

## **THE SALVATION ARMY & THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

### **A. WHAT IS SCOUTING?**

Scouting was conceived first in England in 1907 by Lord Baden-Powell. Service -- "doing things for other people"--was a new note in working with boys, and it has remained one of the distinctive features of Scouting.

The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated in 1910. In 1916, because of its service to the nation, Congress granted it a Federal Charter protecting the uniform, insignia and terms peculiar to Scouting. Practically every religious denomination has, through its national body, endorsed and used the Scout program.

The Boy Scouts of America is not in itself a basic institution like the home, the church or the school. It is a movement with a program for boys, and young adults which institutions and related agencies may use toward achieving their own objectives in the character formation of youth. In keeping with its character as a movement, the Boy Scouts of America does not operate a single Boy Scout Unit. Each unit is operated by the church or community organization and granted a charter from the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America for that purpose.

The spirit of Scouting is latent in the heart of every boy. Scouting helps give direction to the desire of American youth to do worthwhile things and to improve themselves. Through Scouting the individual is helped to value his great American heritage. It points the way to good citizenship through service, not only receiving, but giving something that will, as Abraham Lincoln said, "make the world better because of our little life in it." Add to this the fulfillment of one's duty to God, and you have the way whereby Scouting reaches its goal of helping to develop good character in boys and training them for citizenship in our democracy.

Members of the Boy Scouts of America represent a cross-section of American life. There are young people from large cities, villages, farms, seaport towns and from the western plains. Scouting cuts through sects and creeds, social classes and racial origins to unite the youth of America on the ground of common interests and ideals.

## **B. SCOUTING'S RELIGIOUS FOUNDATION**

The framers of Scouting's constitution wrote:

"The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no boy can grow into the best kind of citizenship without recognizing his obligation to God. In the first part of the Boy Scout's Oath or pledge, the boy promises, 'On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law.'"

Scouting recognizes the importance of religious faith and encourages its members to be faithful to their respective religious duties. It is non-sectarian; it leaves the matter of religious instruction to the member's own religious leaders and family. Membership is open to all youth, as stated in the BSA's charter and bylaws. The program is available to all religious groups

Scouting practices and teaches tolerance and respect for the religious convictions of all persons. Specifically, it provides that, in a unit chartered by a religious group, members of the unit who belong to other faiths shall not be required to take part in or observe religious ceremonies peculiar to the chartered group.

### **C. SCOUTING IN THE SALVATION ARMY'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Scouting is designed to be a component of a Christian Education program. The relationship between the Boy Scouts of America and The Salvation Army corps community center can best be termed cooperative. Scouting collaborates with the corps to offer an appealing, regularly updated program for boys, young men and women, and families. It also provides a wealth of supporting materials, and camping and high adventure facilities.

Scouting can be used as an outreach ministry. For many unchurched boys and their families, Scouting can provide the first experience of stepping inside a place of worship. Scouting provides an easy, positive contact for the corps officer with individual youth and their families. The Scout unit offers an excellent opportunity for family visitation and spiritual ministry.

A Scout unit chartered to The Salvation Army is a program of the corps; therefore the soldiers have a vested interest in the success of the program. Because Scouting is universal in its recognition implementation, and appeal to youth who would not otherwise be attracted to religious organizations, it provides an ideal outreach tool and ministry. The advancement and leadership qualities of Scouting provide excellent discipleship opportunities for Salvation Army soldier and Officership recruitment.

Scouting operates best when the corps leadership thoroughly examines Scouting's basic ideals and incorporates the program into the rest of its youth ministry. It is important that the relationship be understood by soldiers and that Scout leaders be included in overall planning by the Corps Council and Census Boards.

From the moment a boy registers as a Scout he is called upon to exhibit self-reliance and personal motivation. Peer leadership is emphasized and rewarded. The most successful Scout units promote leadership from among the young people involved. A boy is encouraged, advised, and counseled toward self-improvement from the beginning as a Tiger Cub until he reaches the pinnacle of Eagle Scout. Even past this his potential is fostered as he receives the mantle of leadership from his Scouting mentors.

