The annual meeting of the National Catholic Committee (NCCS) was held April 21-25, 2009 in Galveston, Texas. Nearly 130 lay and priest Scouters from across the country were in attendance. During the week the various standing committees, the Executive Committee, the Executive Board, and the Advisory Board all held meetings to discuss a variety of issues and topics related to Catholic Scouting.

During the sessions the Board set the dates for next year’s biennial meeting in Richmond, Va. for April 13-17. The board also set the date for the 2011 meeting for April 26-29. After lengthy discussions the date was moved to Easter week because of the later date for Easter. The discussions focused on consolidating the annual board meetings and the biennial conference from five to four days and not meeting on Sundays. No formal decisions were made on the final format, but the suggestions were for meetings from Tuesday through Friday (with a possible extra day for training for local participants), and for a Wednesday through Saturday schedule. The primary objective was to finish early enough for the priests to be back to their home parishes by the weekend to meet their parish responsibilities.

The board approved renewing the contract with Blue Grass Business to process and ship NCCS material and modified it to include adding the International awards. Additionally this contract was written to add NCCS logo shirts at some point.

The Finance Committee recommended, and the Executive Board approved, a scholarship fund that will be separate from the already established Doerr Scholarship program. The new scholarship program will have its own criteria, which will be developed in the near future.

The Board also approved an increase in the dues payment to the International Catholic Conference on Scouting (ICCS) from $2,000 to $4,000, the first increase in more than 10 years.

The National Chairman and Chaplain were named as the primary coordinators for all NCCS activities related to the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America in 2010. Further information concerning their discussions and decisions will be provided as available.

In a new venture, the Board approved, for the first time, expenditures of $15,000 for the next three years to provide for print advertising in the Catechist magazine. (See separate story on page 2).

There was general agreement on a proposal to lengthen the term of the chair-elect to a three-year term, as opposed to the current one-year term. The purpose for this change would be to allow for a more orderly transition and more time to prepare for the chairmanship. The organization’s bylaws require this to be voted on by the general membership, so the proposal will be presented at next year’s biennial meeting. If passed, the nomination and election for the Chair-elect would be held in the fall/winter of 2010.

It was announced that Father Don Hummel is now the Americas Region Chaplain for ICCS, replacing Father Leo LeBlanc, who was named as World Chaplain, replacing Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone. Other personnel changes announced were: Rick Lanahan to be Chairman of the Marketing and Public Relations committee, Father Chris Ba Zar to be the Chairman of the Activities committee, Chris Manning, new Advisor to the Activities committee, Jim Cordek and Father Shaun Tunink as the new Membership Committee Chairman and Advisor, respectively. These changes are effective immediately.
The NCCS will soon begin advertising in *Catechist* magazine. Following approval by the NCCS Executive Board in April, committee members of the Marketing and Public Relations, Membership, and Training committees will be teaming up on the campaign to produce unique ads to be placed in the magazine, on *Catechist* and NCCS websites, and in *Catechist* email blasts.

*Catechist* magazine is written for catechists in parish religious education programs and for teachers of religion in Catholic schools and is a tool that supports classroom preparation and presentation. Articles often contain craft ideas, patterns, and prayer services.

The ads will run to bring awareness of NCCS programs as a resource to catechists in parish religious education programs and for teachers of religion in Catholic schools and is a tool that supports classroom preparation and presentation. Articles often contain craft ideas, patterns, and prayer services.

The ads will run to bring awareness of NCCS programs as a resource to catechists, which the committee hopes will lead to the use of these various programs of the NCCS, increased patch sales, and a general awareness of Catholic Scouting to Pastors and directors and teachers in religious education programs.

*Catechist* is issued seven times throughout the learning year: September, October, November/December, January, February, March, and April/May. Much of each issue aligns with the liturgical year. No firm dates have been finalized for the advertisements to begin running, but watch the NCCS website and the EBridge for final details.

**NCCS deacon stole now available for sale**

NCCS announces a new addition to its items available for purchase. An NCCS deacon’s stole is now available with ordering information available on the NCCS website at: [http://www.nccs-bsa.org/national/ItemsForSale.php](http://www.nccs-bsa.org/national/ItemsForSale.php) The cost is $125.00 plus shipping.

Visit the NCCS website for the latest in program highlights and the latest information on NCCS activities.

