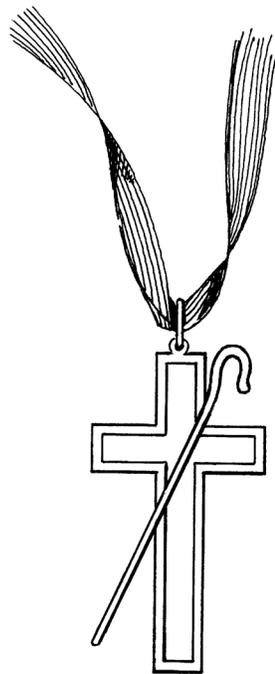
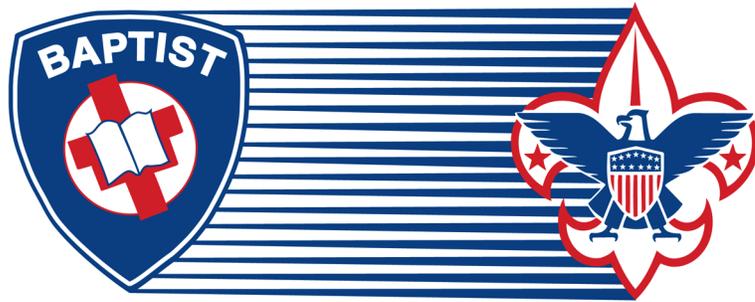


*ORGANIZING A UNIT AT A*

# **BAPTIST CHURCH**



**New-Unit Resource Kit**

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# BAPTIST CHURCHES

(MAJOR CONVENTIONS CHARTERING SCOUTING UNITS)

**American Baptist Churches, U.S.A.**

P.O. Box 851  
Valley Forge, PA 19482

**National Missionary Baptist Convention of America**

1404 East Firestone  
Los Angeles, CA 90001

**General Association of General Baptists**

100 Stinson Drive  
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

**National Association of Free Will Baptists**

P.O. Box 5002  
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

**National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.**

1327 Pierre Avenue  
Shreveport, LA 71103

**National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.**

300 Grace Street  
Richmond, VA 23220-4908

**Baptist World Alliance**

405 North Washington Street  
Falls Church, VA 22046

**National Primitive Baptist Convention, Inc.**

601 50th Street NE  
Washington, DC 20019

**Original Free Will Baptists**

Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513

**Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.**

601 50th Street NE  
Washington, D.C. 20019

**Southern Baptist Convention**

901 Commerce Street, Suite 750  
Nashville, TN 37203

**Scouting-Related Materials.** *Baptists and Scouting: Building Values Together* (Southern), No. 5-970A; *Baptists and Scouting: Building Values Together* (Generic), No. 5-971A; Baptist Information Packets, No. 77-332; *Association of Baptists for Scouting* fact sheet, No. 77-314; and *Baptists and Scouting: Building Values Together* videotape. 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 Good Shepherd award.

There are more than 30 million Baptists in the United States. More than 15 million belong to the Southern

Baptist Convention. Moreover, over 101,000 local Baptist churches operate over 5,000 Scouting units.

Baptist churches cooperate in state conventions, national conventions, and ministerial associations on certain broad issues of mutual interest. Association actions are not binding for local churches, which operate autonomously.

A committee known as the Association of Baptists for Scouting is active nationally. This committee is ready to assist churches in tailoring the Scouting program to relate to and strengthen their education program and help with policies for promoting and guiding Scouting in Baptist Churches.

**God and Country Series.** This emblem is presented for in-depth work in the operation of the church to a Boy Scout by his pastor. Information can be secured by writing P.R.A.Y., 8520 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO 63123.

## BAPTIST CHURCHES IN MY DISTRICT

Name	Location	Name of Contact	Phone	Units

# STEPS TO SUCCESS

## Organizing a Unit at a Baptist Church

Target Date

\_\_\_\_\_

1. Review the brochure **Baptists and Scouting (05-971A)** 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.

Southern Baptist Convention  
Orlando, Florida  
June 14, 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 8

ON THE JUDICIAL OPPRESSION OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, Non-discrimination laws and policies concerning race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, and disability are now being expanded to include lifestyle preferences and immoral sexual behavior; and

WHEREAS, This expansive redefinition of non-discrimination is being used to compel even private, self-governing bodies to adopt membership and leadership policies which violate deeply held moral and religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, The pro-homosexual and atheist movements are among the primary purveyors of this radically expansive redefinition; and

WHEREAS, The Boy Scouts of America has been under relentless assault by those who decry the traditional moral and spiritual standards of this venerable American institution; and

WHEREAS, The Boy Scouts of America requires scouts to pledge, "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country" and "to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight"; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Supreme Court has ruled that the Boy Scouts of America is not a private organization but a "public accommodation," thereby opening the door to the judicial oppression of a privately-held service organization, subjecting it to non-discrimination statutes redefined to include sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, If this form of judicial imperialism is allowed to stand, it would mean that churches and other religious institutions would be threatened by an overweening government intrusion into their right of self-governance.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Orlando, Florida, June 13-14, 2000, affirm the right of the Boy Scouts of America to define and delimit its own membership and leadership criteria; and

Be it further RESOLVED, That we encourage the Boy Scouts of America to hold fast to its traditional ideals; and

Be it finally RESOLVED, That we urge our public officials to defend the Boy Scouts of America against all efforts to undermine its Constitutional freedoms.



