



National Catholic Committee on Scouting

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November 11, 2013

My fellow Catholic Scouters,

The time has come for the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) to report back to you as promised from last May. In that time, we have done the following:

- Collected questions and concerns from our Facebook page and emails sent to us
- Sought responses to questions and concerns about intent and meaning of the youth membership standard of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA)
- Sought responses to questions and concerns about applicable Catholic teaching
- Shared activity with, and responded to questions from, US bishops
- Been affirmed in our conclusions about the acceptability of BSA's youth membership standard

This work has resulted in the attached set of Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQs). These constitute our "guidelines". They have been reviewed by BSA, the NCCS Executive Committee, and Bishop Robert Guglielmone, the NCCS Episcopal Liaison from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The FAQs are posted, along with links to statements from bishops and the BSA FAQs, on our website (www.nccs-bsa.org). This letter is also being sent to every Catholic-chartered unit leader, committee chairperson, and executive head.

We expect that you may have additional questions and concerns that arise regarding the BSA membership standards, especially as time goes on. You may direct these to our Facebook page or our Program Assistant (nccs@scouting.org) and we will respond appropriately.

Our recommendations to you are the same as before: seek understanding of the membership standard and how Catholic teaching applies, and pray for wisdom. In addition, we ask that you continue to pursue the goals of diocesan Catholic committees on Scouting, which include new unit formation, increasing participation in the religious emblem and religious activity programs, provide for adult and unit recognition, and insure your leaders are trained. Our ability to influence Scouting's future and that of our youth may be determined by our ability to achieve these goals.

If you are like us, you joined Scouting to make a difference in the lives of others. Our youth don't want to leave Scouting. Scouting is still the best program around. Catholic Scouters like you are still very much needed. Let's continue this important journey together! Thank you for all you do to promote Scouting as Catholic youth ministry!

Yours in Catholic Scouting,

Edward P. Martin
National Chairman (2013-2016)

Fr. Michael Hanifin
National Chaplain (2013-2016)