



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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INCORPORATED

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The Lutheran

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is the largest in size among Lutheran bodies in the U.S.A. with a membership of 5.1 million baptized children and adults.

With other Lutheran churches the ELCA operates more than 4,300 Scouting units.

Special Interest in Scouting. In the 1950s the church men of this synod originated the Scout camp chaplaincy program—a program that has been broadened to include all of the major denominations. Relationships with Scouting for this Lutheran body are the responsibility of the youth ministry area of the Division for Congregational Life.

Methods of Relating to Scouting. Activities carried out by the Division for Congregation Life include: assistance in recruitment of Boy Scout summer camp chaplains; promotion of use of Scouting as ministry with youth and families in local congregations through synodical youth boards and/or boards of parish education; collaborating with the National Lutheran Association of Scouters in fostering the formation of local Lutheran associations of Scouters to increase quality and quantity of Scouting in Lutheran congregations; promotion and administration of Christian growth programs (God and Family; Lutheran Living Faith) to give special meaning to the 12th point of the Scout Law; and providing

consultative and resource services for conferences, seminars, and retreats for pastors, adult Scouters, and youth in Scouting.

Structure. A Biennial Churchwide Assembly is the legislative body for the ELCA, consisting of clergy and lay representatives from each of the 64 synods. Each of the 64 synods holds a synod assembly at least triennially with clergy and lay representatives from each congregation in the synod. Scouting units may be chartered to the congregational governing body, youth/education committee, men's group, women's group, or other auxiliary organization.

Special Literature. *Youth Ministry Kit*, No. 5-938; *Scouting for Lutheran Youth* fact sheet, No. 2-520; God and Country series: for Cub Scouts: *God and Me*, No. 33604 for student, No. 33603 for counselor, and No. 33606 for mentor; for Webelos Scouts: *God and Family*, No. 33597 for student, No. 33598 for counselor, and No. 33595 for mentor; for Boy Scouts, *God and Church*, No. 33599 for student, No. 33600 for counselor, and No. 33596 for mentor; for Venturers/older Boy Scouts: *God and Life*, No. 33609 for student, No. 33610 for counselor, and No. 33605 for mentor. Adults may be nominated for the Lamb award. Video: *Scouting: A Resource for Lutheran Youth Ministry*. Brochure: *Scouting: A Resource for Lutheran Ministry*, No. 5-220.

CHURCHES IN MY DISTRICT

Name	Location	Name of Contact	Phone	Units

STEPS TO SUCCESS

Organizing a Unit at an Evangelical Lutheran Church

Target Date

1. Review the brochure "Scouting: A Resource for Lutheran Youth Ministry" (05-220) prior to making an appointment.

2. Contact pastor for appointment.

3. Make a sales call on pastor.

4. The church adopts Scouting and the pastor appoints a chartered organization representative.

5. The chartered organization representative appoints an organizing committee of parents and interested church members. They meet to discuss the next step and complete the New-Unit Application.

6. The organizing committee selects and recruits key leaders and committee members.

7. Train leaders in program planning (Fast Start).

8. Plan program for at least the first six months.

9. Recruit youth members and orient parents.

10. Complete the paperwork and submit it to the council office.

11. Start unit meetings.

12. Install the unit and formally present the charter at a meeting of the church.

Overcoming Objections To Organizing a New Unit

1. **We already have a youth program.**

It's great that your organization cares about its youth (and the youth of the community). Scouting is ideal to work hand in hand with existing programs to enhance what you currently offer. Not only are our goals/values compatible, but our methods can/will work well with what you do. Scouting can bring programs and facilities to you to make a good program even better.

2. **We tried Scouting once and it didn't work.**

What do you feel was the reason? (Explore – look for the biggies – lack of organization/commitment, uncommitted or poor leaders, lack of training, lack of vision, poor support from district/council/BSA.)

Address each issue:

Organizational Commitment – Starts at the top – the strong commitment of your (head, board, etc.) will be contagious.

Leaders – Use selection, not recruiting – get often and get the very best in organization (after all, it's your program), train them and then support them!

Vision – Be creative about how to serve the youth of the organization; have a community dream and then implement the dream.

BSA Issues – Assume it won't happen again – promise and **deliver**.

