



TO: All Pastors and Administrators

FROM: Larry Boland, Chief Operating Officer

CC: Rich Donovan, Associate Director, Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry

DATE: February 8, 2022

RE: Chartering Boy Scout Units

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In light of certain legal proceedings concerning the Boy Scouts of America, we have carefully considered this year whether and under what circumstances Parishes and schools in the Archdiocese should engage with local councils of the Boy Scouts for scouting-related activities. We want to thank you for cooperation, support, and patience in the last few weeks as we undertook this review.

As a result of our efforts, today I am happy to announce that Parishes and schools may, at the discretion of the pastor, enter into charter agreements with a local council of the Boy Scouts. We want to be clear that the choice to enter into a charter agreement with a local council is with the pastor and, if the pastor chooses to do so, it is the pastor's responsibility to exercise oversight of the Boy Scouts charter organization in his parish. This entails, among other things, that the Boy Scout Unit and all the scouting volunteers in it comply with the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Protocol. We want to reiterate that, if a pastor is unable or unwilling to exercise this oversight of a local scout troop, the Parish should not enter into a charter agreement with the Boy Scouts. Oversight of Boy Scout Units (including Cub Scout Units) must happen at the parish level.

We are re-attaching here the booklet that we circulated last year: **“Catholic Scouting in the Archdiocese of Newark: A Guidebook for Pastors.”** For pastors who choose to charter/ recharter Boy Scout or Cub Scout Units at the parishes, this guidebook offers operational and programmatic guidance, consistent with protocols for other youth ministry programs in the Archdiocese. As indicated in the guidebook, pastors and parishes who choose to charter / recharter are asked to incorporate this guidance. Specifically, pastors should continue to work to weave chartered Boy Scout Units into their broader youth ministry programs at their Parish. As detailed within the guidebook, that involves pastors being actively engaged in the oversight of scout troop activities (both on and off parish property) and the selection of troop leadership, coordinating closely with local councils, and making sure that the requirements for councils under the chartering agreements are being implemented satisfactorily. In addition, the guidebook details how, as noted above, pastors of chartering organizations are to ensure that all adult leaders and adult volunteers of chartered Scout Units meet all the requirements of the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Protocol.

Please note, however, that if a Pastor chooses not to re-charter at this time, he may nevertheless consider leasing parish premises to a Unit, in accordance with Archdiocesan policies and protocol regarding temporary facilities use leases.

We look forward to a continued good experience for all our Catholic Scouting Units here in the Archdiocese. Should you have any further questions on Chartering or the Guidebook you can contact Rich Donovan at [richard.donovan@rcan.org](mailto:richard.donovan@rcan.org) or via his office at 201-998-0088, ext. 4150.