



GUIDELINES
for Leading Your Congregation

SCOUTING AND CIVIC YOUTH-SERVING MINISTRY

*Building effective scouting ministry
in your church*

SCOUTING AND CIVIC YOUTH-SERVING MINISTRY

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Our Identity, Call, and Mission

About now a small voice in the back of your mind may be whispering, “What am I doing here? To what have I said yes? What is my role?” At the same time you may be aware that your congregation has extended to you a *call—a call to serve*. And you have said *yes—yes to leading in a vital mission*.

The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. You have agreed to serve as a leader bringing your unique passions, gifts, and abilities to the church. When the leaders focus on the church’s purpose—*its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ*—and link that purpose to the passions of the people, amazing things can happen.

The fundamental way we fulfill our mission is to reach out to people in the name of Jesus Christ, to relate people to God, to nurture and strengthen them in their journey of discipleship, and to send them into the world to be the church—inviting and receiving others in the name of Jesus Christ. We call this the primary task of The United Methodist Church.

Effective leaders keep the whole of the primary task in their sight, working to keep all of its aspects in concert.

Leaders in the church must be first, and foremost, spiritual leaders who model and embrace Christian discipline and teaching. *By practicing the means of grace—prayer, fasting, studying Scripture, corporate worship, celebration of the Lord’s Supper, Christian conversation, and acts of mercy—church leaders stay tuned to the mission of the church and live out the primary task.* Members and would-be members should be able to look to a congregation’s leaders for spiritual example and direction, because true leaders are known by their fruits. People’s lives are changed through their influence.

Leaders use their gifts and talents to enable others to use their gifts and talents to the fullest potential. The flow of information, inspiration, guidance, and vision from leaders is an encouragement to others on their spiritual journey. Leaders help others to see new possibilities. When leaders are focused on the mission of the church, community is built and ministry occurs. The church focused on God is alive with creative energy aimed at transformation.

Four Essential Leadership Functions

Church leaders support and strengthen the church when they pay attention to these leadership functions: (1) help people discover the current

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reality in which they live; (2) bring together the congregation's understandings of current reality and desired reality into a shared vision; (3) develop the plans to help the community move from current reality toward the reality of its shared vision; and finally, (4) monitor the whole work of the church as the congregation moves with God's guidance toward its vision.

1. Discovering Current Reality

Accurately describing current reality—the way things are—may be the most important function of leadership. The booklets in this Guideline series offer suggestions for leaders to pay attention to the various committees of the church's ministry. In addition, it is critical for church leaders—lay and clergy—to spend time together discussing the ministry of the whole congregation. The conversation needs to include attentiveness to God's guidance and everything that describes a congregation's "what we are, here and now." Because God is always doing a new thing, this job is continuous. When we pay attention to change, we provide a base of integrity and strength from which to move into the future. Faith in Jesus Christ and a spiritual centering in God offers the strongest foundation to move people fearlessly through the massive changes of the twenty-first century.

2. Naming Shared Vision

Ask the question, "What do you want more than anything else in the world?" and most persons will give a response that indicates that they want to live in a world filled with love, faith, security, and meaning. Because persons desire a positive future, they are willing to invest themselves in organizations that are committed to it. By its very nature, the church is devoted to the creation of a better future. When the church promises to move people personally and corporately toward their desired reality, people will invest time, energy, and resources into the church. As people see their own desires linked to the congregational vision and deeper understanding of God's future, they deepen their commitment and involvement. Building this link is a vital role of leadership.

Naming a shared vision is accomplished by asking people about their lives and their faith, and listening very carefully. By listening, we mean deep listening—the kind that requires setting aside our own agendas and entering into the worldviews of others, and listening for God through the conversation. It is a significant shift in our understanding of leadership in the church to move from telling people what we think they need to know to listening to people in order to find out who they are and what their desired realities are. Effective spiritual leaders listen to the hearts of people and begin to articulate a shared vision.

3. Developing Bridges

To span the gulf between our current reality and the hope expressed in the shared vision, leaders must build a bridge. The third critical function of leadership is to plan actions and develop systems that create the bridge across this gulf. Leaders who are elected to administrative and program committees are responsible for the ongoing work of the church and must pay attention to the present. At the same time, leaders *must* be focused on the future—keeping today and tomorrow in tension—ensuring that the church doesn't get stuck in the past, present, or future.

Church leaders who are attentive to God's leading and who can hold the tension between today and tomorrow are *visionary leaders*. Visionary leaders see it all—current reality, desired reality, and the bridges to get from one to the other.