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**Chairman’s Message From William Davies**

Kay and I recently returned from the National Boy Scouts of America annual meeting. What an exciting meeting. It was there they announced that the Boy Scouts have now presented their two millionth Eagle Scout award, just 27 years after they awarded the first millionth award.

The next few months will be an exciting time for Scouting. We are now preparing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Scouting in the United States. I have asked all NCCS committees to recommend ideas and possible events that the NCCS can use to help celebrate this momentous occasion. Yes, we are planning a 100th year patch!

Also at the annual meeting, the BSA strategic plan for the next century was presented. The BSA conducted a survey and used those results, plus public input, to draw up their plan. Their process was very similar to how we developed our own NCCS plan. I have asked our chairman elect Col (Ret) John Halloran to review the SMI recommendations, along with the input from the Louisville biennial, and to present the NCCS strategic plan at our biennial meeting in Richmond, Va. next spring.

As I travel and visit Scouting unit leaders, the startling fact is that these unit leaders are not aware of the NCCS and all the programs available. The reference manual is being distributed at Philmont, but there is still a void. As a start, the Executive Board has approved a marketing and advertising plan. Money has been allocated to promote Catholic Scouting in the *Catechist* magazine. This magazine is distributed to parishes throughout the United States. I have asked Rick Lanahan, our Marketing and Public Relations Committee chairman, to lead this marketing plan. Watch for advertisements this fall.

In addition, participants at the Louisville Biennial meeting emphasized the need to rebuild the NCCS website. Rick is working with our webmaster, Tony Madonia, to roll out the redesigned website in July 2009. Yes, we even plan to have a presence on Facebook.

Next stop for Kay and me is Philmont Scout Ranch for the Scouting in the Catholic Church course. I hope to see many of you there.

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**NCCS CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 21—27</td>
<td>Scouting in the Catholic Church Training</td>
<td>Philmont Scout Ranch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 20—August 5</td>
<td>St. George Trek</td>
<td>Philmont Scout Ranch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13—17</td>
<td>NCCS Biennial Meeting</td>
<td>Richmond, Virginia</td>
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</tbody>
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*The Bridge* is an authorized publication of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS).

It is published quarterly to provide news and information to members of the NCCS, Diocesan Catholic committees, youth ministry personnel and Boy Scout councils.

- NCCS Chairman: William Davies
- NCCS Chaplain: Rev. Raymond Fecteau
- Chairman, Marketing and Public Relations: Rick Lanahan
- Advisor, Marketing and Public Relations: Rev. Donald Hummel
- Editor: Mike Gannon
- NCCS Webmaster: Tony Madonia

To submit items for future editions of *The Bridge* please contact Mike Gannon at scouttrain@aol.com. Photos are acceptable and should be in a jpeg format. Please ensure all people in photos are identified and the subject matter is fully described. To submit items for the eBridge please send all information to nccsnews@nccs-bsa.info.
Did You Know . . .?
by Bob Oldowski

Woodbadgers will appreciate that the original Catholic chapel at Gilwell has an interesting story. In a book entitled *Gilwell Tours*, published by the Gilwell Archives, which chronicles a history of Gilwell Camp in England, Ted Gathercole writes:

"One Thursday morning in the autumn of 1947, I was summoned by the then Camp Chief, John Thurman, who informed me that we were expecting a party of Irish Catholic Scouts and he thought it was about time we set aside an area and build a chapel for those of the Catholic faith.

When are they arriving, I politely inquired.

"Sunday he said! So it was that I spent Thursday night choosing the site and designing the building and we started clearing and building the following day. The service team, supported by members of the Jewish Scout working party, worked through both nights, but the building was finally finished by 10:30 on Sunday morning and Mass was said at 11:00."

