and re-certify the training every five years.
3. Read the Code of Conduct for Church Personnel in the Diocese of Raleigh
4. Successfully complete a Diocesan criminal background check and re-check every five years.



Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting

The Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (DORCCS) for the Diocese of Raleigh offers support and leadership in the spiritual phase of scouting for Catholic Scouting Units chartered with our Parishes, along with Catholic Scouts of non-Catholic Chartered Units.

The Catholic Committee on Scouting seeks to provide support to parishes to help Catholic youth participate in Scouting as Youth Ministry. The Catholic Committee on Scouting reaches out to individual Scouting Units through The Catholic Camporee, adult training, St. George Trek, Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Catholic Scouting and other activities. Central to the mission of Catholic Committee on Scouting are the Religious Emblems, Activities, and Awards for Catholic Scouts to grow in their Catholic Faith and the ideals of scouting.

In addition to the Religious Emblems Program, the Catholic Committee on Scouting offers training of Religious Emblem Counselors and Leaders, provides spiritual enrichment for scouts through various activities such as retreats and prayer services, recognizes those who have completed requirements set forth by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and recognizes adults who have given of their time and talents in catholic scouting.

The Catholic Committee on Scouting is made up of volunteers in Scouting from throughout the Diocese. The members of the Catholic Committee on Scouting meet and work with the Diocesan Boy Scout Chaplain and the Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry.



Scouting as a form of youth ministry

Ministering to young people is a vital aspect of the Catholic Church's life and mission. In their pastoral framework on youth ministry entitled *"Renewing the Vision"* the U.S. Bishops state: *"Ministry with adolescents (is) a concern for the entire church community, especially for leaders in parishes, schools, and dioceses."*

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. The aims of scouting are character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness

The Bishops document states that "Youth Ministry is the response of the Christian community to the needs of young people and the sharing of the unique gifts of youth with the larger community."

There are three essential goals of youth ministry:

1. Empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today
2. Draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the faith community
3. Foster the personal and spiritual growth of each young person

The goals of Catholic Youth Ministry match very well with Scouting's three aims: character development, preparation for responsible citizenship and physical and mental fitness.

Goal 1: To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.

Character: Scouting's values, combined with the Gospel values taught by the Catholic Church, are the foundation for developing youths whose good character is based on the Gospel. The religious emblem programs offer a form of catechesis that is age- and grade-specific for each of the program phases of Scouting. Youth leadership positions in the Scout troop and Venturing crew offer opportunities for youths to put good Christian leadership into practice.

Goal 2: To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community.

Citizenship: The Scout unit is one type of community. The home, parish, and civic communities are others to which a Scout belongs. In Scouting programs and activities, they learn how to be responsible members of their various communities.

Goal 3: To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

Physical and mental fitness: Scouting promotes holistic fitness. Some activities and programs are designed to develop healthful habits of diet and exercise. The challenges of learning new skills and exploring careers and hobbies through the merit badge program or high adventure activities stimulate the intellectual capabilities of the Scout or Venturer. The spiritual values imparted through the religious emblem's programs, Scout Retreats and the ideals of Scouting contribute to sound spiritual growth.



