

Adult Leaders in United Methodist Scouting

Scouting Ministry Specialist

Scouting ministry specialists are members of the United Methodist Church who have an interest in helping local churches establish or expand their Scouting ministries. These volunteers help local churches consider Scouting as a ministry while serving as a communication liaison from the general church to the local church. Each SMS promotes training events, recognition awards, Scout Sunday, and support of the pastor. All interested candidates must be at least 18 years of age, hold membership in the UMC, show proof of Youth Protection or Safe Sanctuaries and Sexual Ethics training, and pay an annual registration fee. Ongoing training is provided.

Steps for Organizing a Unit

1. The BSA organizing committee (unit commissioner, district executive, and member of the district membership team) meets with the executive officer/head of the religious organization to introduce and inform the organization about Scouting.
2. Working with an assigned unit commissioner from the BSA district, the executive officer/head of the religious organization and its church membership officially adopt Scouting and select a chartered organization representative. The new-unit application is signed with a charter fee.
3. The BSA organizing committee continues to work with the executive officer/head of the religious organization and the chartered organization representative to help select volunteer adult key unit leadership and committee members and to develop a succession plan for future key leadership.
4. All new volunteer leaders are required to take Youth Protection training before submitting an application for registration. They are then

5. New volunteer leaders are to be trained immediately with Fast Start online training, unit budget planning, and unit program planning training.
6. The unit commissioner and district program committee help plan the new unit's program for one year.
7. The BSA organizing committee helps the religious organization with recruitment of local youth members.
8. New youth and their parents complete applications and fees for registration with the BSA.
9. New unit meetings are planned and begin.
10. The BSA organizing committee helps present the religious organization with its first charter at a formal ceremony of the organization.

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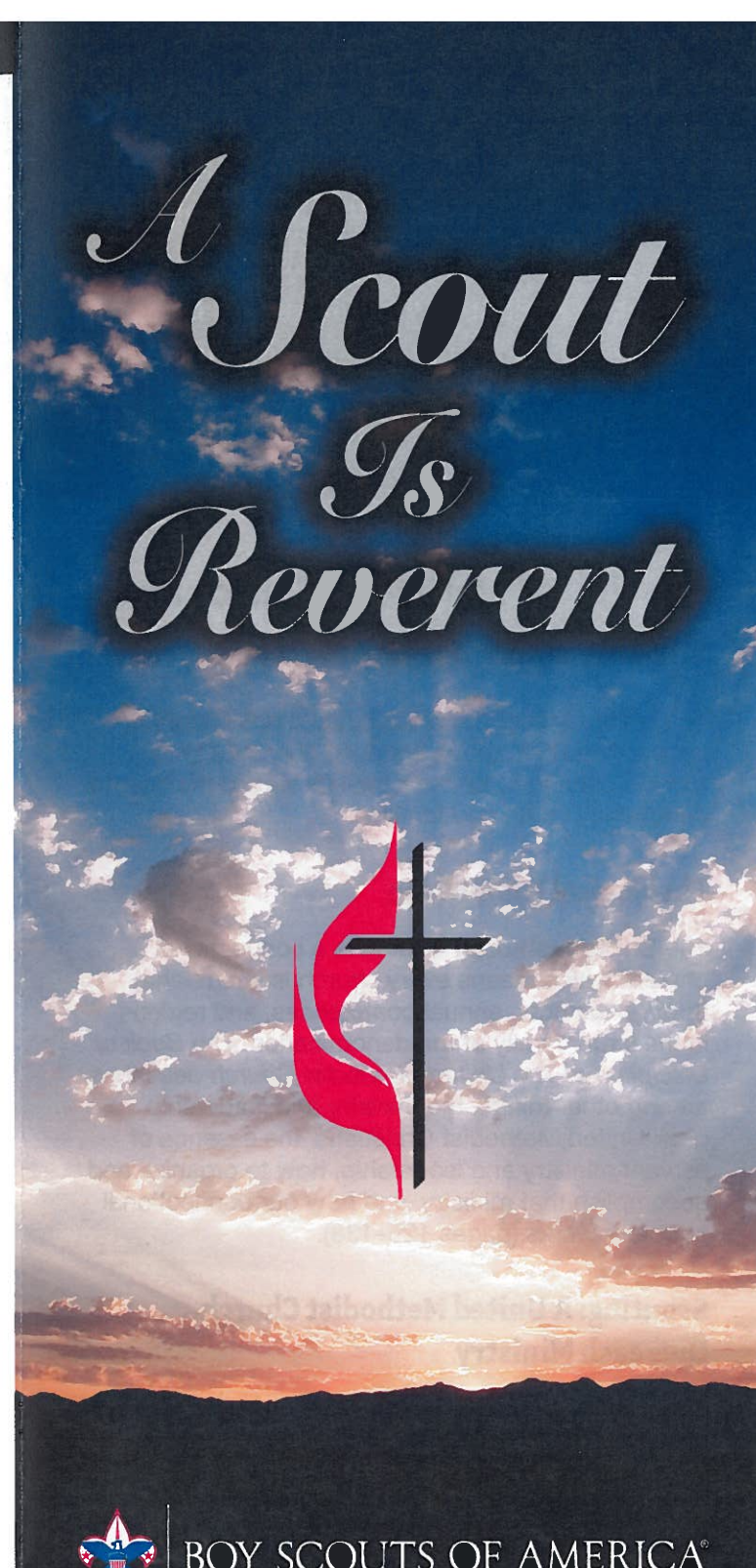
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www.scouting.org