Thirteen Jerusalem Crosses presented to dedicated Scouters who have completed their mission projects

The opportunity to earn the Jerusalem Cross by completing a mission project has been offered to participants at the "Scouting in the Catholic Church" conference since 2004. Prior to the NCCS Biennial Conference in Galveston, 36 Jerusalem Crosses had been awarded. Thirteen of the Jerusalem Crosses are worn by those who have served as faculty from 2004 to present, the remaining 23 by participants in the Philmont course. Thirteen Jerusalem Crosses were presented at the NCCS Meetings in Galveston in 2009. Below is a list of those who were awarded their Jerusalem Cross in Galveston at the NCCS Executive Board meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>PTC Class</th>
<th>Diocese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. Bernard Denker</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Okla.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Swader</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Diocese of Austin, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irene Bigot</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Archdiocese of Denver, Colo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Cole</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin G.M. Feril</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Diocese of Wilmington, Del.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck Flagg</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Diocese of Peoria, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Flagg</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Diocese of Peoria, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Ann Herlihy</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Diocese of San Diego, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rita Levine</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Archdiocese of Denver, Colo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas J. Moore</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah K. Perkins</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David A. Cruz</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Diocese of Fresno, Calif.</td>
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</tbody>
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Information on the “Scouting in the Catholic Church” course and requirements for the Jerusalem Cross Mission Project can be found on the NCCS Website: www.nccs-bsa.org. For further information please contact the Training Committee Chairman Margaret Matarese, at jimquail@aol.com.
California Scouts assist in Easter sunrise service and Serra Cross rededication on historic Mount Rubidoux

Nearly 200 worshipers joined in this year’s $100^{th}$ anniversary Easter Sunday inter-faith sunrise service on Mount Rubidoux in the city of Riverside, Calif. Mount Rubidoux extends from 559 feet at its base to an elevation of 1339 feet above sea level.

On the day before Easter, Scouts from the California Inland Empire Council, Mt. Rubidoux District, led by the members of the Order of the Arrow’s Wanakik Chapter, groomed the mountain’s many dirt trails. At 3:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday morning Scouts arrived and spread out along the trails, turned on their flashlights and greeted pilgrims – as they have since 1917. Individuals, families and pets walked to the top in time join in the sunrise service, as many of them have for generations.

This year’s service was concluded by the rededication of the Serra Cross at the top of the mountain, by Auxiliary Bishop Rubilio del Riego of the Diocese of San Bernardino. The first cross was erected in 1907 and dedicated to Fray Junipero Serra, founder of the California Missions. Bishop del Riego was a Boy Scout in Spain when Scouting was an underground movement during the regime of Francisco Franco. He invited Scouts from Troop 116 of Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, in Riverside to participate in the rededication ceremony.

Scouts and Scouters from Holy Family Parish in Hicksville, N.Y. gathered on April 23, to celebrate Mass on Saint George Day. Saint George is the $4^{th}$ century military commander who was martyred during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian and is now the patron saint of the Scouting movement. Venture Scout Christopher Rypl read the scripture during the Mass, which was celebrated by Father Henry Reid, Pastor of Holy Family.

Scouts in Hicksville New York join in celebration of Mass on St. George Day in April
**NCCS Finance Report**  
By Edward P. Martin, Vice Chair-Finance

The Finance Committee wants all NCCS members to know where the organization’s funding comes from and what it is spent on. The two pie charts (below) have been prepared to explain the answers.

The NCCS derives most of its revenues (66% in 2008) from royalties on sales of religious emblems and books and sales of religious activity patches. In 2008, that amount was more than $260,000. Contributions to the annual appeal, the Golden Ad Altare Dei, Spes Mundi, St. George Trek and Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scholarship programs and the Philmont Mass collections comprise the next largest source of funds at 18%.

Fees comprise 15% of the income, which includes the annual and life memberships, St. George trek fees and registrations for our annual meetings. BSA maintains these funds for us and pays us interest on the balance.

The NCCS uses 72% of its funds to support various programs, such as chaplaincy support at Philmont Scout Ranch and Jamborees, printing of *The Bridge*, materials for the Scouting in the Catholic Church course, subsidizing the cost of our annual meetings, academic and St. George Trek scholarships, printing of religious emblem books and religious activity patches.

Our clergy members of the Executive Board are reimbursed for their travel expenses. Funds are also budgeted for activities of the Standing Committees, however in the past year, only the Conference Committee incurred any costs related to their program. Administrative costs comprise those that come from the support we receive from the BSA headquarters, including postage, copying, and expenses of the administrative secretary.

The special category includes the expenses of the National Chairman and one-time and/or substantial costs not budgeted elsewhere. An example of this is the cost of the strategic planning effort that we contracted with the School & Main company during the past two years.