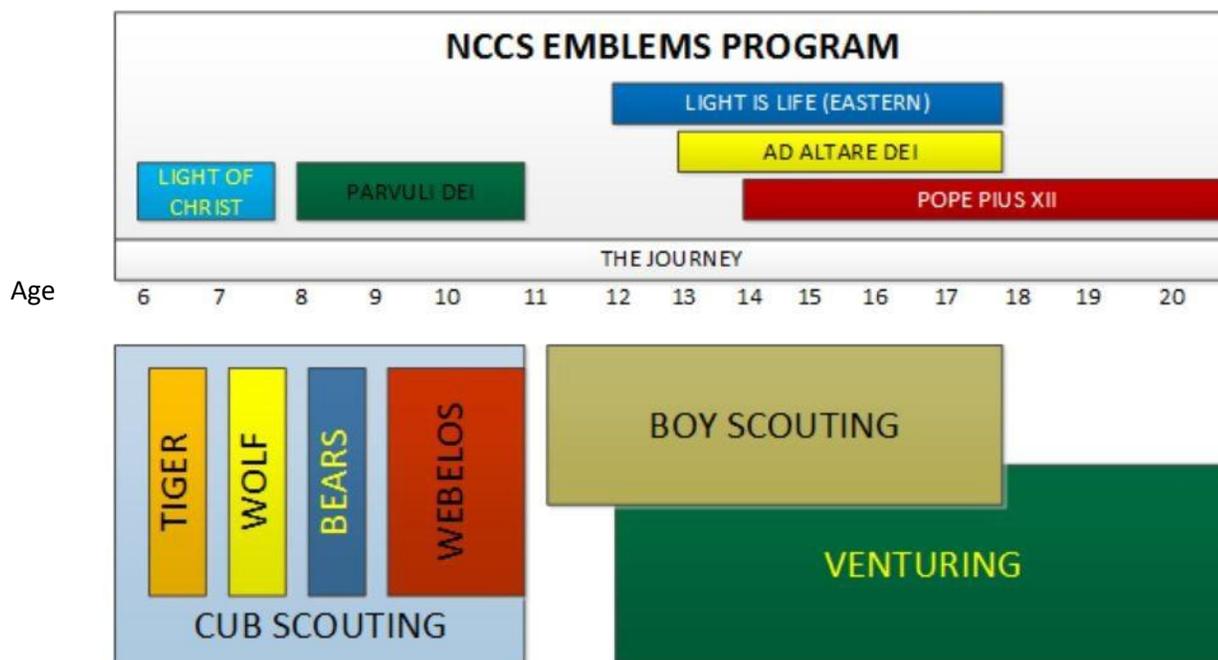
Religious Emblems Program

Faith in God is an important part of Scouting.

What does it mean to be a Catholic Scout? It means being a Scout that believes in Jesus Christ and upholding everything the Catholic Church believes and teaches. Scouts grow to understand their faith within scouting through earning Religious Emblems. Religious Emblems help Scouts grow stronger in their faith life, providing an opportunity to learn more about Catholicism and grow closer to Christ. Earning Religious Emblems is an important cornerstone of faith development in study, activities, prayer and community help to strengthen their spiritual foundation. Developing a deeper relationship with God coupled with a love and understanding of the Catholic Church will carry young people through the rest of their lives.

There are several Religious Emblem programs available for Catholic Scouts to learn and grow more in their Catholic faith through a Scout Setting. These range from as young as Cub Scouts through Venture Crews.

The Journey



Learn more about the Religious Emblems by visiting the Diocese of Raleigh Catholic Committee on Scouting webpage at <https://dioceseofraleigh.org/scouting/catholic-scouting>



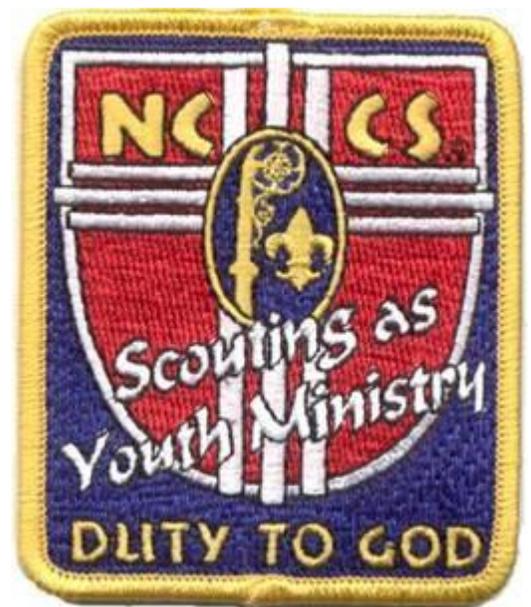
Religious Emblems Program

There are eight components of Catholic Youth Ministry as laid out by the U.S. Bishops. These include Advocacy, Catechesis, Community Life, Evangelization, Justice and Service, Leadership Development, Pastoral Care, and Prayer and Worship.

Scouts who work on Religious Emblem Programs learn more about themselves, our church and their faith. They explore themes such as the sacraments, Mary as a model of discipleship, the Holy Spirit's role in their lives and their vocation as disciples who give witness to their faith.

These programs are excellent examples of comprehensive youth ministry.

- The programs are ***catechetical*** in nature; they help youth know and live their faith.
- Religious emblem programs encourage youth to develop a life in which ***prayer and worship*** are core elements.
- Catholic scouts who work on these emblem programs have an opportunity to ***evangelize*** others - their peers, and even their families.
- Scouts who engage in the additional work for these emblems show themselves to be leaders, and the emblem programs help them to ***develop their leadership*** skills.
- In their scout troops and especially while working toward religious emblems, scouts experience positive ***community life*** among their peers and with adult mentors.
- The religious emblems programs engage youth in ***service*** to their parishes and communities.
- Working on the religious emblems programs brings youth into relationship with caring, responsible adults who provide ***pastoral care***, helping young people develop positive assets and avoid at-risk behaviors.
- Religious emblems for older scouts can be presented once each year at the Catholic Camporee by the Bishop, on Scout Sunday, or during Mass in view of all parishioners. Cub Scout religious emblems should be presented in the parish by the pastor. Presenting these religious emblems at these wonderful ceremonies is one way that we ***advocate*** for youth, showcasing their gifts, hard work and leadership abilities for our church, our parishes, and communities.