THE GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF

# General Baptists

DR. RON BLACK  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

100 STINSON DRIVE • POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI 63901 • 573-785-7746  
FAX 573-785-0564 • rblack@pbmo.net

March 19, 2001

Donald G., Oblander, Director  
Boy Scouts of America  
National Office  
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079

Dear Mr. Oblander:

Thank you for the opportunity to endorse the Boy Scouts of America.

The General Association of General Baptists recognizes the need to prepare young men to assume positive leadership roles in our local communities. The Boy Scouts of America offers value-based programs to young boys that lasts a lifetime.

A number of organized programs help channel boys into becoming respectable men. The church is definitely one of those, perhaps the best one. But another is the Boy Scouts of America. As the executive director of the General Association of General Baptists, I commend this organization to General Baptists and encourage our affiliates to implement the scouting program within their communities.

As we face the challenges of the 21st Century, may we help to equip responsible leaders to achieve our common goals.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. Ron Black  
Executive Director

RB:rh

# 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.**

# **Youth Programs in Southern Baptist Churches**

*A Study by Baylor University*

Historically, Baylor University has long maintained a keen interest in church-related youth programs. In a more research-oriented type of support effort, Baylor has initiated, at the request of President Herbert H. Reynolds, a study of youth programs in the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). The Baylor Center for Community Research and Development, after meeting with representatives of the Brotherhood, the Women's Missionary Union (WMU), the Sunday School Board, and the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), designed a four-step methodology to assess the distribution, characteristics, and goals of various youth programs in Southern Baptist churches.

While the Sunday School Board, the WMU, and the Brotherhood have produced a number of excellent studies on specific Southern Baptist youth programs in Southern Baptist churches, the research reported here is unique in its inclusive approach to all SBC and most non-SBC programs (e.g., Scouting, Awanas) in Southern Baptist churches.

## **Conclusions of the Baylor Study of Youth Programs in SBC Churches**

This research points to several general conclusions regarding youth programs in Southern Baptist Churches:

1. Eight of every 10 boys who are members of Southern Baptist churches belong to churches with Brotherhood-based youth programs. A surprisingly large number of these boys also belong to a church with a Scouting program. In fact, one in every four Southern Baptist boys goes to a church with a Scouting program.
2. Size and location are strong predictors of the type of youth programs available in SBC churches. Small, rural churches are most likely to have few youth programs. Large, urban churches are most likely to have multiple youth programs.
3. Ministers from SBC churches with both Royal Ambassadors (RA) and BSA programs report that the programs complement much more than they conflict. The complementary nature of Scouting and Brotherhood youth programs stems in large part from the distinct and complementary nature of the programs' goals.
4. The area most crucial to the success or failure of all youth programs is adult leadership. When adults in the church are willing to lead, youth in the church are ready to follow.

For more information, contact the Relationships Division, National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, 972-580-2119.

# **Talking “Baptist”**

## **What Do Baptists Want to Hear?**

Baptists are “a people of the Book,” the Bible. They are mission-minded in telling the story of Jesus to everyone in all the world. Evangelism is the heart of Baptists . . . winning youth and families to Jesus Christ.

Baptists will want to know about

- Youth ministry helps. How can the Scouting program be a resource for community involvement, Christian education helps, and helpful career education?
- Outreach. How will the Scouting program help reach the unreached in the community? Will Scouting open doors and introduce the total church ministry to unreached people?
- Ownership and control of units. Each Baptist church is independent. Most Baptist churches have an interdependent cooperative relationship with other Baptist churches. Leaders of each Baptist church must know up front that they will control and own their Scouting unit.
- Impact on family. How can Scouting help support the family? All major Baptist conventions are presently making efforts to strengthen families and are seeking resources like Scouting.

## **Questions a Baptist Pastor Will Ask You, With Suggested Answers**

### **Why do you wish to see me?**

We have something in common. We are both interested in youth and families. I would like to know more about your church ministry and would like to briefly update you on the resources in Scouting for ministry. The God and Country program is growing more and now includes a God and Family program for Cub Scouts and parents. I would consider it a privilege to get to know you and your church better.

