A Brief History of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

A Time Line of Scouting in the Catholic Church 1910-2010

In 1976 Truman Stacey prepared and printed "A Short History of N.C.C.S." for the NCCS biennial meeting. That article and updates through 1977 were serialized in three issues of the NCCS Newsletter prior to the 1978 meeting. The following account lists significant events pursuant to that with subsequent updates provided by Bob Oldowski. Additional information will eventually be available on the NCCS web site, www.nccs-bsa.org.

1910 Boy Scouts of America is founded
1910 Troop 1 in St. Paul, Minnesota is the BSA's first Catholic chartered troop
1914 BSA creates a Catholic Bureau with Victor Ridder as National Commissioner
1922 The first Catholic Committee on Scouting (CCS) was created in New York by Victor Ridder and Brother Barnabas with Bishop Conroy as chairman
1932 Bishop Kelley expands the committee to include bishops from across the country
1933 The Plan of Cooperation is approved between BSA and the Bishops' Committee
1939 The Bishops' Committee becomes part of the bishops' conference
1939 The NCCS adopts the Ad Altare Dei - the first religious emblem approved by BSA
1954 The St. George emblem is approved for adults
1956 The Parvuli Dei is approved as a Cub Scout religious emblem
1960 The Pope Pius XII emblem for older Scouts is presented for the first time
1960 The Scouter Development program is adopted
1969 Josef P. Kessler (BSA) is named NCCS Executive Secretary
1970 Bishop Michael McAuliffe becomes Episcopal Moderator for NCCS
1974 Pope Paul VI national unit recognitions first presented
1974 First NCCS course at Philmont (funded by Knights of Columbus for 10 years)
1976 Ben Hauserman and Father John Rice become National Chairman and Chaplain
1977 The Plan of Cooperation and Organization is revised
1978 Bishop Joseph Hart becomes Episcopal Moderator
1978 Henry Murphy arranges funding for an NCCS Hispanic Outreach program
1979 BSA hires Raul Chavez as director for Hispanic Outreach
1980 The National BSA moves its headquarters from New Jersey to Irving, Texas
1980 Ellie Starr is hired as NCCS Administrative Secretary
1980 Terms for NCCS national officers lengthen from 2 years to 3 years
1980 Henry Murphy and Father Dick LaRocque become National Chairman and Chaplain
1980 The Eastern Catholic "Light is Life" religious emblem is approved
1981 NCCS Vacations Committee is created
1982 The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) is formed
1982 Luis Gallegos replaces Raul Chavez as Hispanic Director BSA/NCCS
1983 Bishop Michael H. Kenny becomes new Bishop Advisor
1983 Gerard Rocque and Father Greg Weider become National Chairman and Chaplain
1984 First ICCS conference in the United States is hosted by NCCS
1985 BSA Relationships announces 1986-87 Catholic Membership emphasis
1986 Mary Smith and Father Joe Carroll become National Chairman and Chaplain
1986 The Spes Mundii-O'Connell award is established; trust revenue goes to support ICCS
1986 Josef P. Kessler retires from BSA and as NCCS Executive Secretary
1987 Dann Cooke (BSA) becomes NCCS Executive Secretary
1988 Bishop George Fitzsimons becomes Episcopal Moderator
1988 Award For Excellence instituted by the Activities Committee
1989 John Turo and Father Bob Guglielmone become National Chairman and Chaplain
1989 50th Anniversary of the Ad Altare Dei
1989 The Golden AAD recognition is approved by NCCS board to help support chaplain activities
1989 Father Richard LaRocque is appointed World Scout Chaplain
1990 NCCS regional organization changes from 6 to 14 regions
1990 NCCS revises the Plan of Cooperation
1990 Cabrini Project created - Scouting for disadvantaged youth
1990 Guy Eichsteadt (BSA) becomes NCCS Executive Secretary
1991 Brother Barnabas recognition is approved for meritorious service to NCCS
1992 Frank Rossomondo and Father Leo LeBlanc become National Chairman and Chaplain
1992 The Light of Christ religious emblem for Tiger and Wolf Cubs is approved
1992 National BSA downsizes. The position of "Associate Director of Catholic Relationships" is eliminated. No longer an NCCS Executive Secretary. Dave Worley of BSA becomes liaison person to NCCS.