Scouting functioning as a Parish Ministry

Scouting is perhaps best understood as one vehicle of a parish's youth ministry. Parish youth ministry typically involves a number of different programs (e.g., catechetical, service, social, spiritual, etc.).

In order to serve as an authentic parish youth ministry, the Scouting Program should intentionally reflect our Catholic faith. That does not mean that it needs to be "super religious" or "overly pious", but that we need to find ways to integrate our faith naturally into the Scouting program.

Of course, Scouting is not intended to replace or compete with other parish youth programs; rather, its menu of fun, adventure, hands-on leadership, and life-education provides one more unique way for young people to grow. Scouting and Catholic Youth Ministry should lend their strengths to one another, for the betterment of our young people.

What does Scouting look like when it understands itself to be part of a parish's ministry with young people? Here are a few "snapshots" of what this reality could look like:

A Youth Ministry Identity

Adult Scout leaders understand themselves to be Youth Ministers as well as Scout leaders; they are trained in youth ministry as well as Scouting. They bring to their Scouting the explicit intention of impacting the faith of young people.

Prayer

Prayer is a strong, consistent part of the life of the Scouting unit. Meetings begin and end with prayer. Creative, developmentally appropriate prayer activities are a normal part of the unit's affairs.

The Eucharist

The Eucharist is a normal part of the life of the Scouting unit. This is especially true on Scout Sunday, but also true on campouts and other trips and excursions. Unit leaders make sure their kids make it to Sunday liturgy, even if it's not convenient.

Personal Faith and Spirituality

Unit leaders are growing in their own faith, and try their best to attend retreats, workshops, days of recollection, renewal programs and the more in order to further develop their own faith and ministry.



Scouting functioning as a Parish Ministry

Faith Sharing

Faith is shared and celebrated on a regular basis. Unit leaders are comfortable and prepared to share their faith. The Scouts know they are in a place of faith not only because of where they meet, but by the way the adult leaders talk and behave. The sacred scriptures are familiar and frequently used as inspiration and guides.

Religious Emblems

The Religious Emblems Programs are held in high regard by the unit leaders, and it is a priority to assist young people in achieving the emblems. Unit leaders not only encourage Catholic Scouts to earn the Catholic emblems, but also encourage Scouts of other faiths to achieve their respective emblems.

Parish Participation

The Scouting Unit is clearly a part of the parish community, visibly present at parish events and activities, accountable to the pastor or his designee. Unit Leaders make efforts to build bridges of cooperation and collaboration with other parish ministries, and work hard to help their Scouts become fully contributing members of the faith community. Unit Leaders establish a healthy, mutually supportive working relationship with the Pastor or his designee. They are active members of their faith community, effectively modeling the kind of faith and participation they are trying to develop in their Scouts.

“No one in the world can give what you are called to give! Each of you is unique and – please never forget it – precious in the eyes of God. You are precious to the Church, you are precious to me,”

Pope Francis addressing 5,000 Catholic Scouts in the Vatican’s Pope Paul VI hall on August 3, 2019



Training for Adult Leaders

NCCS COR Training

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting has developed an online training module to supplement your Boy Scouts of America's Charter Organizational Representative (COR) training. This Training Is MANDATORY for all Catholic Chartered Units. The focus is not to retrain you on your role as a COR, but to enable you to use the Scouting Program as a tool for a deeper Catholic youth ministry experience for the youth.

The NCCS COR Training is a four-module training available on BSA's my.scouting.org. There is no cost for the training, and it lasts about 40 minutes. The modules covered are:

Chartering to a Catholic Institution

This module helps the COR understand Scouting in the Local Church, the archdiocese. This session will discuss the role of the BSA charter in the context of the role of the Parish as part of the Diocese and the role of the Bishop.

Reaching Youth Through Scouting

Scouting is youth ministry when the programs of the BSA are used in conjunction with programs of the NCCS and seek to fulfill the three goals of Catholic youth ministry.

Your Role as a Catholic COR

The COR are key to ensuring a Catholic program. This module will review the role of the BSA COR as part of the Catholic faith.

