Quality Diocese Award program to be available on line

Since its inception, the Quality Diocese Award (QDA) has been an effective tool for (arch) diocesan and eparchial Catholic Committees on Scouting to plan, assess and evaluate the effectiveness of activities and programs. During 2017, the NCCS engaged in a trial program that allowed 115 local Catholic Committees to submit their QDA applications electronically during an expanded submission period that went from November 2017 to March 2018.

As a result of this overall success, the QDA program will now be managed electronically for calendar year 2018. To facilitate this process, the 2018 QDA application for Diocese and Eparchies has been posted on the National Catholic Committee on Scouting website. For these committees, the PDF form can be found at http://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/awards/quality-diocese-award

The goal is for early release of the 2018 QDA form which will allow (arch) dioceses and eparchies to get an early start on evaluating, noting achievements, as well as finalizing activity planning for the remainder of 2018. The link to submit the 2018 QDA application will go live on Monday, November 12, 2018 with a deadline set for March 15, 2019. The option to submit a paper application is available for those who have e-mail and internet connection challenges. The 2018 QDA theme is NCCS’s Scouting in the Catholic Church (SICC) program hosted at the Philmont Training Center, Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. It’s fitting to recognize the enormous contributions of the SICC conference as all participants have utilized presented information and knowledge to enhance their local Catholic Committee on Scouting’s activities and programs. These efforts in turn translate in promoting quality programs and for (arch) dioceses and eparchies to earn the Quality Diocese Award.

E-learning training to start in Spring 2019

NCCS will be launching Catholic COR e-Learning in the Spring of 2019. In order to remain timely and relevant to those seeking information on how to conduct Catholic Scouting, the NCCS Training Committee is paralleling the efforts made by the BSA’s e-learning platform. Our seminal effort in this arena is the development of a supplemental e-Learning program for the BSA’s Chartered Organization Representative (COR) position. The training will be approximately 45 minutes in length and will cover the following topics in four modules: Chartering to a Catholic Institution, Reaching youth through Catholic Scouting, Your role as a COR, and Catholic Scouting under BSA Standards. NCCS will host the e-learning training on its website, so look for updates after the April 2019 NCCS Business meeting for a release date. If you have any questions please contact Training Chair Mark Kramer at dccoscf.kramer@gmail.com.
The Conference Committee has announced the 2019 NCCS Annual meeting will be in Tulsa, Okla., hosted by the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of Tulsa. The meeting dates are from April 25 to April 28 and will be at the Wyndham Tulsa Hotel on East 41st Street.

The rate has been set at $89 per night, which will be good for three nights prior and three nights after the official meeting dates. This rate includes complimentary hot full-breakfast buffet for all hotel guests. Free airport shuttle is available from the Tulsa International Airport. The airport is served by seven airlines: Allegiant, American, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, United and VIA.

Additional information will be available on the NCCS website [http://www.nccs-bsa.org/](http://www.nccs-bsa.org/).
NCCS online trading post designed to support successful Catholic Scouting

Did you know that the NCCS has an online catalog of the items you need to run a successful Catholic program at your unit, council or diocesan level? Do you need emblems, patches, literature on the various aspects of the NCCS program, or even NCCS stoles for priests and deacons?

By going to the NCCS online trading post at http://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/order-forms-and-literature you can find all these items.

**Emblem Order form:** This is the form used to order the Scout Religious Emblems (Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei, Pope Pius XII and Light is Life), and the Adult Bronze Pelican and St. George Emblems.

**NCCS Literature:** This online form is used to order printed items that the NCCS sells. This includes Light is Life (Youth), Light is Life (Counselor), Religious Emblems for Catholics brochure, Eagle Scout Certificates, A Scout is Reverent pocket book, Catholic Scout Reference pocket book, and Chaplain Resources for various related religious events.

**Patch Order:** This online form is used to order patches for the Rosary Series, Marian Series, Footsteps of American Saints, International Awareness, Quality Unit Award (Pope Paul VI), Duty to God, NCCS Pocket, NCCS Jacket, and the NCCS Decal.