### **Isn't Scouting a secular or civic type of organization?**

No, the Scouting program is a resource to be used as an integral part of your ministry to youth and families. The purpose of the Scouting program is to help local churches better serve their youth and should they choose, the community youth, too. Scouting is as Christian as a Baptist church and its leadership wish to make it.

### **Doesn't Scouting take boys from their church Sunday school on Sundays?**

When a Baptist church operates a Scouting unit, it controls the program and the scheduling of activities. Scouting's position is to encourage boys to be in their own church with their families

on Sunday. For reference, see “Suggested Guidelines for a Scouting Program in a Baptist Church.”

### **Does Scouting provide the adult leadership in Scouting?**

The church makes this important decision through its own Scouting committee. We advise, assist, and help train, but the Baptist church selects its own Christian leadership.

### **What about liability coverage for the church and its leaders?**

The Boy Scouts of America, through local councils, carries liability insurance. We also suggest that a local Scouting unit take out accident and health insurance, which can be obtained inexpensively through the BSA.

### **Who really owns a Scouting unit?**

The Baptist church owns the Scouting unit, and the unit is controlled by church policy through your chartered organization representative and unit committee, working with the unit leadership. We recommend that a staff member such as the youth minister have the chartered organization representative job.

### **Will Scouting compete with my other youth program or at least compete for leadership?**

Three out of every four Baptist churches have no youth program like Scouting. Survey after survey over the past 10 years shows that Scouting complements, rather than competes with, the youth programs. More than 3,000 Baptist churches have an in-church religious youth program and one or more programs of Scouting, too.

There are more than 110 million Scouting alumni, and almost every Baptist church has some Scouters who are now active somewhere else or waiting to be asked. A Scout-trained volunteer feels more comfortable doing Scouting, while other adults in the church prefer to work with more mission-minded programs. See “Your Answers to Royal Ambassadors Questions.”

### **Is Scouting really a spiritual program? Can we accomplish our mission through Scouting?**

Scouting can be as spiritual as Christian leadership will make it. Thousands of Baptist churches testify to the spiritual values of a Scouting ministry. And, of course, there is the religious emblems program.

### **How much help can we count on from the local council?**

Promise what you can deliver, and deliver what you promise. Most Baptist ministers are very interested in help in these areas:

- Youth from the community who do not go to any church
- Guidelines on who owns and controls the unit

- Help in identifying, selecting, recruiting, and training leaders
- Leadership training and development
- Program resources available from local councils and the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America
- Access to outdoor and camping facilities and well-trained camp staff

### **What is new in Scouting?**

Our ideals and fundamentals are as solid as ever. God, country, family, and Christian leadership through churches has taken a healthy upturn! Our methods and tools have and will continue to change. We welcome more churches and Christian leadership. Our history shows us that the church is our best, year-round associate.

## **Questions and Answers About Scouting in Baptist Churches**

### **Why have a Baptist emphasis in Scouting?**

A major user of the Scouting program deserves our recognition as part of our charter concept. The Baptist church market is our largest religious group market. Almost one-third of the total meeting places in the United States are Baptist churches.

### **Is the Baptist market more challenging?**

The Baptist church market to a degree is harder to sell because of low penetration. It is also harder to sell because each Baptist church is independent.

### **How does one get an appointment with a Baptist minister?**

Tell the secretary who you are and how much time you want. Indicate some suggested times and days. Show an interest in the church and its ministry. Say you wish to know more about the church and its programs. Another very successful approach is to use a friendly prominent Baptist minister or a layperson (a Scouter or former Scout, if possible) to get an appointment for you.

### **After you get the appointment, what do you say to the minister?**

Listen first. If you need to ask leading questions, ask about the church's youth programs and the church's mission in the community, etc. Share how the Scouting program is a resource for ministry to youth and families.

### **Even if the minister is initially unresponsive to the proposal of a new unit, are there areas of interest that can keep the door open?**

Virtually every minister who is introduced to the Baptist God and Country recognition becomes interested in the program. God and Country is religious education. More than 1,000 youth have become Christians while being involved in completing requirements for the religious emblems.

### **Who are the leaders to whom I might relate?**

Senior minister whose support is essential and who is your initial contact person

Pastor

Person(s) responsible for youth programs under the pastor's leadership

Minister of education, or director of Christian education, minister of youth, or chairman of youth committee

Leader of the first group likely to receive a recommendation regarding Scouting

Chairman of deacons

Body that makes the final decision

Congregation

### **What printed material should I take with me on the initial visit with the pastor?**

Among the items that speak his language are

- "The Sleeping Giant of Outreach"
- "Baptist and Scouting: We Need Each Other"
- "Strengthening Families—Scouting Can Help"

### **How does a Baptist church coordinate Scouting and other youth programs?**

You provide the know-how, and let the church coordinate its program. Use the resource in this kit, "Helping Baptist Churches Use Scouting, A Model From the Plymouth Park Baptist Church." Also see the October 1982 *Scouting* magazine story, "A New Era in Baptist Church Scouting." Remember to use the resource, "Suggested Guidelines for a Scouting Program in a Baptist Church."