You will be able to find more financial information, in the NCCS 2008 Annual Report when it is posted to the NCCS website in the near future.
NCCS working to improve and expand communications programs in order to reach broader audiences with messages on Catholic Scouting programs and activities

By Rick Lanahan
Marketing/Public Relations Chairman

If you ask anyone who knows about the NCCS what they think about the organization, they will talk about all the great programs, activities, events that we support and all the wonderful volunteers that keep it strong. However, if you ask many of the Scout leaders, parents and other Scouters the same question, they say "What is NCCS?" Well, actually this is a good dilemma. The people that know about us...love us for what we do for scouting and youth ministry. We just need to reach out to those that haven't heard about us yet.

There are several ways to accomplish this.

Today we communicate to a limited number of people via The Bridge (mainly because they are paying members of NCCS) and email distribution lists. We also have a solid presence on the internet with our NCCS website. As we move forward, we need to find new and more creative ways to get our message out. In the September issue of the Catechist magazine, we will start to advertise about our youth ministry (see story on page 2).

We will follow this up with an upgrade to our NCCS website that will include allowing visitors to opt into our email distribution list. The next logical step is to put the email distribution list to good use. So, starting in July, you will start to receive email communications promoting key events, emblems, activities and programs.

These communications will focus on promoting one topic per email, so people can store them off and easily reference them at a later date. But this isn't enough and we still need to reach those who don't necessarily want to opt in for NCCS email communications. To help accomplish this, we have established a networking site in Facebook where people can network with us. This is another great communication tool that we will be developing more in the coming months. To join our NCCS Facebook site, sign up on Facebook and link to us. The Facebook link is www.facebook.com. Once you join Facebook, search for "National Catholic Committee on Scouting", then click on the Join Group button.

We will use all of these tools (and several others) to improve communications. However, we need your help. If you receive a communication from us, please forward it to everyone you know who can benefit from that communication. This includes clergy in your parish, youth ministers, Scout leaders, parents, youth, home schooling organizations, girl scouts units, etc. Encourage your contacts to join our email distribution and Facebook site. In the body of each communication, we will display a link for people to opt in/out of our email distribution (as well as information about joining our Facebook site). I know with your help that we can at least double the number of people that we communicate to on a regular basis.

Conference planners set dates for 2010 and 2011 annual meetings

By Susan Barriball
Conference Committee Chair

Thanks to all the participants who made our 2009 annual meetings in this 75th NCCS anniversary year at the Hilton Galveston Island Resort so successful! We know that you, like us, stand in awe at the wonderful and generous support rendered by the local host committee of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston! Mark your calendars now for our next meeting! During BSA’s 100th anniversary year, our 41st NCCS Biennial Conference will be at the Omni Richmond Hotel in historic downtown Richmond, Va. from April 13-17, 2010.

Another important date to mark your calendars is our 2011 annual meetings (standing committees, advisory board, and executive board). While the site and exact dates haven’t been determined yet, the week in 2011 has been finalized as the first week after Easter (April 26-30). Efforts are progressing to incorporate recommendations stemming from the results of the School & Main Institute’s survey of our membership as it concerns our conference and meeting planning. These recommendations include economic considerations, geographical venue, and a compressed conference business schedule, to make participation by our membership as attractive, affordable and convenient as possible.
The NCCS and the Emmett J. Doerr family are pleased to announce the five recipients of the 2009 Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to Catholic young people who have attained the Eagle Scout award or the Silver Award in Venturing. This year was a banner year for applicants with more than 140 young people competing for the scholarships. The candidates are evaluated on a variety of levels. These include their Scouting background, community service outside of Scouting, Church service and leadership roles, scholastic achievement and leadership during their school years. The recipients are:

Kenneth T. Jenkins Jr., 18, of Old Forge, Penn. Kenneth is an Eagle Scout, who earned his Ad Altare Dei and has served in a variety of leadership positions during his Scouting career. He also has participated in various youth related and outreach programs at St. Ann Basilica Parish. These include the parish food pantry and the annual “Souper Bowl” event for needy families, held on Super Bowl Sunday. During his high school years, he has participated in a wide range of activities. These include Math, Chemistry and Computer clubs. He also served as his Junior Class Treasurer. In sports, he was on both the golf and tennis teams. He has been accepted into NASA’s Inspire Program and will be attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in the fall of 2009.