**Applications:** Online applications for NCCS membership, Quality Unit Award and the Quality Diocese Committee Award application.

**Nominations:** St. George emblem, NCCS (Executive Committee) nomination form


**National Catholic Leadership Development Literature:** To include the staff guide and participant certificates.

**New Unit/Membership Development Literature:** Membership Initiative Guidebook, Scouting is Youth Ministry flyer, Organizing new units in Catholic parishes and Scouting in the Catholic Church (BSA Fact Sheet).

**Catholic Committee on Scouting (CCS) Literature:** Financing the CCS, Goals and Objectives, Checklist for CCS, Organizing the CCS, Job Descriptions (for Chairman, Chaplain, Training, Religious Emblems, Religious Activities, Membership, Communications, Chartered Organizational Representative, and Vocations), History of NCCS.

**Vocational Literature:** Vocational Workshop for Adults, Vocational promotion thorough Youth Ministry, Field Trip to Seminary.

**Chaplaincy Literature:** This resource gives you the material needed to organize an orientation workshop for Scout Chaplains.

Do you want to find some NCCS treasures? For example, if you’d like to have Quality Unit Patches from previous years they are available for purchase. There are also St. George 25th Anniversary Belt Buckles and Patches still in stock for purchase. Also, the odds and end box is crammed with small lots of previous issues and discontinued products for your collection or display needs. First year Rosary Patches can be purchased as well.

You can email John Ribar at johnribar@iglou.com for specific “treasure” product requests and pricing. Once you have that information he will order from Elizabeth Olivas at the NCCS office. All the other current items are available at the online site above.
Congratulations to all the Catholic Religious Award recipients of Hawk Mt. Council and Minsi Trails Council within the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania! Awards achieved for Cub Scouts: Light of Christ; Parvuli Dei; Boy Scouts: Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII Awards; Adult Awards: 2017 Bishop's Award, St. George Award, and For God and Youth Award. Pictured here are Scouts and Scouters who attended the award ceremony from both Councils.

BSA Reaffirms Commitment to “Duty to God”
Reprinted from Scouting Magazine

When a young person joins the Boy Scouts of America, one of the first things he or she learns is the Scout Oath, and every member starts the Oath the same way: “On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God …”

The wording was not created at random. Duty to God has been one of the most important principles of Scouting from the beginning. Underscoring just how important it is, the BSA National Executive Board recently adopted this resolution that reaffirms the organization’s “Duty to God.”

WHEREAS the foundational values of the Boy Scouts of America are reflected in the Scout Oath and Scout Law;
WHEREAS the first part of the Scout Oath declares “On my honor I will do my best to do my Duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;”
WHEREAS the Declaration of Religious Principle in By-laws of the Boy Scouts of America states that: The recognition of God as the ruling and leading power in the universe and the grateful acknowledgement of His favors and blessings are necessary to the best type of citizenship and are wholesome precepts in the education of the growing members. No matter what the religious faith of the members may be, this fundamental of good citizenship should be kept before them.
WHEREAS the twelfth point of the Scout Law is Reverent and while the Boy Scouts of America is absolutely nonsectarian in its view of religious training, Reverent means that a Scout is faithful in his or her religious duties and respects the beliefs of others; and
WHEREAS these faith-based tenets have been a part of the Boy Scouts of America since it was founded and, notwithstanding any changes to Scouting programs, the commitment of the movement to Duty to God is unwavering;

Now therefore be it resolved that the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America hereby reaffirms its unequivocal commitment to the Declaration of Religious Principle as a fundamental component of the mission of the Boy Scouts of America.

Texas diocese hosts “Footsteps of the Saints” Pilgrimage

The Footsteps of the Saints is a biennial pilgrimage of the Catholic Committee on Scouting from the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas. This year’s pilgrimage was from July 16th to July 21st with stops at The Cross in Groom, TX., San Miguel Mission, The Loretto Chapel, The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Santurio De Chimayo and evening Mass at Philmont. Having two Catholic Scouts from Japan highlighted the pilgrimage this year.
Two dioceses join to offer a vocation Trek

For two years, Bishop Robert Gugliemone, challenged Father Jason Adams, Region 14 and Diocese of Savannah Scout chaplain, Father Matthew Gray, Diocese of Charleston Scout chaplain, and Father Gio Nunez, C.R.M. a religious priest of the Adorno Fathers to continue the great experience that they had created with the first Bishop England Trek (BET). BET is a collaborative effort of the Diocese of Charleston and the Diocese of Savannah. Father Gray said “The Bishop England Trek is an opportunity for scouts to experience backpacking within our own backyard.

