

# Scouting Is Youth Ministry

## The Vision of Youth Ministry and Renewing the Vision

### Facts at a Glance

#### The Boy Scouts of America

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 aims of Scouting are character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness.

#### Catholic Youth Ministry

“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.”

#### Essential goals:

“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; and

“3 Foster the personal and spiritual growth of each young person.”<sup>1</sup>

#### Goals of Catholic Youth Ministry

The goals of Catholic youth ministry match Scouting’s three aims: character development, preparation for responsible citizenship, and physical and mental fitness.

#### Goal 1: Character

The first goal is to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.

Scouting’s values combined with the Gospel values taught by the Catholic Church are the basis for developing youth whose good character is based on the

Gospel. The religious emblems program offers 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 youth to put good Christian leadership into practice.

#### Goal 2: Citizenship

The citizenship goal is to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.

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.

<sup>1</sup>Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry, Office for Publishing and Promotion Services, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1997.





### Goal 3: Physical and Mental Fitness

This goal is to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

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 emblems program, Scout retreats, and the ideals of Scouting contribute to sound spiritual growth.

#### History

From the earliest days of Scouting in the United States, the Catholic Church has found it a useful tool for youth ministry.

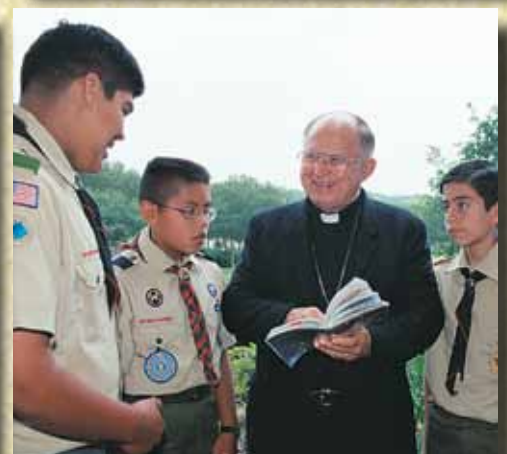
Since its formation in 1934, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting has worked to ensure that Catholic-chartered

Scout units and Catholic Scouts would have appropriate resources to integrate their faith experience with their Scouting experience—A Scout is reverent. A Scout promises to do his duty to God.

While the *Renewing the Vision* document is concerned with adolescent youth, Scouting for youth begins in the first grade and continues until the person turns 21 years old.

A comparison of the BSA Mission Statement with the vision document's definition of youth ministry as well as a comparison of the BSA aims and the three essential goals stated in the vision document will show their compatibility. These facts-at-a-glance pages presume familiarity with *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*.

Scouting in the Catholic Church is a treasure that has been buried, a pearl of great price.





## Renewing the Vision

### Aspects

- Ministerial
- Relational
- Goal-centered
- Multidimensional
- Holistic and developmental
- People-centered and needs-focused

### Themes

- Comprehensive
- Developmentally appropriate
- Family friendly
- Intergenerational
- Multicultural
  
- Communitywide
- Leadership
  
- Flexible, adaptable programming

## Scouting

Specifically for young people  
Relations with families, Scouts, and adult leaders  
A variety of programs to achieve the aims  
Uses all eight components of the vision document  
Well-rounded response to youth needs  
Addresses the individual's needs

Uses resources of local communities  
Grade- and age-specific programs  
Family involvement appropriate for age  
Adults of all ages and youth working together  
Teaches respect for different ethnic and religious views  
Churches and civic community working together  
Adults and youth trained for and exercising leadership  
A variety of programs for different needs

### Meets these characteristics:

- Variety of approaches
- Small group
- Home-based
- One-on-one mentoring
- Independent or self-directed programs
- Variety of schedule options and program settings
- Current technology





## Adult Leadership in Catholic Scouting

- Adults serve as role models and witnesses to the faith in their daily interactions with Scouts.
- Adults are apostles to youth.
- Adults receive extensive Boy Scouts of America training in leadership.
- Adults receive training in youth protection.
- The NCCS Scouter Development program trains adults for the lay apostolate of Scouting.
- The unit committee supervises the program.
- A Scouting coordinator acts as liaison between a parish's Scout programs and the pastor and parish council.
- Adults serve as religious emblems counselors or moderators. They are trained for this service.
- Scouters stay connected with their parishes that charter the Scouting units and are active in the parish's youth ministry.

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## Eight Components of Youth Ministry (Essence of ministry with adolescents)

### Catechesis

Religious emblems program, developmentally and grade-appropriate:

Light of Christ for Tiger Cubs and second-grade Cub Scouts

Parvuli Dei for Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts  
Ad Altare Dei, Light Is Life, for Boy Scouts  
Pope Pius XII for Boy Scouts and Venturers

### Prayer and worship

Scout Sundays. Mass when camping. Mealtime prayers. Prayers at meetings.

### Community life

Dens. Patrols. Crews. Involvement in parish life. Service projects.

### Pastoral care

Caring adult leaders. Youth protection training. Training to reflect on experiences. Learning conflict resolution. Merit badge program. Public recognition for accomplishments.

### Justice and service

Scout Law. Service projects. Eagle service project. "Do a Good Turn Daily." Wearing of uniforms to reduce class distinctions. Religious emblems activities to teach Gospel values of justice and service.

### Leadership development

Training for and experience of leadership. Youth working with youth, earning Pope Pius XII religious emblem. Troop conducting junior leader training. Scout council conducting junior leader training conference to teach leadership skills. Venturers receiving leadership skill training.

### Advocacy

Adults working with Scouts, speaking on their behalf in the parish, Scout districts, councils, and at the national level. Developmentally appropriate youth protection training.

### Evangelization

Religious emblems program. Scout retreats. Pilgrimages. Days of reflection. Scout Sundays. Mass attendance while on weekend trips. Values in the Cub Scout Promise and Law of the Pack, Scout Oath and Scout Law, and Venturing Oath and Code. Adults witnessing faith to youth. Youth witnessing to one another. Outreach to unchurched members of the unit.

## Scouting's Methods and the Eight Components

### Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts

Ideals

Den and neighborhood

Activities

Uniform

Home and family

Achievements

### Boy Scouts

Ideals

Patrol method

Outdoors

Uniform

Adult association

Advancement

Leadership development

Personal growth

### Venturers

Ideals

Group activities

High adventure

Uniform (optional)

Adult association

Recognition

Leadership

Teaching others

### Eight Components

Catechesis, prayer and worship, evangelization

Community life

Community life

Justice and service

Advocacy

Pastoral care, justice and service

Leadership development

Evangelization