



Girl Scouts.

Catholic Scouting Committee

Diocese of Manchester
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Boy Scouts

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**Our Websites: www.catholicnh.org/scout &
www.facebook.com/nhscoutretreat**

Re: Why Boy Scout and Cub Scout Leaders must attend a Diocesan Child Protection Workshop

To Pastors and Scout Leaders,

Oct. 29, 2002

Please be advised that the mandatory attendance requirement for the Protecting God's Children Workshop (as well as 1) completion of a criminal background check, 2) completion the volunteer screening form, and 3) receiving the Code of Conduct) is for all those in parish ministries that involve youth, and thus includes all Boy Scout and Cub Scout Leaders. Scout Troops and Packs belong to and are owned by the parish (i.e. the chartered organization) that charters them. Each year parishes receive a national charter to use the Scouting program as part of their youth work. Boy Scouts of America chooses religious, educational, civic, fraternal, business, labor, governmental bodies, and professional associations to charter troops and packs that it sees as having goals compatible with those of its own.

Each chartered organization using the Scouting program provides a meeting place, selects a Scoutmaster or Cubmaster, appoints a troop committee of at least three adults, and chooses a chartered organization representative. The troop committee works on behalf of the chartered organization and the troop must be operated within that organization's policies. The troop committee is also responsible for supporting the Scoutmaster in providing a quality troop program and handling troop administration. The chartered organization (parish) is responsible for approving all adult leaders. While the Boy Scouts of America provides the program and support services, it is the parish that provides the adult leadership and uses the program to accomplish its goals for youth in its parish and community. For more information regarding this relationship, consult the Troop Committee Guidebook published by the Boy Scouts of America.

There is, therefore, no such thing as an independent Scout Troop that merely uses the facilities of a parish like an outside organization would. While some troops and parishes may unfortunately seem to operate in this fashion, this is not the way it is or should be. Troops and parishes are meant to be united in their outreach and service to youth in the parish and wider community. Scout Leaders are parish youth ministers and are thus responsible for knowing the policies and expectations of the parish and the Diocese regarding child protection. While most Scout Leaders have already been trained in the excellent Youth Protection Training provided by the Boy Scouts of America, they are still required to be trained in the Diocesan Program as well.

Girl Scout leaders are not required (but may be invited or encouraged) to attend the Diocesan Child Protection training because the chartering relationship is very different from that of the Boy Scouts. Girl Scouts of the United States of America not only provide the program, but they also are responsible for selecting and training the leaders. Parishes provide a safe space for the girls to meet because they see the program provided by the Girl Scouts as consistent with their own. Please be advised, however, that adults who work with girls on earning religious emblems must attend the training, since these are parish based rather than Girl Scout based programs.

For any further questions regarding Scouting, be sure to drop a line.

Regards,

Fr. Ray Ball

Diocesan Director/Chaplain of Scouting

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