



HOW DO YOU MAKING SCOUTING AN EVANGELISTIC TOOL FOR YOUR CHURCH?

1. Treat the families in the pack, troop, and/or crew as if they were members of your church. Make them feel like they belong. Attend pack meetings and courts of honor. Be a visible presence in the scout unit. Pray for their needs and minister to them as you would anyone else in your church.
2. Appoint someone in the church whom you trust to serve as the chaplain for the Scouts. At the Boy Scout and Venturing level this person will be responsible to train the chaplain aide, who will, in turn, be responsible to conduct worship services when the Scouts are camping on a Sunday morning and for presenting and promoting the religious emblems program of the BSA.
3. Treat the scout units the same as you would any other group in the church with regard to the church calendar and use of facilities. Don't bump them from the fellowship hall after they've reserved because the women's mission group suddenly wants it on the same night (I've seen this happen, and it leaves a bad taste in the mouth of Scout parents).
4. Collect the charter organization copies of all youth and adult leader applications and incorporate them into your church's outreach files. Go visit these families in their homes, find out if they regularly attend anywhere, and if they do not, invite them to visit your services.
5. Provide adequate meeting space for the scouts. Let them use the church classrooms. If the adult leaders are doing it right, they will leave the rooms as clean, if not cleaner, than they found them.
6. Every fall or every other fall, offer the PRAY program (<http://www.praypub.org>) to the Scouts for earning their religious emblems award related to their age/grade. You can also include any child or youth in your church in these courses of study. This is a Protestant course of study that does an excellent job of presenting the Gospel at an age appropriate level for each Scout and his parents.
7. Conduct the exit interview for each Scout who does the PRAY program yourself or have your children or youth pastor do it. This is a great time to assess the child's spiritual state and make a further presentation of the Gospel.
8. Work closely with the chaplain and chaplain aide to plan the annual Scout Sunday service. Incorporate into this service the presentation of the unit charter, and at the close of the service present the medals for anyone who has completed their PRAY program level of study. The charter should be presented to the church by a unit commissioner, someone appointed by the scouting district to work with your scout units to ensure that they deliver a quality program.