## **Your Answers to Royal Ambassadors Questions**

Questions related to Royal Ambassadors and Scouting are unique to Southern Baptists. Since Southern Baptists comprise the largest non-Catholic denomination in America and one of the largest potential chartered organizations, attention should be given to these questions.

(Note: Other Baptist churches may employ youth programming like Awanas and Brigade. Although these programs are not official parts of Baptist denominations as the Royal Ambassadors program is for Southern Baptists, some of the following answers may be helpful in these situations.)

### **What is the Royal Ambassadors program?**

Royal Ambassadors is the mission education program for Southern Baptist boys in grades one through 12. Most of the participants are already affiliated with the church. Meetings are usually held on Wednesday evenings as a part of the church's midweek prayer service and activities.

Key elements of the program are

- Studying missions and applicable biblical passages.
- Doing mission projects.
- Participating in athletics and in outdoor experiences, such as camping.

The program is divided as follows:

Grades 1–3—Lads 1, 2, 3

Grades 4–6—Crusaders 4, 5, 6

Grades 1–9—Pioneer 7, 8, 9

Ages 18–29—Collegiate and Baptist young men who are not college students

Though Royal Ambassadors is a part of the Southern Baptist mission education strategy, many churches do not have the program or have only the Lads portion.

### **What if I encounter pastors who fear Scouting will impair Royal Ambassadors?**

First, affirm the position of Scouting that there is no desire to impair existing programming. Instead, Scouting seeks to strengthen the church program and open additional doors to reach youth for the church.

Second, point out the experience of Southern Baptist churches that use Scouting as an integral youth ministry. Their Royal Ambassadors have actually been strengthened by the presence of a good Scouting unit.

Since Scouting complements, rather than competes with, existing youth programs, more than 3,000 Baptist churches with Royal Ambassadors or similar programs also have Scouting.

Third, point out that Scouting leaders are often willing to share with other youth leaders the benefits of training they have secured from the local Scouting council.

Fourth, keep in mind that three out of every four Baptist churches have no youth program other than Sunday school. What a market for Scouting!

### **What do I tell pastors who ask why both Scouting and Royal Ambassadors are needed in a church?**

First, the Scouting program appeals to all boys, churched and unchurched. Since Royal Ambassadors are usually church-related boys, Scouting offers an opportunity to reach unreached youth and their families.

Scouting is in the spirit of Southern Baptists' missionary thrust to use every legitimate tool to proclaim the Gospel to the entire world.

Second, the Scouting program offers opportunities for intensive periods of personal ministry to boys by Scouters of strong Christian faith. The longer weekly meeting times, linked to regular outdoor activities, give Scouters more time to meet the needs of a well-rounded individual. This

benefit is true for the church and unchurched boy. See “The Sleeping Giant of Outreach.”

Third, more Christian laymen can be given meaningful places of service through the church. Some fear Scouting will take away potential Royal Ambassador leaders. Experience has proven this to be untrue. Instead, more individuals are given the opportunity to contribute to the ministry of youth through the church.

Fourth, Scouting gives the church access to excellent BSA camping facilities that would otherwise be unavailable to them.

Fifth, the Scouting program offers some experiences not found in Royal Ambassadors and vice versa. Some boys already in the church choose only Royal Ambassadors while many benefit from both programs.

Sixth, since the church owns the Scouting unit, it can tailor the program to fit the needs of both the church and unchurched youth who may not be addressed by Royal Ambassadors alone.

## **How Do You Eat an Elephant? One Bite at a Time!**

### **How to Get Quality Units Operated by Baptist Churches in Maximum Challenge Councils and Districts**

We cannot point to any success where the whole elephant has been consumed, but as you look over the Baptist elephant eaters, note that they are representative of all regions and most areas.

#### **Major Characteristics of Maximum Challenge in the Baptist Markets**

1. Performing tasks in a routine way. If you work the Baptist market today the same as you did yesterday, you will get identical results tomorrow.
2. Having long periods of no basic relationship with those in the Baptist market. To have a relationship you must
  - Identify the market
  - Know the market
  - Communicate effectively with those in the market
3. Having other youth program conflicts (real and imagined): Royal Ambassadors, Awanas, Christ Service Brigade, music, sports, etc.
4. Having no penetration in the market to establish a successful image. It takes at least one successful unit operated by a Baptist church per district.
5. Not using the successes and resources of others.
6. Dropping more units than you organize.

