

CIVIC & SERVICE CLUB

Hosting Scouting at your club

Optimist International

WHAT THIS MEANS**You provide the home. Your council provides the program.**

Chartering a Scouting unit means your club 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 club provides

- A place to meet
- A member to act as your champion
- A service project your members can rally behind

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

Chartering a Scouting unit is a lasting service project — one a club or post can point to for decades.

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 club.
- 2 Name a point of contact**
One person who links your club 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 our organization charter a Scouting unit?

Yes. Civic and service organizations are eligible chartered organizations — together they charter roughly 38% of Scouting youth.

Do we need a national agreement first?

No. Every unit charts locally through an annual agreement with your local council. National endorsements encourage sponsorship but never replace the local charter.

What are we actually committing to?

A place to meet, a Chartered Organization Representative to serve as liaison, and a welcoming home for families. Your council provides the program, training, and youth-protection standards.

Can we use the Scouting America logo on our materials?

Yes — use the Co-Branding Studio on this site. It places the Scouting America mark correctly beside your own logo and produces a print-ready file, so you do not need to source or position the artwork yourself.

FIND OUT MORE

Useful links

Optimist International — www.optimist.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.