



National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

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National Catholic Committee on Scouting – Statement #2

February 8, 2017

We wish to communicate with all interested Catholic Scouters further information on the recent change in membership requirements. Scouting serves the Catholic Church through the charter concept which is similar to a franchise. The units chartered to a Catholic institution are owned by that organization. The BSA has stipulated that religious partners will continue to have the right to make decisions for their units based on their religious beliefs. Scouting's chartered organizations have the right to uphold their own moral standards within the units they charter. The teachings of the Catholic Church are upheld! Thus this change by the BSA has no impact on the operation and program delivery of scouting program in Catholic Chartered units.

Following are a few questions which have arisen:

(1) Can a unit, sponsored by a Catholic institution, recommend that a youth would be better off with another unit, such as the one sponsored by another chartered organization? **Yes, A Catholic parish can establish a membership guideline that follows Catholic teaching.**

(2) Do the camping rules, which currently cover the previous membership changes, also now apply or will there be further changes? **Yes, nothing has changed relative to the camping rules of BSA or Catholic youth protection policies.**

(3) How about the bathroom/shower rules? Thank you for your consideration. I will keep both of you in my Sunday Mass intentions. **The current Guide to Safe Scouting and Youth Protection policies protect the privacy of all individuals, youth or adult.**

The following should provide a clear understanding of the relationship between the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and the Catholic Church and National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS.) A formal relationship between the BSA and the Catholic Church in the U.S.A. was established with the 1933 Plan of Cooperation which was approved between BSA and the Bishops' Committee on Scouting, the predecessor of the NCCS. The USCCB has assigned a bishop to serve as Liaison to the NCCS. At the present time our national chairman, Mr. George Sparks and our national chaplain, Fr. Kevin Smith consult with our USCCB bishop liaison, Bishop Robert Guglielmone of the Diocese of Charleston, SC before any statement is issued.

George S. Sparks
National Chairman

Rev. Kevin M. Smith
National Chaplain