

FAQ's Regarding Scouting Partnerships with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee

As of February 2023

Why is the Archdiocese of Milwaukee changing its current partnership with Scouting?

- The Archdiocese was forced to evaluate their partnership with Scouting in part due to the National BSA's bankruptcy filing, and due to requirements of their insurance provider.

What are the options as of January 1, 2024 for Scout units currently chartered to Catholic parishes or schools?

- One option is to find a new Chartered Organization and transfer the unit over to that organization. Units will be allowed to sign a Facilities Use Agreement with their current charter organization – their Catholic parish or school – to allow continued use of the Catholic facilities. The new Chartered Organization will own the financial and equipment assets of the unit.
- A second option is to become a Council Registered Unit and sign the Facilities Use Agreement with their current charter organization – their Catholic parish or school – to allow continued use of the Catholic facilities. Three Harbors Council will own the financial and equipment assets of the unit. The Facilities Use Agreement must be signed by three parties – an authorized signer of the parish facilities you will continue to use, an authorized signer of Three Harbors Council, and a representative of the unit.

What do units need to do to become registered as a Council Registered Unit?

- Units will need to meet with their District Executive and get a letter of release from the current chartered organization. The unit will then complete a new unit application and transfer ownership of the unit over to Three Harbors Council.

Will there be a fee for units to continue using the facilities they currently use after they transition to a Facilities Use Agreement?

- Not likely but this will be determined by the facility's leadership. (Pastor or his representative)

Will there be a cost to become a Council Registered Unit?

- There will be a fee based on the insurance needed to cover the unit's property such as trailers, camping gear, pinewood derby track, etc.... Please note that a new chartering organization may also charge a fee to cover the insurance costs.

If two or more units share a trailer or equipment, how will the fee for insurance be assessed?

- The fee will be divided between/among the units who share the trailer and equipment.

Will adult leaders still need to complete the Catholic training *Safeguarding God's Children* to be allowed to meet in their current meeting place on Catholic parish property?

- Yes, the additional training would still be required for units that sign the Facilities Use Agreement.

Are there any administrative tasks that units should anticipate if registering with Three Harbors Council?

- The council's auditors will require the completion of a one-page financial summary showing unit assets on January 1 and December 31 of each year.

Can we create our own 501c3, and incorporate to become a chartered organization?

- No, this is not allowed by the BSA. It would have the unintended consequence of tax liability for those in the unit.

What types of organizations can become charter partners?

- Typical partnerships are other faith-based institutions, civic organizations such as the Lions Club, Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Masonic Lodges, and Elks Lodges, veteran's groups such as the VFW or American Legion, or a local business.

Will our BeAScout pin change to our new Chartered Organization or Three Harbors Council?

- The pin can be edited to reflect the actual location where your unit meets.

Will we have to change our unit flag?

- Not necessarily. Three Harbors Council is working with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee regarding the wording on unit flags under the new Facilities Use Agreement which will go into effect in 2024. We will update this information as we learn more.

Our unit has always been a part of our Catholic parish. How can we maintain our Catholic identity?

- Celebrate Scout Sunday with the Scouts and leaders in uniform sitting together at Mass. Work with your Director of Liturgy or pastor to see if Scouts can be altar servers and lectors, in their Scout uniforms at the Scout Sunday Mass. Involve the Scouts in parish service projects, including service projects that support the parish and its grounds. Encourage the Scouts in your unit to earn their religious emblems.

Will the Archdiocese of Milwaukee continue to be supportive of Scouting?

- The annual Archdiocesan Celebration of Catholic Scouting, where religious emblems recipients are recognized and the Bronze Pelican Awards and St. George Emblems are presented to selected adult Scout volunteers, will continue. The celebrant is the Archbishop or one of the auxiliary bishops and all Scouts and their families are encouraged to attend. In 2023, the Mass will be held on April 22.

When will units have to decide as to what type of unit they want to charter or register as?

- Please let the council know as soon as possible. It may take considerable time to find a new chartered organization, for those units who want to do so. If the unit decides to become a Council Registered Unit, we would like to know that by July 1st, so that we can begin the transition process for your unit. If your unit would like to move to another Chartered Organization, we ask that you secure a new organization by August 1st so that we can get all the required paperwork completed by year-end.