3. **We don't have any youth in our organization.**

Scouting provides a means for your organization to become known in the community, especially among families with children of Scout age. It's **great** advertising and community goodwill. In addition, the Scouting program is a tremendous tool to outreach into the community and give people an opportunity to become a part of your organization.

4. **We cannot afford Scouting.**

The ninth point of the Scout Law states: A Scout is thrifty – he learns to pay his own way. We teach that Scouts and units should pay their own way. We provide the opportunities for troops to raise money for their use. The only cost to the chartered organizations is a charter fee of \$20.

5. **We don't have any space in our building for them to meet.**

I understand how you feel; others have also felt that way. We have found that many are able to identify classroom meeting areas as possible meeting places for the Scouting program. Additionally, several organizations have used the resources of their members or employees to provide meeting space for meetings. The other potential solution is that of a joint chartered organization to charter the Scouting program.

6. No one knows anything about the Scouting program.

Many of our very best leaders have started out knowing little or nothing about the Scouting program. Our council provides various training courses throughout the year, roundtables and self-study materials. Subjects include outdoor skills and other topics. We also provide volunteer support for leaders to help them provide a high-quality program.

7. We don't agree with several of the Boy Scout stands on membership.

We feel that as a private organization we have a right to establish our membership requirements. I thank you for your time, but I feel that there's nothing further we can do at this time to help you.

8. We cannot charter a Scouting program because we have no leaders.

The BSA has a process to help you choose leaders. The process involves listing the characteristics required for a leadership position and then identifying individuals who fit those characteristics.

9. We cannot charter a Scouting program because our youth are mostly from single-parent families.

One of the strengths of the Scouting program is its ability to include and serve a variety of family configurations. In fact, Scouting is particularly helpful to youth from single-parent families.

10. No one has time to be a leader.

It's important that you find the time; if you don't, there are people on the streets who will find the time to spend with your child, and they may not be the type or kind of people you want your child to be around. Scouting has a program that brings families together, consisting of family camping, religious awards, etc.

11. Liability is a major concern of our organization.

The general liability policy issued to the Boy Scouts of America provides primary liability insurance coverage for all chartered organizations and participating organizations for liability arising out of their chartering of a traditional Scouting unit. Your \$20 charter fee covers your organization with the liability insurance provided by the BSA.

NEW-UNIT ORGANIZATION PROCESS

1. **Identify the prospect.** District leaders identify a community organization prospect with the potential to operate a unit after researching the youth market and considering the most promising community organizations.
2. **Approach the prospect.** An influential Scouter or the district executive makes an appointment to meet with the head of the community organization or top leadership group in the organization after researching the organization and determining how Scouting can help meet its needs.
3. **Make the sales call.** The district executive and the unit organizer or other influential Scouter meet with the head or top leaders of the community organization to sell them on how Scouting can help meet the needs of the organization and to obtain the willingness of the organization's leaders to establish a unit.
4. **Organization adopts the program.** The organization formally adopts the Scouting program, confirms the appointment of a chartered organization representative, and appoints an organizing committee.
5. **Organizing committee meets.** The organizing committee and the new-unit organizer meet to plan the next steps for establishing the unit and complete the new-unit application. A commissioner is assigned by the district to assist the unit.
6. **Select and recruit key leaders.** Using BSA selection procedures, the organizing committee selects and recruits unit leaders and confirms unit committee members, and the community organization approves all unit adults.
7. **Train the leaders.** Unit leaders complete Fast Start training and are invited to the next basic training course and the next district roundtable.
8. **Plan and organize the program.** New unit leaders are trained in program planning and the first month's program is developed.
9. **Recruit youth members and orient parents.** Recruit youth members, hold an orientation meeting for parents and youth, and select/recruit additional adults as needed.
10. **Complete the paperwork.** Complete all adult and youth applications, collect necessary fees, and submit with new-unit application to the council service center.
11. **Conduct first unit meeting.** Unit leaders begin youth meetings with the coaching of their unit commissioner.
12. **Follow up.** The unit is installed with a presentation of the charter to the chartered organization.

Note: Do not delete any steps, although some steps may be accomplished at the same time without regard to suggested sequence.