



PROGRAM PLANNING GUIDE CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING



The program of the Catholic Committee on Scouting supplements the training program of the Boy Scouts of America with special instructions and activities in the spiritual phase of Scouting as it relates to Catholics and endeavors to make the whole Scouting program available to increasing numbers of youth in units coordinated by Catholic operated organizations.

This program-planning guide contains many items of importance that should be considered in developing an effective program on both diocesan and council levels. Included are helpful references and a planning work sheet to develop the committee's calendar of events.

Each committee should use this tool in conjunction with an annual planning conference to develop programs and activities that will help achieve the goals and objectives of Scouting in the Catholic Church.

IF YOU DON'T PLAN FOR IT – IT WON'T HAPPEN

BASIC ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

- Bishop's Dinner for Scouting
- Committee meeting dates
- Presentation of religious emblems
- Retreats, days of recollection, pilgrimages
- Scouter Development training
- Religious emblems and counselor training
- Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII boards of review
- Scouting Anniversary Week observances
- Parish Good Turn, service projects
- Annual recognition dinner
- Annual planning conference
- Date for submission of St. George recommendations
- Major religious holy days
- Vocational activities
- Action projects that exemplify what it means to be a Christian in the world today

Other Items of Importance

January

- Eligible units submit certification for the Pope Paul VI national unit recognition for the calendar year just completed.
- Begin recruiting chaplains for council summer camps.

February

- Begin promotion of Pope Paul VI national unit recognition for current calendar year. (16-169)

March

- Upon receipt of end-of-year statistics, set goals for current year. (see 16-150)

October-December

- Develop committee budget for coming year based on capabilities and planned program. (see 16-147)

Annually

- Diocesan chairman and chaplain meet with each of their subcommittees.
- Conduct an annual "checkup" using the Checklist #16-157 and correct deficiencies noted.
- Conduct training for subcommittee members stressing importance of job responsibilities and expectation. Use #16-170.
- Hold regional meetings. In the spring of the year, each regional lay chairman should schedule and conduct a meeting with diocesan chairman and chaplains. The purpose of these meetings is to determine the course of Scouting within the region in order to improve the effectiveness of the program.

SPECIAL NOTE

DATES OF SPECIAL INTEREST (2-YEAR PERIOD)

_____ Region meeting date	_____ Region meeting date
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____ Scouting Anniversary Week	_____ Scouting Anniversary Week
_____ Scout Sunday	_____ Scout Sunday
_____ Scouting Anniversary Day	_____ Scouting Anniversary Day
_____ Regional meeting date	_____ Regional meeting date
_____	_____
_____	_____

In any overall planning, consideration must be given to the charter expiration dates of units to provide for their re-registration.

This statement identifies one of the most serious problems of our movement: our ability to not only meet a calendar date in the re-registration process, but more importantly, our commitment to render meaningful service to the unit and to do so in a time frame that is manageable at every level.

We must recognize the seriousness of this problem and take steps to correct it. We are losing too many youth members every year because a unit fails to re-register or because a member loses interest. There are acceptable reasons included in this loss, such as transfers and the graduation from one program to another, but these factors do not justify the high attrition rate we are experiencing. Can you imagine how many more units and members we would retain if we cut the losses by just 5 percent, or maybe 15 percent? It can be done if we accept some basic concepts and recognize that the problem exists for the most part because of the absence of service – meaningful service – to our existing constituents.

An annual service plan of the Boy Scouts of America has been inaugurated to correct this trend. Local BSA councils will do their part. Catholic committees at all levels also have a definite and important part to play.

To support this plan effectively, key Catholic committee personnel, including the membership chairman, should do the following:

1. From the quarterly statistical sheets (or other sources), note the charter expiration dates of units. Those up for renewal should be contacted to determine if they will re-register on time. Make this contact through chartered organization representatives who have prime responsibility for the success of their units.
2. Units are dropped if they fail to re-register within 2 months following expiration of their charter.

If a unit has dropped, contact the Scout executive or others to determine reasons for the demise. Then communicate with key personnel of the unit or chartered organization to work out effective steps necessary for reactivation of the unit.

3. Check your committee's organizational and operational structure by using the Checklist #16-157, and correct deficiencies noted. Give special emphasis to items 1, 3, 4, 11, and 15 in the checklist.

If this is done, much progress will be made in correcting this problem.

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING SAMPLE MEETING AGENDA

Order of Business

DATE OF MEETING _____

PLACE _____

TIME _____

1. Call to order – invocation
2. Reading and approval of minutes
3. Report of officers and standing committees:
 - Emphasis
 - Scouter development
 - Membership
 - Religious emblems
 - Finance
 - Communications
 - Camp chaplaincy and training
 - Youth members
4. Report of subcommittees (if applicable)
5. Unfinished business
6. New business
7. Coming events
 - Philmont Training Conference
8. Program for the evening
9. Information on next meeting
10. Closing prayer – adjournment

NOTES

REFRESHMENTS