William Booth's ambition for men's souls continues to be realized. Scouting and Baden-Powell's Scoutcraft are means through which those souls will be brought to the elements of faith in God.

#### D. PROGRAMS OF SCOUTING

There is no break in the boy's interest as he passes from Cub Scouting into Boy Scouting and onto Venturing. New activities provide increasing fun, adventure and worthwhile things to do, as he grows older. The boy has opportunities to learn leadership and acquire skills as he advances in maturity.

The corps may provide a long-span program of scouting for its youth members from the age of seven until they reach maturity. Most corps community centers start with a troop, later organizing a pack to provide for the younger boys, who will graduate into the troop and, when there are enough older Scouts, a Venture crew. This is termed "the full Scout family." To integrate the activities of the multiple units, there is a group committee on Scouting composed of the Chartered Organization Representative (who usually serves as the chairman of the group committee), the chairman of each unit committee, the commanding officer, and any others desired.

##### i. Tiger Cubs, BSA

A school-year program for first-grade (or 7-year-old) boys and their adult partners that stresses shared leadership, learning about the community, and family understanding. Each boy-adult team meets for family activities, and twice a month all the teams meet for Tiger Cub den activities.

##### ii. Cub Scouting

A family-and home-centered program that develops ethical decision-making for boys in the second through fifth grades (or who are 8, 9, and 10 years old. Fourth-and fifth-grade or 10-year-old boys are called Webelos Scouts (WE'LL BE Loyal Scouts) and participate in more advanced activities that begin to prepare them to become Boy Scouts, Cub Scouting's emphasis is on quality program at the local level, where boys and families are involved.

Two or more dens make up a pack which meets monthly with all the parents of the Cub Scouts, under the leadership of a Cubmaster, his assistants and a pack committee recruited from the Corps.

##### iii. Boy Scouting

A program for boys 11 through 17 designed to achieve the aims of Scouting through a vigorous outdoor program and peer group leadership with the counsel of an adult Scoutmaster. (Boys also may become Boy Scouts if they have earned the Arrow of Light Award or have completed the fifth grade.)

Two or more patrols make a troop. The Scoutmaster is the troop leader, selected by the troop committee, preferably from the corps membership. These leaders are volunteers and undergo training to make their leadership more effective. Hiking, camping, outdoor cooking, fire building and nature study are offered. The boys are afforded the opportunity to participate with others and to take part in a personal growth program. Recognition is given for the boy's accomplishment as he meets the different Scout requirements.

##### iv. Varsity Scouting

An active, exciting program for young men 14 through 17 built around five program fields of emphasis: advancement, high adventure, personal development, service and special programs and events.

v. Venturing

A program for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years of age to provide positive experiences through exciting and meaningful activities that help youth pursue their special interests, grow, develop leadership skills, and become good citizens.

vi. Volunteers

Thousands of volunteer leaders, both men and women, are involved in the Scouting Program. They serve in a variety of jobs—everything from unit leaders to chairmen of unit committees, Council & District committee members, merit badge counselors, and chartered organization representatives.

## E. UNIT ORGANIZATION

The initiative for organizing a Scout unit may come from The Salvation Army or from the local Scout Council. A conference is arranged by the commanding officer with BSA representatives. All concerned understand the Scout unit is a definite responsibility of The Salvation Army. The corps selects and recruits program leaders, with assistance from the local district and council, and tailors program content to meet its youth ministry and community outreach goals. This supplies a natural outlet for the Scouting program to grow and flourish.

Over-the-years experience has proven the effectiveness of standard organization methods. Each step is important. Short-cutting, it has been found, weakens the end product. Following the standard organization procedure brings the chartered organization into every phase of the work.