1992  First NCCS Youth Leadership (St. George) Trek at Philmont
1992  Board establishes NCCS Associate Membership and dues
1993  Father Joe Carroll and Bob Oldowski head up Scouting at World Youth Day, Denver
1993  Don Townsend (BSA Relationships) becomes liaison to NCCS
1994  Bishop Robert Carlson becomes Episcopal Moderator
1995  Bob Runnels and Father Randy Cuevas become National Chairman and Chaplain
1995  Two-year Membership Initiative kicks off
1995  Bob Runnels initiates the Golden Bow program
1995  The International Awareness activity is introduced
1995  Tom Deimler (BSA Relationships) becomes liaison to NCCS
1996  Chaplain Certification program is started by Chaplains Committee
1996  NCCS Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate is approved
1996  Bob Oldowski creates first web site for Region 8, then for NCCS
1996  Ballot for the first time lists two candidates for one position—national chairman.
1997  The Silver St. George is approved for national Catholic Scouting service.
1997  The Millennium patch program begins
1997  Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger becomes new Episcopal Liaison
1997  The Gold Medallion is approved to recognize top Catholic units in each region
1998  Bob Oldowski and Father Dennis O'Rourke become National Chairman and Chaplain
1998  An unofficial NCCS Handbook is made available to accompany the bylaws
1998  First Silver St. George emblems presented (6 for 1997 and 6 for 1998)
1998  Tony Madonia name webmaster and nccs-bsa.org the official website
1999  Don Oblander becomes liaison to NCCS
2000  The Advisory Board is created with 47 charter members
2000  Ellie Starr retires in May. Barb Nestel is new NCCS Administrative Secretary
2000  NCCS has contingent of 45 at World Youth Day in Rome
2000  NCCS name & emblem are registered with U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
2000  Msgr. Bob Guglielmone appointed World Scout Chaplain
2001  Ed Gargiulo and Father Don Hummel become National Chairman and Chaplain
2001  NCCB and USCCB merge into the USCCB
2002  The completely rewritten Pope Pius XII requirements are approved
2002  The Rosary Patch series is approved
2002  Membership Initiative is kicked off. "Scouting is Youth Ministry"
2002  Don York becomes Director of BSA Relationships Division and NCCS liaison
2003  CD-ROM for Membership Initiative is distributed
2003  First Quality Diocese Award is presented for the year 2002
2003  Term of national vice-chair is extended from two years to three years, renewable
2003  Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei books are printed in English and Spanish
2004  Bray Barnes and Father Roger LaChance become National Chairman and Chaplain
2004  Emmett J. Doer Schlarships established. First presented 2005
2004  Celebrate 50 Years of Catholic Chaplaincy at Philmont
2004  The Jerusalem Cross program is initiated for Philmont participants
2005  NCCS opens Smith Barney Investment account
2005  Board initiates $100,000 ICCS Americas endowment program to support with $80,000 seed money
2005  Knights of Columbus' Initiative with Scouting begins
2006  "Footsteps of American Saints" is approved. First five available June 2008
2006  SERRA arranges grant money to help fund Venturing in Catholic high schools
2007  Bill Davies and Father Ray Fectue become National Chairman and Chaplain
2007  Board votes to use consultant SMI to help with Long Range Planning, Oldowski to chair Renewal committee
2007  Board drops Eagle Regalia and signs with ESCO as emblems provider
2007  Bob Mazzuca is named Chief Scout Executive replacing Roy Williams
2008  "Footsteps of American Saints" is approved. First five available June 2008
2008  Barb Nestel leaves as NCCS Administrative Secretary
2008  Don York retires as BSA Director of Relationships
2008  National BSA reorganizes. George Sparks is NCCS Liaison
2009  Nancy Watts is hired as BSA program administrator for NCCS
2009  Father Leo LeBlanc is appointed ICCS World Scout Chaplain
2009  Msgr. Bob Guglielmone is named bishop of Charleston (SC) Diocese
2010  Col. (ret) John Halloran and Father Stephen Salvador become National Chairman and Chaplain

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