## **How do we start reaching Baptist organizations?**

1. Take on the challenge and adopt the right attitude.
2. Know your market.
  - Get facts about your Baptist market.
  - Identify key Baptist leadership.
  - Request resources from the Relationships Division.
3. Do something positive.
  - Identify Baptists who are Scouters in your council.
  - Have a staff meeting on the Baptist market.
  - Send someone to Philmont or Ridgecrest Baptist conferences.
  - Promote the Good Shepherd Award among volunteers.
4. Overcome other youth program syndromes with facts.  
Example: Scouting has been found to be complementary to all other youth programs.
5. Plan a quality growth project only after you have
  - Enough dedicated Scouters who will see it through. Organize.
  - Built trust and a relationship with Baptist leaders through an effective communications campaign.

# The Sleeping Giant of Outreach

The early part of the third millennium will be remembered as a time when the Good News is beamed to every corner of the globe. As churches intensify their efforts to “proclaim the Gospel to every creature,” they have at their disposal various forms of radio and television broadcasting, the Internet, and numerous publishing opportunities. These and other tools are being boldly employed in this proclamation. And, though these communication wonders should be used fully, professional communicators admit technology is merely a tool to undergird personal witnessing.

Accepting the premise that the face-to-face encounter remains the most effective means of outreach, churches must evaluate all available outlets for such personal encounters. Once a thorough evaluation is made of outlets to children and young people, many discover a largely untapped resource—the sleeping giant of outreach. This sleeping giant is Scouting. Consider five reasons for this contention:

First, Scouting is the sleeping giant of outreach because of its youth appeal. The Scouting program is challenging—action and skill-oriented, constructively competitive, balanced between scholarship and practical application. Conservation skills are taught in the outdoor classroom, exemplary of Christian stewardship and God’s creative work. Moreover, Scouting appeals because of its established, winning reputation. And, everyone wants to be on a winning team.

Scouting appeals to many nonchurch youth as well as church-oriented youth. Even if the church has a fine youth organization of Bible study, training, and missions education, chances are the organization

relates mainly to existing young people in the congregation. Scouting offers the distinct outreach element to extend the church’s ministry to the community.

Second, Scouting’s structure provides ample time for leaders to give effective guidance and outreach to youth. Under the leadership of a concerned Christian Scouter, a young person may be helped with his personal and spiritual needs. This guidance may range from answering simple questions to serving as a father image for the child of a one-parent family.

Every youth organization in the church has an important role to play in the spiritual development of youth. Yet, a shortage of quality time hampers the effort. For instance, an average Sunday or weekday organization is fortunate if, after all preliminaries are cared for, 50 minutes remain for leader and pupil to relate. Even assuming perfect attendance for a year, this translates into only 43.3 hours in an entire year. If Scouting becomes an integral part of the church ministry to youth, however, consider the intensive periods of personal guidance potential within a year’s span. These figures are conservative estimates:

Regular Meetings	78 hours (based on 1.5 hours each week)
Campouts	288 hours (based on one campout per month)
Scout Shows/ Multi-unit Events	34 hours (based on two events per year)
Summer Camp	144 hours (based on six full days)
Total	544 hours

Is there any wonder that many Scouts participating in units chartered to churches

become Christians or become closer to God during their Scouting experience?

The third reason Scouting is the sleeping giant of outreach is the age-graded program of religious education designed by the various denominations and supported by Scouting. As youth reach various levels in their Scouting sojourn, they may be encouraged to work to complete the religious emblems of their denomination. Requirements vary by religious body, but each calls for service within the local church and for counsel with the youth's minister. During this counseling period, the pastor is able to discover any spiritual needs and to offer guidance for the youth's pilgrimage. Without a catalyst like the religious emblems program, many young people would not avail themselves of the counsel of the pastor.

Fourth, Scouting is the sleeping giant of outreach as it teaches duty to and reverence for God. Central to the Scout Oath (or Promise) is the pledge to "do my duty to God." The 12th point of the Scout Law states, "A Scout is Reverent." These commitments to the prominence of God in one's life are a cornerstone for the Boy Scouts of America. When properly interpreted by a Christian Scouter to his young Scouts, even the unchurched begin to understand their need for God.

Finally, Scouting can be the sleeping giant of outreach as the church realizes that to have its own Scouting unit means it has ownership and the ability to direct the program in the best interest of its participants. In other words, the unit is church-owned and church-administered. The unit can be uniquely Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Catholic, etc., as long as the stated principles of Scouting are not violated. Imagine the outreach potential of a Scout unit for impacting the lives of unchurched young people in the community. These young people might quickly join a Scouting unit but would be hesitant to attend a regular church service or activity. What an opportunity exists for these youth as well as for existing church members!

To reach America with the Christian message requires boldness and a willingness to go out where the people are. Scouting is such a tool for outreach. No, Scouting will not automatically achieve results. But, when Scouting leadership is chosen as carefully as the church Bible teachers, and when Scouting is seen as an integral ministry of the church, positive results are predictable.