The following outline will help corps leadership understand their role in organizing the unit. These are essential steps in the process:

1. The Corps Officer, or his representative, expresses to the Boy Scouts of America the desire to organize a unit.
2. A council Scouter informs the Corps Officer about Scouting, suggesting the selection of a chartered organization representative (if one does not already exist) and a unit committee. The Army appoints these.
3. The Corps formally adopts the Scouting program and confirms the appointment of the Charter Organization Representative, and the unit committee.
4. The Charter Organization Representative and the unit committee are instructed by council Scouters and recommend unit leaders. The unit committee recruits interested parents and others to help with the remaining steps of organization.
5. The Scout Council conducts basic training meetings for parents, unit leaders and interested people from the Corps.
6. The unit committee meets with the Unit leader to establish working relationships and agrees on policies for conducting the unit. Additional persons may be added to the unit committee at this time.
7. Council Scouter and the new unit leaders plan the first six weeks' program.
8. The unit is formed and begins its meetings according to plans developed in step seven.
9. The unit committee with Scout leaders completes the application for unit charter and plans for the installation of the unit. The application is submitted to the local council.
10. The unit is installed with proper ceremony.

**F. UNIT REGISTRATION**

A unit application is completed and signed by the required persons and is then sent along with the Adult and youth applications to the local council service center. When the applications are returned to the local corps two photocopies of the unit Charter Application should be sent to Divisional Headquarters. Upon receipt of one copy at THQ, a certificate will be sent to the Corps.

## **G. THE LOCAL COUNCIL**

A council is a voluntary association of citizens, including representatives of organizations that are chartered by the Boy Scouts of America, to promote the Scouting program within a geographic area. There are four major functions involved in achieving the purposes of a council: membership, finance, program, and unit service. These four functions and all other responsibilities are accomplished in each council in a manner that is consistent with local conditions and circumstances.

Under the authority of its congressional mandate, the Boy Scouts of America issues two kinds of charters in each local council area: One type is issued to a community organization such as a church or religious institution or one of its affiliate groups to use the Scouting program under its own leadership to serve the youth and families for which it has concern and which will help it accomplish its own objectives.

The other type of charter is issued to a local Scouting council: 1.) To provide service to help the chartered organization be continuously successful in its use of the Scouting program and 2.) To extend an invitation to other organizations to use the program -- interpreting how it will help them.

## **H. THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE WORKS**

The Scouting district is a geographical area of the BSA local council. District leaders mobilize resources to ensure the growth and success of scouting units within the district's territory. Like the council all districts are responsible for carrying out four standard functions: membership, finance, and program and unit service.

Members of the district committee carry out the membership, finance, and program functions. The unit service function is carried out by the district commissioner staff.

Commissioner Service devotes itself to helping individual units. Each unit (pack or troop) commissioner is assigned certain units. He or she makes regular visits to them, working mostly with the leaders and committees and advising with them on the operation of the unit and its program. This commissioner is responsible for assisting your units with re-chartering.

## **I. THE CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE**

The first step in organizing a troop should be the appointment of the Charter Partner Representative. This person should be a Salvationist, as they will head up the Scouting program in the corps, and serve on the Corps Council. They will also represent the corps Scouting programs in the local BSA Council and the District Committee.

1. A soldier of the corps in which the Scouting units are registered.
2. A senior local officer with the primary responsibilities to help units achieve success and to provide coordination between the local corps and BSA.
3. A registered member of BSA during the period of time he serves as the Chartered Organization Representative.
4. A voting member of the council and district in which the units are registered.
5. An active participating member of the district's committee.
6. The chair of the corps' Scouting Committee.

## **J. COUNCIL/CHARTERED ORGANIZATION ANNUAL CHARTER AGREEMENT**

The Boy Scouts of America is an educational resource program. It charters community or religious organizations or groups to use Scouting as part of their service to their own members, as well as the community at large.