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

BSA Mission Statement

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.

The United Methodist Church and the Boy Scouts of America

The United Methodist Church has a rich history of sponsoring BSA troops because churches have found Scouting to be a successful way to minister to community youth and families.

Theological Foundation

The United Methodist Church is a connectional church, which means every church is interrelated through districts, annual conferences, and regions in the larger family of the denomination. *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* describes, among other things, the ministry and leadership of all United Methodist Christians, the essence of servant ministry and leadership, how to organize and accomplish that ministry, and how our connectional structure works (pages 125–138).

Scouting: A United Methodist Church Outreach Ministry

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

—Proverbs 22:6

Five Reasons to Establish or Expand Your Scouting Ministry

1. Scouting provides an outreach opportunity.

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (page 120, *Book of Discipline*).

Half the young people involved in Scouting have no church home. A Scout program offers an opportunity for your congregation to welcome young people and their families to your church, where they may be nurtured as disciples of Jesus Christ.

2. Scouting provides opportunities for spiritual growth.

Awards offered through Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) provide opportunities for church leaders to educate young people about the denomination and help them grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Four age-appropriate awards enable young people to grow in the faith.

3. Scouting provides a ministry to the community.

While many Scouts may never become part of your congregation, you are providing valuable experiences for young people in your neighborhood. Through Scouting for Food, Nothing But Nets, Eagle Scout projects, cleanup efforts, and other service initiatives, Scouts minister to their communities and the world.

4. Scouting is intergenerational.

Often, older adults and youth become isolated from one another. Scouting provides an opportunity for adults to become merit badge counselors, mentors, leaders, or committee members.

5. Scouting may be coeducational.

The Venturing program is for young men and women between the ages of 13 and 20. Its structure and activities complement your church's youth ministry. Local BSA councils offer the use of their youth-protection training, leadership education, and access to high-adventure activities in addition to low-cost liability and accident insurance for Venturing crews.

Awards and Recognition Programs for Local Churches

The Cross and Flame Award

This award recognizes adult leaders who have given exceptional service in the use and promotion of local Scouting programs. Three years of service is required.



The Good Samaritan Award

This award is to recognize children, youth, and young adults who serve others through outreach, humanitarian assistance, or advocacy. Recipients must be between the ages of 6 and 30.



The Shepherd Church Charter Recognition

This award honors churches that provide outstanding ministry to their communities through the BSA.



For information on related recognitions and awards, including the Torch Award, the Silver Torch Award, and the Bishop's Award of Excellence, please visit the website at www.umscouting.org.



Torch Award



Silver Torch Award



Bishop's Award of Excellence

P.R.A.Y. Awards

P.R.A.Y. awards are the religious program designed for use by the BSA and other youth agencies. However, any young person who is a member of a Sunday school class or other church group may use the P.R.A.Y. program, regardless of whether he or she is in Scouting. For more information, please visit www.praypub.org.