Scouting is the sleeping giant of outreach awaiting your church's utilization. Why not consider this tool to help reach your community?

# Suggested Guidelines for A Scouting Program in A Baptist Church

The \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church recognizes Scouting as an integral part of the total church program. Therefore, the following is a statement of policy of the church in regard to the relationship between the Cub Scout pack, the Boy Scout troop, the Varsity Scout team, and the Venturing crew operated by the church. Each of the groups listed above constitutes a "unit."

## **I. Organization**

- A. The pastor or his designee is the leader of the total Scouting program. The chartered organization representative is the link between Scouting activities and the church program. He represents the institution (the church) to the council and district. He also serves as the chairman of the church committee on Scouting, which is made up of himself, one active deacon (the vice chairman of the committee), and the chairman of each of the unit committees for a total of five members.
- B. The pastor (or his representative) is invited and encouraged to meet with this committee.
- C. Each unit shall have a committee of not fewer than five members. The majority of members of these unit committees, including the chairman, shall be drawn from the chartered organization. Each of these committees should meet monthly in order to give complete assistance to the unit leader. No one should serve on more than one unit committee.
- D. All personnel connected with the units in a leadership capacity shall be approved by the church committee on Scouting.

- E. Each unit committee shall be responsible to the church committee on Scouting and any question not covered by this statement shall be referred to the church committee on Scouting for interpretation.
- F. Any change in this statement of relationship between the church as the chartered organization and the Scouting units shall be made by the church committee with the approval of the pastor.
- G. The church committee on Scouting shall be elected by the church in conference to serve for one year. There is no limitation as to the number of years members of the committee may serve.

## **II. Approval of Activities**

The units shall keep the church informed in advance concerning plans for overnight hikes, socials, and special activities other than the scheduled meetings mentioned in part III.

- A. The church is responsible, through the church committee on Scouting, to each of the units for supplying adequate leadership, supervision, and permanency of the program for its chartered period; providing a meeting place for them; and granting the Boy Scout units the opportunity

to spend at least 10 nights of each year in the open and Venturing units the opportunity for a superactivity each year. The church encourages the overnight camps to be held on Friday nights and Saturdays in order that Scouts can be in their Sunday school classes and attend church services in their own church.

However, the church authorizes leaders to hold weekend camps, provided an approved teacher-leader conducts the services at the campsite on Sunday.

- B. The Baptist church suggests that the rules of the BSA shall apply to the number of boys in Boy Scout troops and young adults in Venturing crews, and it recommends that the Cub Scout pack shall, within reason, be limited to not more than eight Cub Scouts per den.
- C. The Baptist church encourages Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers to earn the God and Me, God and Family, God and Church, and God and Life awards. These are the levels that are available within the God and Country program. Study materials can be ordered from PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities With Youth), Box 6900, St. Louis, MO 63123, or call toll-free, 800-933-PRAY (7729). They also can be obtained from your local council service center.
- D. The weekly publication will carry notices of unit meetings and other activities, provided information is in the office by noon \_\_\_\_\_ (day).

- E. The Sunday school announcement bulletin will carry notices of meetings and activities, provided notice is given to the church office by noon \_\_\_\_\_ (day).

### III. Meeting Dates

- A. Cub Scout pack \_\_\_\_\_ meets on the \_\_\_\_\_ of each month at the church at 7:30 P.M.
- B. The Boy Scout troop meets each \_\_\_\_\_ at 7:30 P.M.
- C. The Varsity Scout team meets each \_\_\_\_\_ at 7:30 P.M.
- D. The Venturing crew meets each \_\_\_\_\_ at 7:30 P.M.
- E. In order to avoid scheduling conflicts with other church activities, requests to change meeting dates and/or time shall be submitted to the church office at least one week in advance.
- F. The church shall inform unit leaders at least one week in advance of any special meetings necessitating the change of meeting dates or places.
- G. Cooking and eating facilities of the church shall be used by the units only by reservation with the church office and by complying with the rules for the use of those facilities.

### IV. Regulations for use of the building and facilities

- A. Unit members shall use reasonable and ordinary care to protect the building.

- B. Unit members shall respect other groups in the building that may be meeting at the same time.
- C. Unit members shall observe and exercise the fundamental teachings of the Cub Scout Promise, Scout Oath and Scout Law, Varsity Scout Pledge, and Venturing Oath at all times.
- D. The church recognizes that even with this cooperation, with a vigorous program of Scouting there will be a certain amount of wear and tear as is true with all the total youth programs of the church.

## **V. Reports**

- A. Each of the unit committees shall submit monthly progress and quarterly financial reports to the chartered organization

through the chartered organization representative. The chartered organization representative shall make these reports quarterly to the church at the regular church business conference.