“Hiking with priests and seminarians, they not only confront the hardships of the trail but also confront the hard question ‘what does God want me to do with my life’. They are supported with daily Mass, morning and night prayers, praying the rosary, the divine mercy chaplet, vocations talks, and faith sharing with youth their own age. It is a fun time and a great opportunity for scouts to grow and mature!”

On June 10, sixteen participants gathered in Spartanburg, S.C. for their final preparation. Mass was offered and Fr. Pablo Magione, Vocation Director of the Diocese of Savannah, gave a talk on vocations and how this trek is so important to them. He compared this trek to a spiritual pilgrimage, a journey to a holy place to experience God and grow in spiritual life. Each participant received a cross, a sign that each one would take this trek as a personal pilgrimage to grow closer to God.

On the trail, Scouts had the opportunity to learn so much about life. “The difficult terrain, exhaustion, dehydration, and fatigue are part of life’s tests. Every obstacle on the trail that one managed to overcome speaks a lot about life’s trials in overcoming sin and temptation. Looking at the horizon to see the beauty and grandeur of God’s creation, one can’t help but respond with great admiration for God’s creating power.”

This year joining the Scouts and priests were two Adorno seminarians - Brother Bam-boo CRM, who is in his final year and Brother Chris CRM, who is completing his pastoral year in the United States.

Father Gio stated that “I think it was a great opportunity for the Scouts to experience nature, solitude, and silence away from the noises of the world so that they could hear the call to which God is calling them. Scouts need to be familiar with silence, reflection and seeing God in the beauty of creation. To seek these higher values, one needs to persevere, sacrifice time, strength and stepping from the comfort zone. It is the task of us priests to help them see these Christian values.”

The BET allowed these Scouts to prepare physically, mentally and spiritually for the St. George’s Trek and to make sure that the diocese Scouting committee could identify Scouts who may have a vocation and give them a once-in-a-life opportunity to open their hearts to God.

Help your unit qualify for Pope Paul VI National Unit Award

The Pope Paul VI National Catholic Unit Excellence Award recognizes Catholic-chartered Packs, Troops, Team and Crew/Ship units for their accomplishments during a calendar year. Do you know that only 1% of all units received this award in CY2017? More units were surely deserving but did not apply.

The program provides leaders with a detailed blueprint for meeting their “Scouting is Youth Ministry” yearly goals. The requirements cover 10 unit goals at 3 achievement levels, similar to BSA’s Journey To Excellence program. The “user-friendly” application and program matrix can be found on the NCCS website.
Did You Know…?
By Bob Oldowski

To serve the local Diocesan Catholic Committees on Scouting, the NCCS once grouped dioceses into regions and then areas following the BSA organization. A separate NCCS vice-chair oversaw each region, some covering more than one region.

In 1990, to provide better support to the diocesan committees, the NCCS board reluctantly decided to organize differently, since dioceses did not align with BSA council boundaries. Instead, the NCCS aligned with the USCCB bishops’ regions. This brought us closer to the church and we began thinking more like a church. Thus, the six (later four) BSA regional structure was changed to the 14 bishops’ regions.

One immediate impact of the 1990 change was that there now were 14 regional chairs and 14 regional chaplains—20 additional board members! Size of the board grew, along with meeting space needed. Also, regional chaplains get some funding from NCCS, so this impacted the budget.

In 2000 the NCCS executive committee re-aligned how regions are coordinated. One Vice-chair now oversees all the regions, providing better communication and stronger programs across the dioceses.

