





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL

June 21, 2021

To: Reverend Monsignor/Father [Pastors and Administrators] & Scouting Leaders

From: Tim McCandless, Scout Executive, Narragansett Council 
Louise 'Duce' Dussault, Director Catholic Youth Ministry, Diocese of Providence 

Re: Suggested Guidelines for the use of BSA programs by parishes of the Diocese

The Catholic Youth Organization of the Diocese of Providence ("Youth Ministry") and the Narragansett Council (the "Council") would like to communicate our shared commitment to the formation of strong faith, character, citizenship, and leadership in youth in Rhode Island.

Youth Ministry and the Council share the goal of protecting and ensuring that children and young people have access to safe and value-infused opportunities that are in keeping with the tenets of the Catholic faith. Because of this shared desire, Youth Ministry supports the use of the Boy Scouts of America ("BSA") programs as a worthwhile form of youth ministry with Catholic youth and the youth of our communities.

Together, Youth Ministry and the Council seek to sustain the relationship between our organizations and to work cooperatively in ways that instill in young people the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

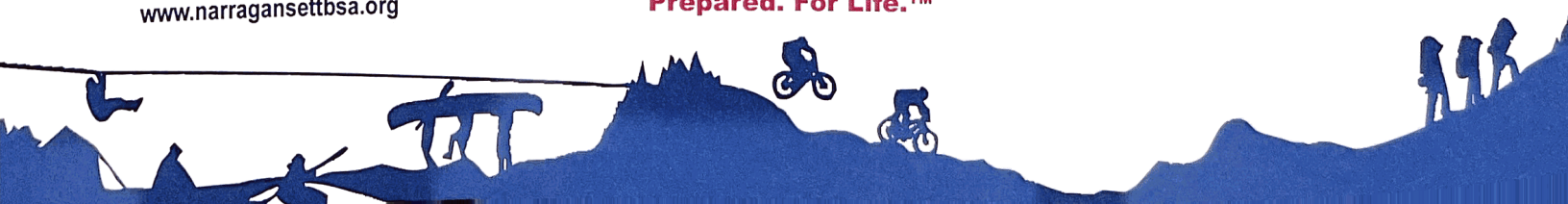
As noted in the Youth Ministry's letter dated March 15, 2021, parishes will no longer serve as the "Charter Organization" for units. Instead, the Council or other community groups will charter the units. However, we encourage parishes to continue to support Scouting, to make their facilities available at no cost to Scout units, and to promote the Scouting program to Catholic families. Parishes can host a Cub Scout Pack, Scouts BSA Troop (boy and/or girl troop), Venture Crew and/or Sea Scout Ship.

Under this new arrangement, parishes will no longer have the role or responsibility to review and approve leaders or annual charter and will no longer supervise unit programs, operations, finances or equipment. The Council will supervise the unit operations and leaders, the parishes will provide support through facilities, promotion, and, as appropriate, joint programs.

Most parish-chartered units are chartered through December 31, 2021. This fall, the Council will work with those units to move their charter to the Council effective January 1, 2022. The Council is working with the parishes that have expired unit charters to move those charters from the parishes to the Council.

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Under this new arrangement:

1. Scout units will be chartered to the Narragansett Council beginning on January 1, 2022, not by the parishes. A few units have already made this change, most units will make this change in the fall when their charters come up for renewal.
2. At the discretion of each individual parish, Scout units have permission to use parish grounds and facilities for activities at no cost if they sign and follow the Facility Use Agreement and provide an insurance certificate certifying coverage. The Facility Use Agreement should be reviewed and signed annually. Parishes are encouraged to continue to provide reasonable space for a unit to store program equipment and materials and, if possible, space to park a trailer. The unit, under supervision of the Council, is responsible for title, licensing, and insurance of a trailer (if applicable).
3. Scout units will be expected to use parish facilities and grounds with care, to follow the terms of the Facility Use Agreement, to be respectful of parish activities and schedules, and to conduct at least one service project annually for, or in partnership with the parish.
4. Parishes are asked to select/recommend a parishioner to serve as the "Scouting Liaison" to provide communication and coordination between the parish and the Scout leaders. This person should become a registered committee member of the Scout unit(s). See attached description of the Scouting Liaison role.
5. Every adult who is on parish/diocesan property who has regular contact with youth including all Scout adult leaders must be in compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth. That means attending a "Safe Environment Training" and having a BCI Check completed through parish submission. Parishes will provide the Safe Environment Training and BCI Checks.
6. In order to promote and facilitate a Scout's fulfilling their oath to do their "duty to God" and to be "Reverent", parishes are encouraged to facilitate Scout participation in a "Scout Sunday" Mass during the month of February (Scouting anniversary month), encourage units to attend mass at summer camp and at weekend activities, invite Scouting families to attend Mass and participate in parish activities, invite the unit(s) to help with parish activities, and provide mentors to Scouts working on their religious awards.
7. Youth Ministry continues to provide the Catholic Committee on Scouting (the "Committee") which exists to utilize and ensure the constructive use of the Catholic Religious Recognition programs of the BSA and the National Catholic Committee on Scouting in our Diocese. The Committee will continue to promote the Catholic religious awards program for both youth and adults in the BSA and to recognize those youth and adults at our annual awards celebration.
8. Youth Ministry will continue supporting a Scout Chaplain to help facilitate strong programming and relationships with between the Youth Ministry and the Council. It will continue to support the Catholic Chaplaincy program at Yawgoog Scout Reservation each summer. Priests are invited and welcome to assist with daily Mass at Camp Yawgoog during the summers.
9. The Council will conduct background checks on all leader applicants, require the BSA's comprehensive Youth Protection Training fall all adults every 2 years, provide program training for all leaders, provide year-round activities for the Scouts and leaders, provide quality day camp and summer camp programs for our youth.

10. Each unit will have a volunteer parent committee with a council-representative on it. A "Scouting Liaison" from the parish is encouraged. The committee will coordinate the Scouting activities under the supervision of the Council. Units are responsible for their own finances and will have their own checking account under the supervision of the Council.
11. Unit Supervision: The Council will review leader applicants, conduct its own background checks and approve leaders. In addition, the Council will supervise leaders and unit operations.

There are many resources available to support strong Scouting programs that strengthen the faith of our youth and families provided by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting: www.nccs-bsa.org.

Questions regarding this memo can be directed those who have signed this letter and,

- Fr. Steven Battey, Chaplain Catholic Scouting
- Diane Cloutier, Narragansett Council Safe Scouting & Relationships Director
- Your district executive from the Narragansett Council

Role of the Parish "Scouting Liaison"

Parish priests are asked to select/recommend a Scouting Liaison.

The Liaison:

- Serves as a member of the unit committee(s) and is a registered member of the unit(s)
- Serves as a liaison between the parish and the unit(s)
- Coordinates use of parish facilities by Scouting, ensures the Facility Use Agreement is being followed
- Ensures that all Scout leaders have completed the Safe Environment Training
- Coordinates the promotion of Scouting programs for parish families through newsletters, flyers, social media, etc.
- Suggests and coordinates an annual unit service project or "Good Turn" for your parish
- Informs Scout families about parish news and activities
- Keeps parish leaders informed of Scouting programs and accomplishments
- As part of "A Scout is Reverent", coordinates unit involvement in an annual Scout Sunday (usually the 1st Sunday in February)
- Helps coordinate the religious awards program for Scouts who wish to complete those awards