Michael R. Kubancsek, 18, of Greenwood, Ind. Michael is an Eagle Scout, who earned his Ad Altare Dei medal and has served in positions ranging from Den Chief to President of his Venturing Crew. He also served as a Chaplain’s Aide at the 2005 National Jamboree. As a member of Our Lady of Greenwood parish, he serves as a master of ceremonies at Sunday Mass, a co-catechist for the fourth grade and as the liturgical coordinator of first reconciliation. Additionally, he is the youth representative on the Parish Pastoral Council and associate chairperson for the Archdiocesan Youth Council. He has maintained a 3.8 GPA throughout his high school years and is a member of the French National Honors Society. Michael will be attending Marian College in the fall of 2009 and is planning to enter the seminary.

Christopher A. O’Connell, 18, of Roswell, Ga. Christopher is an Eagle Scout who earned his Pope Pius XII medal and is currently a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. He had previously held positions from Bugler to Senior Patrol Leader. He has served on summer camp staff and is a BSA certified Lifeguard. As a member of Saint Peter Chanel parish, he has served as an usher, Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister, second grade religious education teacher and as co-organizer of the annual parish blood drive. Christopher has served as an officer of the high school student government for all four years, including two years as class president. He was a member of the rowing team and his team was US Southeastern champions for 2006 – 2008. He has maintained a 98.7 average during his high school years and is a member of the National Honor Society and the Mu Alpha Theta Society for Mathematics. He has been accepted to Dartmouth for the fall of 2009.

Francisco Vigil, 18, of Alcalde, N.M. Francisco is an Eagle Scout, earned the Ad Altare Dei medal, and has served in positions ranging from Assistant Patrol Leader, up to Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. He also served as a crew chief at Philmont Scout Ranch. At St. John the Baptist parish, Francisco has served as a lector and as an altar server. In high school, Francisco was involved in a varied group with a focus on science and computers. He was the school representative at the International Science Fair in Atlanta, Georgia. He was also the President of the student senate 2008. In sports, Francisco excelled in football and was the Scout Team MVP in 2005. He has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout his high school career and is a member of the National Honor Society. He will be attending the New Mexico State University, Las Cruces in the fall.

Daniel M. Welch, 17, of Falls Church, Va. Daniel is an Eagle Scout, earned the Ad Altare Dei and has served as a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. He was also a member of the Papal Honor Guard for Pope Benedict’s White House Visit in 2008. He has participated in two treks at Philmont and was elected crew chief in 2006. In his home parish, St. James, he is heavily involved in the social outreach program. He has a long history of service with the monthly food delivery program to help the needy. In High school, Daniel is involved in the annual “Superdance” which is a twelve hour dance-a-thon to raise money for cystic fibrosis research. He has participated with the cross country team and was elected captain in 2008. He has maintained a 4.0 GPA during his entire high school career and has been accepted to both the University of Notre Dame and Boston College.
106 Dioceses recognized with 2008 Quality Diocese Award

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<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>ARCHDIOCESE/DIOCESE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Boston, Bridgeport, Burlington, Hartford, Manchester, Norwich, Portland, Providence, Springfield, Worcester, Fall River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Albany, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Mayaguez, New York, Ogdensburg, Rochester, Rockville Centre, San Juan, Syracuse</td>
</tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Altoona-Johnstown, Camden, Erie, Greensburg, Harrisburg, Metuchen, Newark, Paterson, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Trenton</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Arlington, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Wilmington</td>
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<td>Baton Rouge, Biloxi, Birmingham, Covington, Houma-Thibodaux, Jackson, Knoxville, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Lexington, Louisville, Memphis, Mobile, Nashville, New Orleans, Owensboro, Shreveport</td>
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<td>Cleveland, Columbus, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Youngstown</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Evansville, Green Bay, Madison, Milwaukee, Peoria, Superior</td>
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<td>Jefferson City, Saint Louis, Sioux City, Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Kansas City-Saint Joseph, Wichita</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Colorado Springs, Phoenix, Pueblo, Salt Lake City, Santa Fe, Tucson</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Atlanta, Charleston, Miami, Raleigh, St. Augustine, St. Petersburg, Venice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Eastern Rite Programs are not involved in this award program</td>
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