



GUIDELINES AND GOALS FOR CATHOLIC SCOUTING IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Thank you for your generosity in leading a Catholic scouting group in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Please find below some important guidelines for running your troop as well as the goals of Catholic scouting in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

For more information about Catholic scouting in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, visit archphila.org/catholicscouting.

Catholic Scouting Guidelines

- All Archdiocesan Catholic scouting ministries will ensure that everything taking place in the life of the troop is in accord with the teaching of the Catholic Church. Every Catholic scouting unit should make as its own the Goals of Catholic Scouting Ministry set forth below.
- Parish-based scouting troops, along with operating under the authority of the pastor, should also be in contact with the local Catholic committee for the scouting ministry.
- All volunteers who are leading or assisting with the scouting troop must be in compliance with all Archdiocesan policies concerning Child and Youth Protection, including Safe Environment Training and background checks. Visit the [Office for Child and Youth Protection](#) for more information (childyouthprotection.org).
- Cookie sales and other scouting troop fundraisers may be conducted on parish grounds if the troop is sponsored by the parish. Non-parish-affiliated troops may not conduct cookie sales or other fundraisers on parish grounds.

Goals of Catholic Scouting Ministry*

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia considers Catholic scouting to be a form of youth ministry. It is therefore a part of the Church's overall mission to bring her children into an ever deeper relationship with Jesus Christ in the heart of the Church. For this reason, the following goals should be the goals of every Catholic scouting ministry in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

1. **Personal and Spiritual Growth** – Youth ministry works to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.
2. **Full Participation in the Faith Community** – Youth ministry seeks to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the faith community.
3. **Empowerment & Discipleship** – Youth ministry empowers young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.

When scouting understands itself as part of a parish's ministry for young people, these are some anticipated outcomes:

- **Scout Leader as Youth Minister:** Adult scout leaders understand themselves to be youth ministers as well as scout leaders. They are trained in youth ministry as well as scouting. They bring to their scouting the explicit intention of impacting the faith of young people.
- **Personal Faith and Spirituality:** Unit leaders are themselves growing in their own faith, availing themselves of the sacraments and attending retreats, workshops, faith formation series, Catholic scouter development offerings, etc. to further develop their own faith and ministry.
- **Prayer:** Prayer is a strong, consistent part of the life of the scouting unit. Meetings begin and end with prayer. The Church's traditional prayer practices such as Scripture meditation, Eucharistic adoration and Marian devotion, are incorporated into the life of the troop in creative, developmentally-appropriate ways.
- **Faith-Sharing:** Faith is shared and celebrated on a regular basis. Unit leaders are comfortable with and well-prepared to share their faith. The scouts know they are in a place of faith not only because of where they may meet, but by the way the adult leaders talk and behave.
- **The Eucharist:** The Eucharist is a normal part of the life of the scouting unit, including on campouts and other trips and excursions. If the unit leader is Catholic, he or she must

be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. If the unit leader is not Catholic, the leader leads an exemplary life according to his or her own faith tradition.

- **Religious Recognition Programs:** Religious recognition programs are held in high regard by the unit leaders and it is a priority to assist young people in achieving them. Unit leaders not only encourage Catholic scouts to achieve the Catholic medals and patches, but also encourage scouts of other faiths to achieve their respective recognitions as well.
- **Parish Participation:** The scouting unit is clearly a part of the parish community, visibly present at parish events and activities, accountable to the pastor and/or parish staff. Unit leaders make efforts to build bridges of cooperation and collaboration with other parish ministries and work hard to help their scouts become fully contributing members of the faith community. Unit leaders establish a healthy, mutually supportive working relationship with the pastor and parish staff. They are active members of their faith community, effectively modeling the kind of faith and participation they are trying to develop in their scouts.

For troop leaders who wish to pursue in-depth training in youth ministry, contact the Office for Youth and Young Adults (ANTHEM) at 215-587-3760.

** We thank the Diocese of Lexington for these Guidelines, which have been revised and edited for use in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.*