

FAITH COMMUNITY

Hosting Scouting at your congregation

Lutheran Churches

WHAT THIS MEANS

You provide the home. Your council provides the program.

Chartering a Scouting unit means your congregation becomes the unit's home. You are not asked to run the program or train the leaders — your local council does that. What you provide is a place to meet, a point of contact, and a welcome to the families who come. In return, young people in your community get adventure, friendship, leadership and service.

Your congregation provides

- A place to meet
- A representative from your congregation
- A welcome to local families

Your council provides

- The full program, training and materials
- Youth-protection standards and insurance framework
- Recruiting and sign-up support
- A local contact who helps you start

The Lutheran church encourages congregations to use Scouting “as a part of their ministries with youth.”

IN PRACTICE

What hosting a unit actually looks like

Weekly meetings

Around 60–90 minutes, in a room you already have. A hall, classroom or meeting room is enough.

A unit of your own

The pack or troop is chartered to your organization and carries your name.

Familiar and new faces

Families you already know, plus others from the neighborhood who come through your doors.

GETTING STARTED

Five steps to your first meeting

- 1 Talk with your local council**
They explain what chartering involves and answer questions specific to your congregation.
- 2 Name a point of contact**
One person who links your congregation and the unit.
- 3 Agree on a meeting place and time**
Most units meet weekly. A hall, classroom or meeting room is enough.
- 4 Invite your families**
Use the Co-Branding Studio to make a flyer carrying your own name and logo.
- 5 Hold your first meeting**
Your council helps with recruiting, registration and leader training.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Quick answers

Can a Lutheran congregation charter a Scouting unit?

Yes. Congregations are eligible chartered organizations and are among Scouting's most established faith partners — today more than 700 Lutheran churches charter units.

Does Scouting teach our doctrine?

No. Religious-emblem programs are owned and taught by the church's own counselor; Scouting's role is only to encourage youth in their "Duty to God." Faith instruction stays with the congregation.

What religious emblems can Lutheran youth earn?

The P.R.A.Y. series — God and Me, God and Family, God and Church, and God and Life — administered by P.R.A.Y. and worn on the uniform.

How do we recognize adult volunteers?

Nominate them for the Lamb Award (for 10+ years of distinguished service) or the Servant of Youth Award through the National Lutheran Association on Scouting.

FIND OUT MORE

Useful links

National Lutheran Assn. on Scouting — nlas.org

P.R.A.Y. religious emblems — praypub.org

Religious Awards chart — scouting.org

BeAScout — beascout.scouting.org

MAKE IT YOURS

Co-brand your own materials

Build a flyer, event notice or join card with your name and logo beside Scouting America's — in English, Español, 中文 or Deutsch. Visit scoutingpartnerresourcepage.netlify.app and open the Co-Branding Studio.

To begin, contact your local council — find yours at beascout.scouting.org

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