4. Monitoring the Journey

Perhaps the most critical task for leaders is keeping an eye on the whole of the faith journey of the congregation. When leaders are constantly caught up in “doing” the administrative and program work of the church, there is not any time left for “being” with God in prayer to discern the leading of the Spirit for the congregation. Leaders must step back from “doing” constant activities in order to pay attention to the total direction of the church's mission and ministry. All elected and appointed leaders must spend time together listening to God in prayer, Bible study, conversation, and other means of grace in order to lead the entire community in the work of Christ. Anything less is not Christian spiritual leadership.

Scouting and Civic Youth Serving Ministry Overview

At the 1996 General Conference held in Denver, Colorado, United Methodists from across the globe gathered to plan for the next four years of ministry in The United Methodist Church. Among the unexpected outcomes of that conference was the creation of the new Commission on United Methodist Men. To all involved, this movement of the Spirit seemed to be one whose time had come. The Commission became the denomination's first new agency since the merger of 1968. The mission of the General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM) was clear: to help strengthen the spiritual life of men in The United Methodist Church.

Since its inception, the message of the GCUMM has been compelling and focused. As United Methodist Men (UMMen), we have an assignment to reach men of all ages for the Lord Jesus Christ. Our primary purpose is the spiritual development of men and of the youth involved in civic and youth-serving agencies through The United Methodist Church. God is honoring that purpose by empowering and blessing men's and scouting ministries.

A young African American Eagle Scout and college student remarked, "I love the scouting program. It has helped me a lot. I was introduced to the church through the Scouts. You can't do scouting without the church."

You know, he's right! Scouting in The United Methodist Church is special. We, the church, are endowed with certain responsibilities that allow scouting and civic youth programs to become a ministry. This is what differentiates us from a civic or community-based club.

So, why should your church consider scouting as a youth ministry? The following list outlines ten reasons for local churches to consider scouting as a youth ministry.

Top Ten Reasons to Consider Scouting and Civic Youth-Serving Agencies as a Ministry of the Local Church



GIRL SCOUTS



1. Outreach

The ministry of Christ revolved around the profound concept of reaching out to others. Modeling Christ's example, scouting and civic youth-serving agencies seek to touch lives with the compassion of Christ. We have found that when we reach out to others, the blessings of God are returned to us.

2. Evangelism

Statistics indicate that of all the youth who join scouting through the church, 25 percent are United Methodists, 25 percent are members of other denominations or faiths, and 50 percent come from unchurched families. Scouting provides a great way for the local church to grow its youth ministry and church membership. A local church pastor in a small midwestern city stated, "Our recent church membership growth came from the families that participated in scouting." Sometimes you only have to look within your own walls to see growth and nurturing opportunities.

3. Intergenerational

Scouting and civic youth ministry offers opportunities for older people as well as youth. So often congregational members become isolated from one another because we tend to spend time with people of similar age groups. Scouting offers older people a chance to become merit-badge counselors, mentors, or committee members who plan activities with and for youth. In these ways, and more, older people can become an integral part of a youth's life. The experiences are ones that will be cherished for a lifetime.

4. Coeducational

Some "scouting programs" exist for both girls and boys alike. Camp Fire Boys and Girls is coeducational for ages 1 to 21, while BSA's Venturing division is for 14-20 year olds. These programs are a great compliment to

any church's UMYF and also serve to encourage older Boy Scouts to participate in scouting for a longer period of time. Conversely, girls may participate in many of the high adventure activities that boys do.

Venture crews (BSA) offer a high degree of flexibility for their members. Some crews elect to focus on helping others through activities like building homes for Habitat for Humanity; while other crews enjoy the benefit of camping, hiking, and high adventure. Local BSA Councils offer the use of their camps and specialized training in addition to low-cost insurance for their members.

5. United Methodist Men

United Methodist men have traditionally been the "standard bearers" of scouting and civic youth ministry. United Methodist Men's fellowships have been a source of manpower and volunteer leadership as well as a link between the church congregation and the youth agency. United Methodist Men have assisted in fundraisers, work days, special events, and a variety of mentoring opportunities.

6. Mission

A variety of mission opportunities are made available through the four youth agencies. Campfire Boys and Girls, through Gift of Giving and Extending Our Reach, educate and nurture children in projects that encourage their participation and commitment to volunteerism in a uniquely spiritual atmosphere. Similar opportunities exist within the various programs of BSA, GSUSA, and 4-H.

7. God and Country Program

An age-appropriate study series, the God and Country Program, involves youths to become better acquainted with their church and community, and enhances their relationship with their pastor and congregation. The God and Country series focuses on education, spirituality, and service to others; and brings recognition and increased self-esteem to the youth and teenagers who participate.

8. Develop Servant Leaders (Friends, Followers, Fishermen)

Each youth organization that we work with has inherent "building blocks" that the local church can transform into effective ministry. For example, service projects are a requirement of certain rank advancements and offer opportunities to begin to cultivate effective servant leaders.