- B. The chartered organization representative represents the chartered organization on the district Scouting committee. Monthly progress reports shall be made to the church in conference concerning the work of the units and the cooperation with the local council.
- C. There will be an allocation of funds from the church budget each year for the operation of its units. The amount is to be determined by the church committee on Scouting and submitted for final approval.

# **Baptists and Scouting: We Need Each Other**

*By R. Chip Turner*

Baptist churches and Scouting can work hand-in-hand in the development of America's youth. Scores of Baptist churches have discovered this great relationship. Yet thousands of others need to consider the tremendous benefits of Scouting. My purpose is to answer two questions you may have:

1. As a Baptist minister, why am I so sold on the organization of Scouting units?
2. What real value would there be in involving your church in a Scouting/church relationship?

The answer to why I am so sold on Scouting is easy. . . as a matter of fact, it's a personal testimony. I, like millions of others, have benefited from the training, counsel, and concern offered by leaders in the Scouting program. I point with pride toward Scouting as one of the key facets of my development from boyhood to manhood. I have experienced this American tradition of character building, leadership training, and community service. I am proud to be an Eagle Scout and a recipient of the God and Country award.

Since achieving these milestones in my life, and following association with five Scouting councils during my years of ministry, I have become firmly convinced that no other community organization for youth offers as much as Scouting. When the principles of Scouting are applied by a Scoutmaster of strong Christian faith, positive results are predictable in the lives of his Scouts. I desire the Scouting experience for my own son, and I want this experience to be channeled through the ministry of my church.

You may be saying to yourself by now, "Well, that's fine, but what real value would there be in having my church organize a Scouting unit? After all, there are a lot of good projects worthy of our attention."

I count it a privilege to address myself to this inquiry by using an acrostic that employs the letters in the word, **SCOUTING**. I trust this approach will help you remember my points of emphasis. I plan to answer this question in three parts:

1. What value would there be to the boys of your church and to other boys you may reach through Scouting?
2. What value does the Scouting program offer your church?
3. What does your church have to offer Scouting?

First, what value would there be to the boys of your church? Let's make it personal: "What value would there be to the boys of my church should we become involved in Scouting?"

**S STANDS FOR SERVICE.** Boys would be taught the true value of service through Scouting. They would come to realize by experience that the servant of all is the greatest of all. "S" can also represent SELF-AWARENESS, for as boys come to share with others, they realize one of their missions in life.

**C STANDS FOR CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT.** The Scout Law declares that a Scout is "trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent." Link this Law with the goal of "doing a Good Turn

daily,” and the “duty to God and country.” Also, add the pledge to keep one’s self “physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.” Is it any wonder that records of our juvenile courts attest to the superior performance of Scouts over the general populace in the areas of high moral integrity and character?

#### **O STANDS FOR OUTDOOR SKILLS.**

No organization is better equipped to teach outdoor and survival skills than the Boy Scouts of America. These skills, taught in camp settings, surpass all others I have seen. Through combined community resources, Scouting is able to maintain a high standard virtually unchallenged in America.

#### **U STANDS FOR UNDERSTANDING.**

Through shared experiences in local Scouting units, as well as in district- and councilwide events, boys come to a deeper understanding and appreciation of their fellow men. When boys come to understand themselves and others, they can help pave the way toward peace in the community and the world.

**T STANDS FOR TRAINING.** The system of ranking used in Scouting brings boys into contact with some of the most knowledgeable people in our community. Moreover, the involvement of Scouts, Scouting leaders, and parents in a dialogue fosters understanding while strengthening family life.

**I STANDS FOR INITIATIVE.** Scouting develops the initiative of youth in many ways. For example:

1. Leadership training through actual leadership roles calls upon each participant to be a motivator of his peers.
2. The ranking system allows each boy to

build upon his skills and to progress at a rate in keeping with his abilities. In addition, every Eagle Scout candidate is called upon to initiate, plan, and successfully carry out a significant project.

#### **N STANDS FOR NATIONALISTIC.**

Patriotism is a trait Scouts are led to develop. A Scout’s love for his country and respect for his flag are evident even to a casual observer.

#### **G STANDS FOR GROUP IDENTITY.**

Every Scout belongs to a group identified with success, whether he be a Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer. Each boy joins the ranks of thousands worldwide who share similar interests. In our country, this positive identity is strengthened through councilwide events and periodic national jamborees. Everyone wants to be on the winning team. Scouts have a winning identity.

The eight letters in Scouting are hardly sufficient to list all of the benefits of Scouting to boys, but I think you can see why our Baptist boys need Scouting . . . preferably, Scouting offered in our churches.