Catholic Scouting under BSA Standards

This module will examine the BSA Rule and Regulations and address some of the concerns of Bishops and Pastors with fully implementing a Catholic program that fully participates in the life of the parish.

Religious Emblem Coordinator & Training

Each Scouting Unit should have a Religious Emblems Coordinator that can coordinate the Religious Emblem Program. Religious Emblem Coordinators should attend one of the Catholic Committee on Scouting's Religious Emblem Coordinator's Training. This training is typically held each year in the summer. It is recommended that Scout Leaders attend Scouter Development once every Five years.



Implementing & supporting a new vision for Scouting

How can this vision be a reality here in the Diocese of Raleigh? Whether or not they call it youth ministry, adult Scout Leaders have long been sharing their faith regularly and effectively with young people. Through the religious emblem programs, Scouts of all ages are exploring their faith and traditions. Through the witness of their words and actions, Catholic Scout Leaders are making a difference in the lives of young people! Much is already in place, yet much remains to be done!

Here are four important next steps:

Get Busy Sharing this Booklet

Share this vision and booklet with parish and Scout Leaders to build stronger bridges of cooperation. Copies of this booklet should be provided to both parish and Scout leaders, along with other helpful resource materials. Scout leaders are encouraged to open a dialogue with parish leaders on the topic of Scouting as a youth ministry.

Get Training

Scout Leaders should receive youth ministry training in addition to that provided by Scouting. The Diocese of Raleigh's department of Youth Ministry provides support, resources, and training: <https://dioceseofraleigh.org/youth-ministry/youth-ministry-resources>

Get Organized

On the parish and unit level, this means building strong Scouting Committees that share this vision. It means revitalizing the role of Chartered Organizational Representatives who understand them to be liaisons between the Scouting program and the parish or school. It means setting up patterns of regular communication and accountability with the Pastor and his staff. On the diocesan level, getting organized means having a Religious Emblems Coordinator and being in contact with the Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Diocesan department of Youth Ministry.



Implementing & supporting a new vision for Scouting

Get to Work

There are two different ways for Scout leaders to put this vision into practice in their units: through (a) Infusion and (b) Special youth ministry programming.

As they proceed, leaders are encouraged to be sensitive to Scouts of other faiths and religions while remaining true to our Catholic Christian identity. Here are several practical approaches for infusion:

- Infusion of faith, prayer and spiritual themes into the regular Scouting program:
- Including opening and closing prayers in regular gatherings;
- Sharing one's own story of faith with Scouts;
- Helping young people make connections between Scouting and faith themes (e.g. for boys, "A Scout is thrifty" can easily relate to care for the environment and reverence for all God's creation; also connecting leadership development to Christian leadership development);
- Using service experiences as opportunities to educate young people about Christian service
- Encouraging scouts to do their Eagle projects to benefit the parish and school.

Special Youth Ministry Programming of an explicitly religious or spiritual nature within the Scouting program:

- Exploring the Scout Oath and Law from a uniquely Christian perspective and calling young people to live up to these values and principles
- Service projects of an explicitly Christian nature (e.g., constructing an outdoor prayer space, assisting in leadership of parish prayer services or service projects)
- Getting involved in programming or opportunities offered by the Catholic Committee on Scouting (e.g. religious emblem programs, Boy Scout Retreat Weekend and more)

In Conclusion...

St. Theresa of Avila often prayed: "Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet, on earth but yours." For Scout Leaders, this prayer is a reminder of the great opportunity they possess to be a holy presence in the lives of young people.

What an incredible gift, and even more so what a great challenge!



Resources for You

[A Guide to Catholic Scouting \(2020\) from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting](#)

[Newly revised Charter Agreement from Boy Scouts of America](#)

[Renewing the Vision from the USCCB website](#)

[National Catholic Committee on Boy Scouting Website](#)

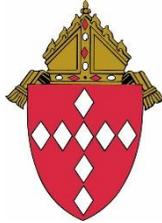
[Scouting is Youth Ministry Document from NCCS](#)

[How to find the NCCS COR Training](#)

[Understanding Girls in Boy Scouting from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting](#)



Catholic Scouting in the Diocese of Raleigh



Catholic Scouting in the Diocese of Raleigh

2026

Diocese of Raleigh Catholic Committee on Scouting

c/o St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church

804 High House Rd.

Cary, NC 27513

919-946-6941

Very Rev. Scott E. McCue, V.F.

Diocesan Scout Chaplain

Office of Evangelization and Discipleship of the Diocese of Raleigh

Patrick Ginty

Patrick.Ginty@raldioc.org