The concept of beginning as "friends" (members of a troop, club), progressing to "followers" of Christ (older youth, setting the example), and "fishermen" (service projects for rank advancements), we can envision how this is a true beginning for servant leadership in the church, community, state, and nation.

9. Intentionality

The scouting program can be an effective, intentional outreach ministry of the local church. Through intentional planning the church has the ability to transform these scouting programs into important youth ministries similar to other important ministries and initiatives. As a result, scouting should always be on a level with other important church ministries. It has the potential to be a far-reaching, positive outreach youth ministry for the immediate community.

10. Save Souls!

By considering one or a combination of the aforementioned reasons, a local church may develop a consistent list of prospects for the Lord. Nurturing children, teens, and families through outreach and evangelism, and incorporating them into the life of the church may have tremendous, eternal results for both the youth, their family, and the church.

Let's Get Started

A Step-by-Step "How To" for the Local Church

1. **TALK** with the pastor, lay leader, and/or the Christian education person about using one or more civic youth-serving agency programs such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, or 4-H.
2. **TALK** with your local church council about community-based outreach ministries to children/youth in your community. Develop a plan and timetable.
3. **ASK** the church council to select the appropriate person to serve as the coordinator for civic youth-serving agency/scouting ministries. Elect the nominee at a church council meeting after he or she agrees to serve. Provide support for a budget. Make this a position to be elected annually at the charge conference.
4. **FORM** a church Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting Task Group.
5. **WORK** with the committee on nominations and personnel to nominate other adult leaders for a Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting Task Group who will be elected at a church council meeting.
6. **WORK** with the Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting Task Group to form a plan of action.
7. **REPORT** the plan and time tables to the church council for input, approval, and implementation.
8. **SURVEY** the church and community to assess interest as to what type(s) of unit/troops could/should be formed from Camp Fire, 4-H, Girl Scouts, or Boy Scouts groups.
9. **CONTACT** the appropriate local civic youth-serving agency to get their professional help in forming needed units/troops or programs.
10. **SCHEDULE** a children/youth recruiting night. Form an agenda, secure leaders, organize units/troops, and set meeting dates. Let this become a night for Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting Ministries.
11. **FORM** needed units/troops that will be supported by the church and community.
12. **REPORT** success to the church council. Set a date for a Civic Youth-serving Agencies/Scouting Ministries Sunday worship celebration. Have a consecration service for leaders.

Our Common Ministry

The mission of the church is to reach out to those within the community, receive them as they are, relate them to God, nurture and equip them, and send them back into the community in order to make the community a more loving and just place in which to live. Therefore, United Methodist congregations should regard all their members, whatever their age, as important and deserving of their concern. As a result, children and teenagers should be nurtured and equipped with all other members of the congregation.

In 1532, Martin Luther said in one of his sermons: “No work is more difficult than making other people good. Yet this is the best service we can render God.” Luther’s remarks are appropriate in considering our ministry to young people and the goal of our church to help young people become committed Christians and responsible citizens.

The United Methodist Church has developed a program involving four of the youth-serving agencies called Scouting ministries. These four agencies are Boy Scouts of America, Camp Fire Boys and Girls, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., and 4-H.



GIRL SCOUTS



Intentionality

In order for any of these programs to be used as a ministry of the church, the church must become intentional in its use of the programs. All too often civic youth-serving agency ministries simply exist within the physical facilities of the church, while the leadership of the church has little or nothing to do with either the program or its leaders.

When the program coordinator meets regularly with the church council, congregational leaders will be aware of the needs of the civic youth-serving agency programs, and program leaders will be aware of the concerns of the church.

The church should give the same prayerful and careful preparation to the planning of its civic youth-serving agency ministries as it gives to its church school or vacation Bible school. Properly used, these programs can provide an arena in which young people can have wholesome experiences with their peers, but this seldom takes place without planning and preparation. In short, the church must plan and operate the programs intentionally.

Faith Modeling and the Servant Leader

There is a difference between faith modeling and faith teaching. Faith teaching is instruction about a particular faith (for example, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and so forth) or a specific doctrinal stance (for example, United Methodism). The Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting emphasizes faith modeling, while clearly stating that faith teaching is the responsibility of the home or the religious institution or organization.

Jesus constantly provided a faith model for his followers. When the disciples asked “Who is the greatest in the kingdom?” Jesus, the ultimate servant leader, called a child into their midst and talked about becoming like children. Then he said, “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matthew 18:6). This passage conveys the high calling of those who disciple youth by modeling their faith.

As a servant leader, you are entrusted with the precious gift of young lives. Parents, who have experienced the miracle of a new life, are sharing that miracle with you. They are expecting you to model your faith and to help their child grow. Civic youth-serving agency programs stress citizenship, character development, and physical fitness. These programs encourage you as a servant leader and are designed to promote these values.