A second question that needs to be answered is: “What value is there in having the Scouting program in our church?” The church benefits in a number of ways:

**S STANDS FOR STAFF.** Even the smallest Baptist church in your area may have at its disposal a highly skilled and fully trained staff dedicated to youth work. Where else but in Scouting can you find advisers such as district and council Scout executives who exist solely to help us meet the needs of our boys? Moreover, they are mobilized and organized to render this help.

**C STANDS FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.** Scouting offers our churches the link to the community participation we need. Not only can we share through Scouting the responsibility for our community's youth, but we can also, at the same time, improve the positive, caring image of our churches.

**O STANDS FOR OUTREACH.** A Scouting unit provides an endless opportunity for outreach and ministry to our church boys, to other boys we reach, and to their parents.

**U STANDS FOR UNEXCELLED CAMPING FACILITIES.** Where else can our churches hope to find camping facilities for our boys like those offered by Scouting? I do not think we can find comparable camps. These facilities are available year-round and are staffed in the summer by individuals with a variety of specialized skills.

**T STANDS FOR TRAINING.** A comprehensive, professional program of training, accompanied by appropriate recognition at completion, is available to all leaders we enlist to serve our boys through Scouting.

**I STANDS FOR INVESTMENT DIVIDENDS.** Scouting, as supported by our community, is an investment dividend for those of us who have shared through our gifts to the United Way or Community Chest. We can actually see our investment bearing dividends—lifelong dividends—in the lives of boys.

**N STANDS FOR NEEDS OF BOYS.** Scouting helps our churches develop well-rounded young men by meeting their life needs physically, mentally, and morally. We can introduce our boys to the world outside

our churches through the well-planned, properly supervised, and highly desirable Scouting program.

**G STANDS FOR THE GOD AND COUNTRY AWARD.** The God and Country award is a direct benefit of the Scouting program to the church. Participants are required to be actively involved in a pastor-supervised, in-church project lasting at least one year. It is not surprising that statistics assembled on God and Country recipients have shown a great percentage of these young men enter full-time Christian service. Most, if not all, of these men become vital leaders in our congregations—leaders who have a great appreciation for our church structure, leadership, and purpose.

My third and final consideration is the value our churches have to contribute to Scouting. Yes, our churches need Scouting, and Scouting needs our churches!

**S STANDS FOR THE SPIRITUAL FACET OF LIFE.** We can provide the vital facet of a well-developed life—the spiritual. With this spiritual emphasis, Scouting offers a balanced exposure to life.

**C STANDS FOR CHRISTIAN CONCERN.** Youth in Scouting who go about helping others need to realize the paramount reason for our caring—for serving. Our example and commission come from Jesus Christ.

**O STANDS FOR OUTSTANDING FACILITIES.** Baptist churches have tremendous educational facilities that are fully equipped and easily adaptable to Scouting. These buildings have been erected to the glory of God and for the purpose of ministering to people in His name. Yet, most of these facilities are used a fraction of each

week. As good Christian stewards, we can open our buildings to boys and others who are pursuing lofty, noble goals.

**U STANDS FOR UNDERGIRDING.**

Scouting is only as strong as its leaders and its organizers. We can offer great leadership and credible organizations. Baptist churches and Scouting have always worked cooperatively, as proven by the hundreds of units in the Baptist churches of America.

**T STANDS FOR TEAMWORK.** Our churches share many of the same goals as Scouting. Together, as a team, we accomplish more for our boys and young adults.

**I STANDS FOR INTEREST.** We possess an interest in every individual, for he is a special creation of God. So, we share a common interest in the lives of boys—lives that Scouting also hopes to influence positively.

**N STANDS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTITY.** As established neighborhood institutions, our churches have exhibited visible interest in our neighbors. By erecting buildings, we've also made a sizable investment in the community. This underscores our permanency. Scouting can benefit from our reputation for sincerity, care, and neighborliness. Moreover, we can profit from Scouting by offering our facilities once more to our neighbors. In so

doing, we will further demonstrate our care for one another.

**G STANDS FOR GODLY**

**LEADERSHIP.** As I stated in my opening testimony, the effects of Scouting on the lives of young men are unlimited, especially when the Scouting unit is led by a godly man. We can provide this vital ingredient. Should we be willing to do any less? Scouting is more than helping old ladies across the street or raising flags at building dedications. Scouting is a comprehensive program adhering to the highest ideals of man and in harmony with God's plan for man.

Scouting has a lot to offer our Baptist boys. I stand as a testimony of one whose life has been positively influenced by Scouting and Scouters.

Scouting has a lot to offer our churches. Just ask a few of the prominent pastors across America who stand ready to testify to this fact. And our churches have much to offer Scouting. We possess that key link in a totally developed life.

Shall we deprive our youth and our church of the benefits of the Scouting program? Shall we deny Scouting our contribution to America's youth? I think not! I pray not! Baptists and Scouting—WE NEED EACH OTHER.