

# 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](http://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 Vocations 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 Marv Smith and Father Joe Carroll become National Chairman and Chaplain
- 1986 The Spes Mundi-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
- 1993 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. Doerr Scholarships 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 The first edition of the monthly eBride is published, with Tony Madonia as editor
- 2006 NCCS and USCCB establish Region XV comprising Eastern Catholic Churches
- 2006 SERRA arranges grant money to help fund Venturing in Catholic high schools
- 2007 Bill Davies and Father Ray Fecteau 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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