Young people learn a great deal about their lifestyle by observing others and practicing the behaviors they witness. Every parent can tell stories of how and when their children imitated them. Just as you have learned that personal skills are better taught by demonstration, followed by a chance to practice the skills, so faith development is encouraged by demonstration with encouragement and opportunities to practice faith skills. As a servant leader, you are expected to abide by the policy that specific religious instruction is the responsibility of the home or the religious institution. However, you can let young people know that God is important in your life by the way you live in their midst. You can live a faith-oriented lifestyle.

When you registered as a leader in The United Methodist Church, you committed yourself to holding a belief in God. You committed yourself to a principle that says, “No person can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing his or her obligation to God.” You committed yourself to teaching young people both the words and meaning of the Girl Scout Promise, the Boy Scout Oath, the Camp Fire Code, and/or the 4-H pledge and the best way to teach the words and meaning is to make them real in your life!

What is faith modeling? It is doing, thinking, and talking out of a faith-strengthened stance. It's letting faith determine your lifestyle.

One aspect of faith modeling is respect for one's physical body. Inasmuch as civic youth-serving agencies do not allow alcoholic beverages on outdoor trips (teenage alcohol abuse is on the increase), a good leader will observe the practice of no alcoholic beverages, without exception. The same is true regarding other drugs and other health-damaging substances. Listed below are several other characteristics of a good leader.

A Good Leader

A good leader will demonstrate love and concern for the young people in the unit, troop, or club. You'll find opportunities to listen to them as individuals. You'll learn to share their excitement, their joy, their sorrow, and their concerns. You'll recognize that they have one foot in childhood and the other in adulthood, hopping back and forth; and you will accept them for what they are.

A good leader will demonstrate the importance of his or her faith by being an active participant in the church, and that involves personal study and devotions. You may be the best model many young people will ever observe. Your faith life may well serve to encourage them to live their own faith commitments.

A good leader will foster spiritual growth by encouraging young people to plan and participate in religious observances in meetings, campouts, and more. You will want to plan activities to allow youth to participate in their own communities of faith, and to schedule programs and travel that do not conflict with such participation.

A good leader will encourage faith development by urging young people to enroll in appropriate religious study programs. Just as young people need encouragement to work on advancement, so they need encouragement to grow spiritually.

A good leader knows that cursing is not a sign of maturity but is an attempt to disguise immaturity. Off-color stories or prejudice-loaded words will be avoided because they demonstrate a lack of value for persons. (James 3)

You Are the Salt of the Earth!

Consider salt for a moment. Salt is inconspicuous and ordinary. Salt does not deteriorate, though it can lose its saltiness through adulteration. Salt is a preservative—remember that salted ham! Salt is an astringent that stings. Salt will stop bleeding! Salt gives zest to food and makes you thirsty! Remember that a pinch of salt has a great effect on its surroundings.

When Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth,” he was saying that you are important! As a leader, you can live a faith-oriented lifestyle that encourages faith development in the young people with whom you work.

One of our bishops stated that he is a United Methodist today largely because of the efforts of his scoutmaster. When he was a young boy, his family was not active in the church. He attended one of two different Sunday schools, depending upon which of his friends came by for him on Sunday morning. One Sunday, the class teacher announced that he was starting a new program on the following Monday night and invited all of the boys to come back to the church. The new program was a Boy Scout troop. In a few short months this young man had advanced through the ranks of the Boy Scouts and had become a member of The Methodist Church. In the bishop’s words, “I joined that church because it provided me the opportunity to do the things I enjoyed doing.” The scoutmaster provided the “salt” necessary to season the life of a future bishop!

A number of United Methodist pastors report that they have reached many families through the “salty” scouting ministry of their churches. One diaconal minister related the story of how a whole family was reunited with the church because of their son’s participation in a God and Country class offered by the church. The family had become inactive to the point that their name had been removed from the church rolls by action of the charge conference. The young scout became so involved in the God and Country program that he professed his faith and expressed his desire to unite with the church. As a result, his entire family was reunited with the church. Remember the words of our Lord, “You are the salt of the earth.”

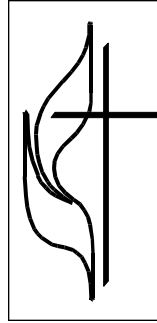
Positive Peer Pressure

Traditional youth organizations bring young people together for regularly scheduled meetings and activities that help to develop a sense of identity and feeling of belonging. Scouting programs offer the opportunity for youth to learn and grow by planning their own program of activity, electing officers, and practicing leadership. Leadership development happens unobtrusively and naturally.

