



TO: All Pastors and Administrators
FROM: Office of the Chief Operating Officer
RE: Boy Scout Chartering Agreements
Date: January 31, 2023

We appreciate your continued attention to the guidance that RCAN has developed and issued resulting from the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) ongoing bankruptcy proceedings. We value your appreciation of our efforts to meaningfully assess these developments and their impact on our parishes, and to strive toward continuing to support Catholic scouting within the Archdiocese of Newark through it all. With this memo we aim to provide some additional clarity.

In response to the ongoing bankruptcy proceedings involving the BSA many dioceses in the United States contacted the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to express their concerns regarding continued partnership with the BSA. At the same time, RCAN has remained committed to Catholic scouting, though mindful of this national dialogue.

What was developed between the USCCB and BSA is an agreed upon Charter Document for catholic institutions. Attached here is a template form.

As of January 2023, this attached charter document is the only version that must be utilized to charter or recharter at any Archdiocesan parishes or schools.

Parish/schools who are presented with a chartering agreement by a local unit are advised to confirm that it is indeed the attached, current 2023 version before signing any documents. No changes or alterations can be made to this document. And its use eliminates the need to for pastors to seek the review of legal counsel before signing it.

As a reminder, pastors who choose to charter should be prepared to actively engage in the oversight of scout troop activities, and should work to weave the chartering of the unit as a part of the broader youth ministry plans and programs at their parish.

For more information please visit, <https://newarkoym.com/boy-scouts>, or with questions, contact Rich Donovan [richard.donovan@rcan.org; (201) 998-0088 x 4150(office)]

Thank you.