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NCCS will have exhibits at two national conferences

By John Anthony

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting is scheduled to exhibit at two national conferences over the course of the next two months. The first conference is at the National V Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry September 20-23, 2018 at the Gaylord Texan Resort in Grapevine, Texas. Three thousand delegates from dioceses, ecclesial movements, schools, universities and Catholic organizations will attend. The purpose of the conference is to develop relationships to serve the Hispanic Latino Community.

The next conference is the National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministry being held December 6-8, 2018 at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Fla. Youth Ministers gather to inspire, strengthen, and nourish those who accompany young people as they encounter and follow Jesus Christ. This conference is hosted by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

We will be there to promote the new Boy Scouts of America’s family program and answer any questions that arise. If you are attending either of these meetings please stop by.

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Region 11 meeting scheduled for October in San Mateo, Calif.

There will be a region 11 meeting on Saturday October 13, 2018 at the Saint Gregory Parish Worner Center in San Mateo, Calif. The address is 2715 Hacienda St. in San Mateo. There will be a $15 cost to cover the materials and food.

The session will begin with registration at 7:30 a.m. and conclude with the Sunday anticipatory Mass at 5:00 p.m.

The day’s agenda includes introductions and sharing; presentation on NCCS mission, structure and programs; and the training continuum. That will be followed by breakouts on membership development and retention; Chartered Organization Representative training; the role of the Diocesan Scout chaplain; and Religious Emblems Counselor/Coordinator Train the Trainer.

Representatives from Region 11 and 12 Diocesan Catholic Committees on Scouting are invited to attend this meeting.

Individuals can RSVP with Roselito de los Reyes at tolitski@hotmail.com or by calling (714) 493-6379. You may also use the google form link.

Ahoy Mateys! Want to get away from the winter doldrums? Join us in the Florida Keys for a week of fun, faith and fellowship! The Scouting in the Local Church--Diocesan Committee Development conference will be held March 5-9, 2019 in the Conference Center at Florida Sea Base in Islamorada, Florida. We invite YOU and your committee to attend! For more details, please visit nccs-bsa.org and scroll down the homepage to the link, visit the Florida Sea Base website or contact Course Director Kathy Polowski at 480-244-6806 or kpolo55@gmail.com.

The NCCS values your opinion on our programs. To help us improve our religious emblems programs we encourage you to take time to complete a short survey. Cub emblems surveys available for parents and emblem coordinators, AAD surveys available for Scout and Counselor. Pope Pius XII surveys available for participants and moderators. Surveys are the same as those found in the back of each emblem book. Go to http://www.nccs-bsa.org/index.php/religious-emblems to find the surveys.
The Saint George Trek schedule for Summer 2019 has been cancelled. After careful consideration, and in collaboration with Philmont Ranch management, the NCCS has decided to cancel the 2019 St. George Trek and reschedule for July 2020. There were many factors which lead to this decision. First and foremost, the recent wild fires that burned over 37,000 acres of Philmont Scout Ranch. The announcement for 2020 St. George Trek will appear on the National Catholic Committee on Scouting’s website. Please pray for all those affected by the western wild fires, especially our friends and neighbors at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M.

Scouting in Catholic Church training conference—Back in God’s country

By Mark Kramer

I would like to dedicate this article to all the Scouters and Scouts working the Philmont backcountry in the post Ute Park Fire. The absence of trekkers and the quietude during our evening masses was a constant reminder of what was lost this year. We pray that the land is healed through the fires and returns stronger in the months and years to come.

The Philmont Training Center (PTC) was humming at this year’s religious relations week with Scouters from across the nation. This year’s Scouting in the Catholic Church (SiCC) conference was extra blessed with twenty-six participants coming into Philmont from both coasts and all parts in between. It was a diverse group of laity and clergy. Joining us, this year, as both faculty and participant, was Bishop Daniel Conlon, Episcopal Liaison of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops to NCCS.

Father Jason Adams, Course Advisor, shared the lectern with Bishop Conlon for the various catechetical pieces over the course of the conference.