While youth members of civic youth-serving agency ministries learn by doing in small groups, the virtues of peer leadership and constructive fellowship are taught. Young people feel the effects of peer pressure today more than ever before; consequently, it is the duty of the church to provide an atmosphere in which that pressure can become a positive force. Civic youth-serving agency ministries can provide such an atmosphere.

The Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies

The United Methodist Men Foundation established an Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting Ministries and staffed it with a full-time director. The office resides within the General Commission on United Methodist Men. The purpose of this office is to promote the use of these programs across the church and to help local congregations understand how they might use civic youth-serving agencies as an outreach ministry within their community.



The church has chosen to use four youth agency programs: Camp Fire Boys and Girls, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., and 4-H. These agencies offer a unique opportunity to minister to young people. These four were chosen for three reasons:

1. their programs are consistent with Christian teachings,
2. they are currently in place in many local congregations, and
3. they recognize the God and Country program offered through The United Methodist Church and through Programs of Religious Activities with Youth(P.R.A.Y.).





While the term *scouting ministries* is used extensively to refer to all civic youth-serving agency programs, it is important to note that each of these agency programs offers distinct and unique program and organizational features. They do not consider *scouting* as a generic term. Please use care when using this term and be sensitive to the individual youth agency terminology.



GIRL SCOUTS



Youth Agency Programs at a Glance

	 BOY SCOUTS	 GIRL SCOUTS	 CAMP FIRE	 4-H
TARGET AUDIENCE	Boys, ages 7-20, and boys and girls in Venturing, ages 14-20	Girls, ages 5-17, or in kindergarten through 12th grades	Boys and girls, preschool through high school age and beyond (1-21 years of age)	Boys and girls, ages 5-19
PRIMARY EMPHASIS	Development of character, citizenship, and self-reliance through small-group activity	Leadership development, service to others, skill development, and career exploration	Development of the whole child through goal setting and problem-solving	Acquiring knowledge and skills for life; becoming productive in society
PROGRAM STRUCTURE	Small group structure, youth interaction with adult role modeling	Small group structure with girl/adult partnership	Small group structure, youth interaction with adult role modeling	Structure varies depending on type of club
SPECIAL FEATURES	Extensive drug prevention and youth protection programs, high-adventure bases	Contemporary issues series, leadership institutes, math and science partnerships, and GirlSports, a multi-faceted sports initiative	Community service, camping, and school age child care in addition to club programs	Variety of programs available, including national events
RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS	All four youth agencies recognize the God and Country series. There is a separation between church and state within 4-H because 4-H is affiliated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Other agencies encourage their members to recognize their relationship with and duty to God.			
NATIONAL OFFICE	Boy Scouts of America 1325 Walnut Hill Lane P.O. Box 152079 Irving, TX 75015-2079 Phone: (972) 580-2000 www.bsascouting.org	Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. 420 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10018 Phone: (212) 852-8000 www.girlscouts.org	Camp Fire Boys & Girls 4601 Madison Ave. Kansas City, MO 64112 Phone: (816) 756-1950 www.campfire.org	National 4-H Council 7100 Connecticut Ave. Chevy Chase, MD 20815 Phone: (301) 961-2800 www.fourhcouncil.edu

If you are interested in using these resources in your church's ministry to the community, contact the local office of the youth-serving agency of your choice. You will find them willing and able to assist you in the mechanics of organizing a program designed to meet the specific needs of your church and community.

If you have any questions pertaining to how civic youth-serving agencies might be used as an integral part of your church's outreach ministry, please contact the Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting. Additional resource information is also available from P R.A.Y.

The God and Country Program

Religious Recognitions for Youth

The God and Country Program is the religious recognition program designed for use by the Boy Scouts of America, Camp Fire Boys and Girls, and the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. However, any youth who is a member of a Sunday school class, vacation Bible school, confirmation class, or other church group is welcome to use the God and Country Program whether or not they belong to a scouting organization. To earn this award, youth need to complete the requirements in the student workbook under the supervision of a counselor (either the pastor or someone appointed by the pastor).

God and Me (Grades 1, 2, 3)

Outline:

1. Me: The Story of My life
2. God: The Story of Jesus' Life
3. God and Me: The Story of Jesus and Me Together

God and Me Student Workbook #33604

God and Me Counselor Manual #33603

God and Me Adult Mentor #33606

God and Family (Grades 4 & 5)

Outline:

1. My Family
2. My Family of Friends
3. My Church Family

God and Family Student Workbook #33597

God and Family Counselor Manual #33598

God and Family Adult Mentor #33595

God and Church (Grades 6-8)

Outline:

1. God at Work (with People, through Jesus Christ, in Scripture)
2. Christians at Work (in my church, in my town, beyond my town, in the world)

God and Church Student Workbook #33599

God and Church Counselor Manual #33600

God and Church Adult Mentor #33596

God and Life (Grades 9-12)

Outline:

1. God calls all kinds of people
2. God doesn't expect us to do it on our own
3. Each of us must make a personal response to the call of God
4. God gives strength to face adversities
4. God can accomplish great things through those who are willing to do God's will.