The BSA local council provides the support service necessary to help the chartered organization succeed in their use of the program. The responsibilities of both the BSA local council and the chartered group are described below.

The chartered organization agrees to:

1. Conduct the Scouting program according to its own policies and guidelines as well as those of the Boy Scouts of America.
2. Include Scouting as part of its overall program for youth and families.
3. Appoint a chartered organization representative who is a member of the organization and will coordinate all unit operations within it. He or she will represent the organization to the Scouting district and serve as a voting member of the local council. (The chartered organization head or chartered organization representative must approve all leader applications before submitting them to the local council.)
4. Select a unit committee of parents and members of the chartered organization (minimum of three) who will screen and select unit leaders who meet the organization's standards as well as the leadership standards of the BSA. (The committee chairman must sign all leadership applications before submitting them to the chartered organization for approval.)
5. Provide adequate facilities for the Scouting unit(s) to meet on a regular schedule with time and place reserved.
6. Encourage the unit to participate in outdoor experiences, which are vital elements of scouting.

The council agrees to:

1. Respect the aims and objectives of the organization and offer the resources of scouting to help in meeting those objectives.
2. Provide year-round training, service, and program resources to the organization and its unit(s).
3. Provide training and support for the chartered organization representative as the primary communication link between the organization and the BSA.
4. Provide techniques and methods for selecting quality unit leaders and then share in the approval process of those leaders. (The Scout executive or designee must approve all leader applications.)
5. Provide primary general liability insurance to cover the chartered organization, its board, officers, chartered organization representative, and employees against all personal liability judgments. This insurance includes attorney's fees and court costs as well as the costs of any judgment brought against the individual or organization. Unit leaders are covered in excess of any personal coverage they might have, or, if

there is not personal coverage, the BSA insurance immediately picks them up on a primary basis.

6. Provide camping facilities, a service center, and a full-time professional staff to assist the organization in every way possible.

## **K. RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS**

### **1. Silver Crest Emblem for Cub Scouts**

The Silver Crest Emblem is a recognition that The Salvation Army gives to Cub Scouts for advancement in religious knowledge and service. Its purpose is to help the Cub Scout become more aware of God's presence in his daily life.

Any boy can work for the Silver Crest Emblem if he is a Salvation Army Junior Soldier and registered with a Cub Scout pack. However, he can receive the emblem only when he has completed a minimum of six months of service as a Cub Scout.

The brochure "The Silver Crest Emblem for Cub Scouts of The Salvation Army" is available at the Territorial Youth Department. This brochure contains all information, including requirements and application for the emblem.

### **2. The General's Award**

Prior to the affiliation of The Salvation Army Life Saving Scouts with their respective Boy Scout Associations throughout the world, there was in existence a special award known as the General's Scout Award. Following consultations with the Boy Scouts' International Bureau, it was decided to reintroduce the award as a means of strengthening international Salvation Army and Scouting links.

In 1994 it was decided to replace The General's Scout and the General's Guide/Guard Awards that had been in existence for many years. The new award was designed so that it could encompass the new youth organizations which had sprung up around the Army world such as Salvation Army Boys Adventure Corps in the United Kingdom, Legionnaires in Australia and Porteurs de Flambeau in France and Belgium, to mention but a few.

The brochure "The Salvation Army General's Award" is available at the Territorial Youth Department. This brochure contains all information, including requirements and application for the emblem.

The Scout or Venturer qualifying for this award receives a citation signed by the international leader of The Salvation Army and is entitled to wear the designated emblem on his Scout shirt, over the left pocket.

### **3. Scouter's Award**

This award is given in recognition of Salvationists who have given noteworthy service or exceptional character to the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of boyhood, through or in the Scouting program of The Salvation Army. One award may be presented annually in each territory, plus one for each 50 registered units.

The statement of purpose, requirements and official recommendation form can be found in the brochure entitled "Scouter's Award" available from the Territorial Youth Department.