

Diocese of Peoria Catholic Committee on Scouting

Volume 2007 Issue 1

www.peoria-dccs.org/

RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS AS MEMBERSHIP

The religious emblems programs have been part of Scouting's "Duty to God" for many years. Although the religious emblems have always been recognized in terms of "program," they have been overlooked in terms of "membership."

Consider: 62% of all units are chartered to religious institutions.

In light of this, religious emblems can have a huge impact on membership, but it starts with a basic understanding of religious emblems and chartered partners:

- Who "owns" the religious emblems programs? Religious emblems are created and administered by the national religious organizations, not the Boy Scouts of America. Although BSA promotes the programs and allows the emblem to be worn on the official BSA uniform, the religious emblems are owned and operated by the religious organizations.
- What is BSA's role to chartered partners? BSA provides the Scouting program as a vehicle to further the ideals and goals of the chartered partner. If the chartered partner is a religious organization, then its goals will more than likely center around religious instruction and membership. Religious emblems can address both of these.

Councils can strengthen their relationships with chartered partners and increase membership by using religious emblems to:

- Initiate dialogue with chartered partners about a resource created by their own denominations to serve their own youth.
- Help congregations embrace Scouting not as an outside group that meets in its building, but as an integral part of their ministry with youth. Local congregations will not only be providing specific religious instruction through the religious emblems programs, but they will also be strengthening the spiritual component of the Scouting program.
- Encourage congregations to embrace Scouting as ministry and offer all levels of Scouting. Although 62 percent of all units are chartered to religious institutions, only 8 percent of all chartered organizations offer all levels of Scouting. It would seem that current chartered organizations would be the biggest (and perhaps easiest) target to increase units.
- Provide opportunity for community outreach. A faith community that offers a religious emblems class and publicizes it through the council newsletter might be reaching out to Scouts of the same faith who do not have membership in a religious institution but are interested in earning an emblem of their faith.
- Reach diverse racial and ethnic groups and specific geographic areas or communities not

being served by Scouting. The religious emblems programs provide an instant and visible connection between Scouting and a faith community.

- Provide first exposure to the Scouting program. Adults active in a congregation may volunteer to serve as counselors for the religious emblems programs because they see that as a direct extension of their congregation's ministry.
- Increase the continuity and tenure of adult leaders. Leaders who volunteer in religious institutions have greater tenure than those in other areas. In addition, congregations that recognize their leaders with an adult religious award are encouraging them in their service.

There are many ways that local councils have used the religious emblems programs to strengthen their relationships and increase membership through their chartered partners. Check out some of the resources on the P.R.A.Y. website. You may also want to consider the Religious Emblems course that is being offered at the Philmont Training Center July 27 - August 2, 2008.

Visit http://www.praypub.org/partnerships/philmont_training.htm for more information.

Scout License Plates for Illinois

All scouts and scouters now have the ability to request Illinois Scout license plates. Right now only get the Girl Scout, Boy Scout, and Gold Award plate can be ordered. The state is still working on the Eagle plate because the Secretary of State considers it on the same level of military plates. So they have to come up with a way to prove the person attained the rank. Supposedly the Eagle Scout plate will be ready by February. Spread the word about these plates. To view the plates, go to (then scroll to towards the bottom):

<http://www.alincolnbsa.org/>

Nominations for 2008 Adult Recognition Awards

Nominations and documentation for the 2008 Adult Recognition Awards will be accepted by the Diocese of Peoria Catholic Committee on Scouting towards the end of the calendar year. Consider nominating a Scouter or Girl Scout leader who has made a personal commitment to enrich the lives of youth through Scouting. Applications are available by following the links above for Adult Awards.

All applications will be reviewed and decisions made by the committee in early January. The deadline to submit an application in December 15, 2007. All recognitions will be announced and awarded at the Feb. 17, 2008 Diocesan Scout Mass.

Remember; these recognitions are not sought by an individual but rather are awarded by others who observe the good works of their fellow scouters.

For an application for awards please visit the DCCS web site or ask your Priest for more information:

www.peoria-dccs.org/gsa_AdultRecognition.html

Please mail all nominations to:

Dr. Doug Loberg
320 Ravinswood Rd.
Peoria, IL 61615

For more information, please contact Deacon Roger Hunter
(e-mail at: roghunter@insightbb.com).

2008 Diocesan Scout Mass

Sunday Feb. 17, 2008

3:00 pm

St. Mary's Cathedral Peoria

Keep in mind that we will be needing volunteers from the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts for readers, servers, ushers, gift bearers, and more. Troop 40 will be the host troop this year.

Please contact Dr. Loberg- VLDL@insightbb.com or Fr. Harris- ghh091769@msn.com for further information.

Ingersoll Scout Reservation Interfaith Chapel

The Diocese of Peoria Catholic Committee on Scouting is looking for donations to help build an Interfaith Chapel at Ingersoll Scout Reservation. The design will be an open air a-frame chapel

All donators will have their name added to a plaque in recognition of their donation.

Please contact: Fr. Glen Harris at: ghh091769@msn.com or any other of the board members listed throughout the newsletter.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 19, 2008

DCCS meeting

10 am - noon

St. Edward's

Feb. 17, 2008

DCCS Scout Mass

St. Mary's Cathedral Peoria, IL

3:00 pm

NEW ADDRESS

Fr. Glenn Harris

St. Edward's Church

1216 N. 6th St

Chillicothe, IL 61523

309-274-3809 Email: ghh091769@msn.com

If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Glenn Harris, DCCS Chaplain at ghh091769@msn.com; Dr. Doug Loberg, DCCS Chairman at: VLDL@insightbb.com; or Deacon Roger Hunter, DCCS, WD Boyce Chaplain at: roghunter@insightbb.com; Chuck Flagg at cflagg4@mchsi.com