God and Life Student Workbook #33609

God and We Counselor Manual #33610

God and Life Mentor #33605

Religious Recognitions for Adults

God and Service Award

The God and Service Award is a national recognition awarded by the Commission for Church and Youth Agency Relationships. It is given for distinguished service by adults in ministry to young people through service to the church and one or more of the national youth agencies (minimum of five years of service required). This award is by nomination only and requires an application form, letters of recommendation (from the pastor and the executive of the local youth agency council), and resume. For more information, order the God and Service Application Form.

God and Country Mentor Program

The God and Country Mentor Program for adults is designed for parents to work side-by-side with their children sharing in the work of the God and Country Program. As the child examines his or her faith, the parent will be there, learning about God's love, sharing new experiences, and making discoveries with the child. To participate in this program, parents need a copy of the Mentor Workbook, and they need to work under the supervision of the pastor (or someone appointed by the pastor). Please note that the adult mentor does not take the place of the counselor.

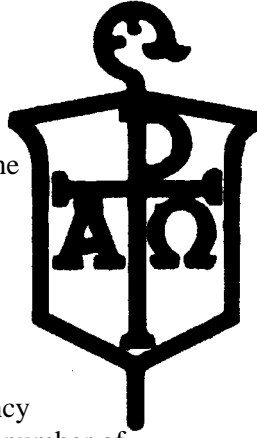
To order these God and Country resources or for more information, contact
P.R.A.Y.
8520 Mackenzie Road St. Louis, MO 63123-3433 (800) 933-7729 Fax
(314) 638-7250

or order from the most recent editions of Tacklebox
c/o GCUMM
P.O. Box 340006
Nashville, TN 37203-0006



Bishop's Dinner for Youth Ministry

One of the most successful methods of helping local congregations understand the potential of civic youth-serving ministry within our church is the Bishop's Dinner. These dinners have been held in many annual conferences at both the conference and district level.



Purpose

A Bishop's Dinner for Civic Youth-Serving Agency Ministries brings together representatives from a number of United Methodist congregations at the invitation of the Bishop. The purpose of this dinner is two-fold. First, the dinner affords conference leadership the opportunity to help local congregations understand how their youth-serving program can become an integral part of the ministry and life of the church. Second, the dinner provides an excellent forum to showcase the programs offered by the four youth-serving agencies and to encourage local congregations to incorporate one or more of them into their ministry.

Planning and Execution

The initiation of a Bishop's Dinner can come from the conference scouting committee or the local office of one of the youth-serving agencies. In all cases it is mandatory that the program be developed through the conference scouting coordinator, conference men's president, and in cooperation with the conference director of the Council on Ministries.

In planning the program it will be necessary to determine whether to include the entire conference or to limit the effort to a district or group of districts. Many of these dinners include all four youth-serving agencies, while others include only one, or other combinations.

To ensure success, at least three months' lead time should be provided for the proper planning and organization of the program. Guidelines for organizing a United Methodist Bishops Dinner for Scouting are available from the Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting in Nashville to assist you in your planning efforts.

Recognitions and Awards

It is most important that we properly recognize those who give their time and talents to make the Civic Youth-Serving Agency Ministry possible. This ministry can no more function without volunteer leadership than could the Sunday school or any other branch of the church's ministry. It is also fitting and proper to recognize levels of performance that surpass the ordinary. Several awards and recognition programs have been developed for this purpose.

The Bishop's Award of Excellence

The Bishop's Award of Excellence is authorized for the purpose of recognizing outstanding United Methodist Church troops/units/clubs that have met the established criteria.



Upon nomination by the scouting coordinator and approval by a proper committee or representative of the annual conference, the Bishop's Award of Excellence is presented by the presiding bishop to the pastor, the troop/unit leader, and to at least one member of the troop/unit at the next regular session of the annual conference. The award is good for one year and may be earned again.

The Cross and Flame Award

The Cross and Flame program gives recognition to adult leaders who have given exceptional service in the use and promotion of programs for young people.



The Cross and Flame Award is a religious service award, authorized for recognizing outstanding service to youth at the local church level. In order to qualify, a person must have been an active adult leader in a youth-serving agency for at least five years (that is, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Boys and Girls, Girl Scouts, or 4-H). The candidate must also be an active member of a recognized Christian church.

The Torch Award

The Torch Award recognizes adult leaders who have given exceptional service in the use and promotion of these programs.