The four and half days of facilitated discussions and Scouter development provided the participants the ability to visualize the potential of what it is to have a Catholic Scouting program in Scouting today. Participants were provided foundations in catechism, Renewing the Vision, and the programs of the NCCS. The National Catholic Leadership Development course provided the formation component. The depth of the daily discussions were profound, and I’m sure we all would have gladly stayed one more week in “God’s Country”.

In addition to the traditional classroom material, PTC provided a number of mini-sessions following lunch. Our Wednesday half-day session was with Bishop Conlon wherein he provided us his thoughts on a number of topics. The pace of the course was relaxed but each day was full of opportunities to learn and grow in our Duty to God!

A cherished moment from the course this year was the gratitude expressed by the participants to John Anthony, faculty for SiCC, for his rousing morning songs. John’s ability to entertain, while helping us reconnect with our time as youth in Scouting, helped us all remember why we were there, selfless service to youth through Scouting as ministry to youth.
By Phil Krajec

Victor Laguna represented the NCCS at the Inter America Regional Chaplains meeting held June 12-14 in El Salvador. The theme of the meeting was "Spiritual development of Scouts in the Interamerican Region". The conference objectives included obtaining a better view of the challenges and needs of the Scout Associations of the region and identifying potential candidates to serve as Regional and/or Sub-Regional Chaplains.

The participants gave unanimous support to the appointment of Father Eduardo Winser of Chile. as Regional Chaplain.

While the meeting was certainly a success, there is more work to be done as the need for the spiritual development of our Scouts in this region is enormous. A draft of the action plan is being prepared.

The participants agreed to have an ICCS presence at regional and sub-regional Scouting events. Father Hugo Galvao from Brazil is representing ICCS and will serve as chaplain at the August 2018 Pan-American Moot in Peru.

All Catholic Scouters are encouraged to support World Youth Day January 22-27, 2019 which will be held in Panama City, Panama. For more information, please see http://worldyouthday.com/panama-2019.

Please continue to promote the International Catholic Awareness and the Martyrs of Canada, United States and Mexico religious activities. These activities are designed to help participants understand more about Scouting and Catholicism in other countries and emphasize the importance of their participation in the 2019 World Scout Jamboree that will be co-hosted by the Boy Scouts of America, Scouts Canada, and Asociación de Scouts de México.

Generous support is key to providing faith based programs to serve Catholic youth

Your valued and continual membership in the National Catholic Committee on Scouting is appreciated! Because of your generous support, we can better serve Catholic youth and Scouters in local catholic dioceses, parish churches, and catholic schools throughout our country. Your contributions support the efforts of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting to provide faith-based programs including religious emblems; activity patches; adult, unit, and diocesan committee recognition awards; and national training conferences.

NCSS Annual Appeal
Funds from this campaign support the work of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting in promoting Scouting as a Catholic youth ministry.
You can now donate online

NCSS Golden Ad Altare Dei Endowment Fund
Money contributed to Endowment Fund is invested permanently with the interest/dividends used to support the ministry of our priest chaplains. The Golden Ad Altare Dei Award is given to any adult who financially supports, in a significant way the Fund. For each award, a minimum donation of $2,500 must be made to the NCSS-operated Golden AAD Fund. Donate online at http://ncssAdAltareDeiFund.kintera.org/bsa

The St. George Memorial Fund
The St. George Memorial Fund was established to honor the memory of those who have passed who had an impact in Scouting. Gifts to the St. George Memorial Fund are used to support the St. George Trek. The minimum gift of $1,000.00 can be funded over a period of time. Names of the honorees are engraved on a plaque that hangs in the chapel at Philmont Scout Ranch. Donate online at http://StGeorgeMemorialFund.kintera.org/bsa

The Miter Society
The Miter Society was established to recognize financial supporters of the St. George Trek, NCSS’s premier youth leadership program. The St. George Trek is held every two years at Philmont Scout Ranch. Youth are divided into crews usually with a priest and seminarian as crew advisors. The female crew (Venturers) are led by women religious. This Miter Society recognition consists of a black and gold polished medal suspended from a dark green ribbon. A donation of $1,000 must be made to the NCSS-operated St. George Trek Fund. Donate online at http://ncssmitersociety.kintera.org/bsa