The Torch Award is a religious service award authorized for recognizing outstanding service to youth at the annual conference level. In order to qualify, a person must be an active member of The United Methodist Church and must have given outstanding leadership to children

and youth through one of the four youth-serving agency programs (Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Boys and Girls, Girl Scouts, or 4-H).

The Good Samaritan Award

The Good Samaritan Award is based on the attributes of the parable of the good Samaritan and our responsibility as Christians to reach out to people in need of a “helping hand” as exemplified by the Good Samaritan and related to us in various passages in the Gospels.

The purpose of this award is to recognize individual scouts and youth who demonstrate the attributes of servant leadership to others through outreach, humanitarian assistance, or advocacy.

The youth candidate must be a registered member of a civic youth-serving agency unit (Girl Scout troop, Boy Scout troop, Venture crew, Camp Fire club, 4-H club) or an active member of a UMYF meeting in, or “chartered” by a United Methodist church. Youth candidates must be between the ages of thirteen and twenty-one (has not reached twenty-first birthday) and must be a member of a recognized Christian church.

Complete information relating to these awards is available through the Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting at the General Commission on United Methodist Men in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Local Church Coordinator for Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting

Criteria for Selecting Coordinators:

1. Affirms Christian values by lifestyle
2. Understands and is a member of The United Methodist Church
3. Understands faith role modeling
4. Leads and works with volunteer groups well
5. Has desire to grow and improve in the position
6. Delegates work to others with sensitivity and understanding
7. Has planning skills
8. Communicates well with others by writing and speaking.
9. Is a supporter of people and their need to grow and improve; believes in service to young people
10. Elected by the appropriate conference (charge, district, annual, and jurisdictional) within which the coordinator is serving. All local churches should elect a coordinator to see that young people involved in the agencies' programs are recognized.

Duties: Local Church Coordinator

1. Promotes scouting ministries within the church and its Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting Ministries (currently 4-H, Camp Fire Boys and Girls, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.) as a member of the church council
 2. May form a Committee on Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting Ministries
 3. Reminds the congregation to pray for the young people and to encourage support of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting ministries
- 24 Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation

4. Reports annually the average attendance at events for inclusion in the Pastor's Report to the Annual Conference
5. Assists the pastor and the church worship committee in planning and observing a Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting Ministry Sunday on the second Sunday in February or March each year. While an observance for each agency is recommended, sensitivity to Lenten services should be of foremost concern
6. Explains the purpose of and encourages the use of the God and Country programs for children and youth
7. Sees that qualified volunteer adults are recognized with awards from The United Methodist Church and the Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting ministries
8. When a unit/troop is eligible, submits application for a Bishop's Award of Excellence
9. Reviews annually with the pastor and Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting Representative the church's programs. Encourages the pursuit of the Bishop's Award of Excellence
10. Represents the church on the District Committee of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting ministries

The United Methodist Men Foundation and Scouting

The National Association of Conference Presidents founded the United Methodist Men Foundation in 1981. The purposes for which the Foundation is organized are:

- *To operate exclusively for charitable and religious purposes*
- *To provide support funds for program development and maintenance for the purpose and objectives of United Methodist Men.*

The Foundation has created endowments to fund a variety of United Methodist men ministries. Endowment gifts help create financial security for Christian programs. Endowment gifts are a testimony by donors to the quality and worthiness of the charitable organization receiving gifts. Endowment gifts are our way of providing for those who will follow in years to come.

Church scouting ministry was the first program ministry that the United Methodist Men Foundation raised funds to support. Gifts of more than \$4 million have provided The United Methodist Church with a full-time staff person in church scouting ministries for the past twenty years. In addition, gifts have funded administrative costs of The Upper Room Living Prayer Center's Watts telephone line and numerous national and international mission projects.

Gifts may be dedicated in honor or memory of a family member, friend, or loved one. Endowment Fund gifts are permanently recorded and may be announced or anonymous, at the donor's discretion.

National Association of United Methodist Scouters

Purpose

The purpose of the National Association of United Methodist Scouters (NAUMS) is to enhance the outreach ministry of The United Methodist Church to the children and youth of each church's community. We do this by promoting the programs of four youth agencies: Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., Camp Fire Boys and Girls and 4-H. We work with the Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting (OCYSA/S) in developing and promoting the ministry programs and resources.

Membership

Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in providing quality programs for today's children and youth through scouting ministry programs within The United Methodist Church.

There is an annual membership fee of \$25 and a Life Membership of \$200. Chapters are organized in some areas of the country. Information about membership and chapters is available from NAUMS at P.O. Box 23172, Nashville, TN 37202-3172. All funds received through regular membership fees are used for program development and support.

Members receive *NAUMS News*, the association's newsletter, and *SCOUT - INGNEWS*, a quarterly publication of OCYSA/S, which contains information related to United Methodist scouting ministries across the country.

Philmont

Each year OCYSA/S and NAUMS hold a training session for United Methodist leaders at Philmont Training Center. Philmont Scout Ranch is one of the high adventure bases of the Boy Scouts of America and is located in Cimarron, New Mexico, in the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. The setting provides a relaxed atmosphere in which the scouting program of the church may be studied. Attendees are expected to return to their annual conferences and local councils and conduct similar sessions for United Methodist leaders.

Local Training Programs

There are also training sessions in civic youth-serving ministry held in conjunction with United Methodist Men's rallies and workshops. Some of these are held at conference and district meetings.

The Scouting Internet Ministry

All of us want to do the best we can to serve Christ through our work with children and youth. This ministry by laity and clergy alike requires dedication, training, and continual access to information and ideas. One source of information and ideas is through the Scouting Internet Ministry. This ministry provides answers to many questions by e-mail and provides information through the Internet.

SCOUTS-UMC is an e-mail discussion list that includes members of the National Association of United Methodist Scouters (NAUMS) and individuals familiar with the program materials of the Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting (OCYSA/S). Most of the discussions are related to the programs of the four youth agencies we promote: Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA, Camp Fire Boys and Girls, and 4-H. This list provides a forum to compare notes on programs and ideas, discuss organizational problems and concerns, and communicate with ministry peers all over the nation.

A variety of issues and topics are discussed, including the importance of leaders being faith role models, how scouting can be part of a church's outreach ministry, how to utilize the God & Country program, and how to implement ideas for service. Also, it is a good way to find dates of upcoming events and the latest information about training and programs.

To join SCOUTS-UMC, send an e-mail message to list-serv@home.ease.lsoft.com and in the body of the message give the command: Subscribe Scouts-UMC.

UMC Scouting Home Page (www.umcscouting.org) was created to make United Methodist scouting ministry information accessible through the Internet. Resources include a scouting ministry manual, resources for devotionals, worship service and prayer suggestions, God and Country program information, and how to use scouting as an outreach ministry to children and youth of the community. Links to the official home pages of BSA, GSUSA, Camp Fire, and 4-H can also be found.

Scouting Resources

The Torch Award brochure **Free**

Bishop's Award of Excellence brochure **Free**

The Cross and Flame Award brochure **Free**

The Good Samaritan Award brochure **Free**

**Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting packet
(Limit 1 per order)** **Free**

The God and Country Protestant Workbooks

God & Me Student (grades 1-3) #33604 \$3.00 ea.

God & Me Counselor #33603 \$3.00 ea.

God & Me Adult Mentor #33606 \$3.00 ea.

God & Family Student (grades 4-5) #33597 \$3.00 ea.

God & Family Counselor #33598 \$3.00 ea.

God & Family Adult Mentor #33595 \$3.00 ea.

God & Church Student (grades 6-8) #33599 \$3.00 ea.

God & Church Counselor #33600 \$3.00 ea.

God & Church Adult Mentor #33596 \$3.00 ea.

God & Life Student (grades 9-12) #33609 \$3.00 ea.

God & Life Counselor #33610 \$3.00 ea.

God & Life Adult Mentor #33605 \$3.00 ea.

Guidelines 2001-2004: Scouting and Civic/Serving Youth Agencies \$3.00

How To Use Camping Experience in Religious Education:

Transformation Through Christian Camping **\$15.98**

A powerful book that gives all the nuts and bolts of establishing and enhancing a successful Christian camp, presenting this material in a way that expresses the joyous experience of a dynamic transformational Christian camp.

"Scouting Ministry (BSA) in The United Methodist Church" Video

\$10.00 (plus \$3 S&H)

UM Church/BSA “Building Values Together” brochure 0-100 copies Free
100 + copies \$.05 each

National Association of United Methodist Scouters (NAUMS)

NAUMS brochure/application	Free
NAUMS Life Membership	\$150.00
NAUMS cloth patch (must be a member of NAUMS to order this)	\$5.00
NAUMS lapel pin (must be a member of NAUMS to order this)	\$2.50
NAUMS nametag (must be a member of NAUMS to order this).	\$12.00

Address Book

Boy Scouts of America

1325 Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079
Phone: (972) 580-2000
www.bsa.scouting.org

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.

420 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10018
Phone: (212) 852-8000
www.girlscouts.org

Camp Fire Boys and Girls

4601 Madison Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64112
Phone: (816) 756-1950
www.campfire.org

4-H National Council

7100 Connecticut Ave.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Phone: (301) 961-2800
www.fourhcouncil.edu

P.R.A.Y.

8520 Mackenzie Road
St. Louis, MO 63123
Phone: 800-933 PRAY (7729)
Fax: 314-638-7250
e-mail: info@praypub.org
Web: www.praypub.org

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