

THE CATHOLIC COMMITTEE on SCOUTING/CAMP FIRE ***Diocese of San Jose***



“Toward Faith & Hope Through Scouting”

September, 2007

Dear Catholic Chartered Scout Unit Leaders,

Greetings from the Catholic Committee on Scouting/Camp Fire, Diocese of San Jose! School is now well underway as are all of your unit's annual plans. We hope that everything is running smoothly! Our committee thanks you for your commitment to the youth of today. As leaders of a unit chartered to or meeting at a Catholic organization, your example and dedication to Scouting as Youth Ministry is appreciated.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some of the programs, activities and recognitions available to your Catholic chartered unit.

Catholic Religious Emblems

Is your unit participating this year? Hopefully the answer is “yes!” Be sure to contact either Ann Resch (a.resch@att.net) for Cub Scout programs or Patricia Cuadros for Boy Scout programs (patricia-c@usa.net) so that you can be kept in the loop with important information!

Programs must be completed by January 15, 2008

The Board of Review for “Ad Altare Dei” and “Pope Pius XII” candidates will be held Feb. 4, 2008.

The Recognition Ceremony will be held Sunday, March 9, 2008

The TRUST Religious and Community Life Award for Venturers

Are you the Advisor to a Venture Crew? The TRUST Award, while not a Catholic Religious Emblem, is a program for Venturers of all faiths. This program provides opportunities for Venturers to learn more about themselves, their communities, and their own religion and culture, as well as those of others. Requirements include completing the Religious and Community Life Bronze Award as well as the religious emblem appropriate for one's own faith (the “Pope Pius XII” emblem for Catholic Venturers).

The TRUST Award is administered by the Venture Crew.

Catholic Venturers completing the award by January 15, 2008 can be recognized on March 9.

(Contact: Patricia Cuadros; patricia-c@usa.net)

Nominations for Adult Religious Recognitions

Who are those folks in your unit who are doing an outstanding job of contributing directly to the spiritual nourishment of Catholic boys and girls in the scouting movement? They certainly deserve consideration for recognition! Check out our committee website at www.ccsf.homestead.com for nomination forms for:

- The **Bronze Pelican Award** – a Diocese of San Jose recognition for scouters who have demonstrated commitment and dedication to the spiritual growth of Catholic scouts.
- The **St. George Emblem** – a national recognition for scouters and non-scouters who have gone above and beyond in making significant and outstanding contributions to the spiritual development of Catholic youths through scouting.

Nominations are due January 15, 2008

(Submit to Nominating Committee: Patricia Cuadros; patricia-c@usa.net)

Pope Paul VI National Unit Award

This is the Quality Unit Award for Catholic chartered units. This award recognizes *your* unit for its ability to provide each youth with a top-quality program which encompasses the religious, vocational and educational aspects of scouting under Catholic auspices. Are you aware that your unit may qualify for this award? Applications may be downloaded at www.ccscf.homestead.com.

Applications are due January 15, 2008

The National Gold Medallion Award

We are sure you take pride in your unit's many accomplishments! The Gold Medallion Award is your opportunity to "brag" about your unit's quality Catholic scouting program, service projects, religious activities, membership and all the other great things that you do. Take a look at the application at www.ccscf.homestead.com.

**Applications are due December 5, 2007
(So you may need to act quickly on this!)**

The annual Catholic Scouting Retreat

Hosted by the Diocese of Oakland and the Diocese of San Jose Catholic Committees on Scouting, the weekend is coordinated by a youth ministry team and provides the opportunity for scouts 5th grade and older to share faith while having FUN! Info and registration forms are available at www.oakdiocesescouts.org.

**This year's retreat will be September 14 – 16, 2007.
The retreat will take place at BSA Camp Rancho Los Mochos near Livermore.**

The Catholic Committee on Scouting/Camp Fire Patch

Check out our website at www.ccscf.homestead.com for info on the patch plus an ordering form. Anyone wanting to support Catholic scouting may purchase and wear the patch. Religious emblems rockers may be purchased by those who have completed the specific religious emblem program.

Activities of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS)

Check out the NCCS website at www.nccs-bsa.org for all that's happening within Catholic scouting nationally. Activities that you might be interested in using as part of your programming include:

- The Rosary Patch Program
- The International Awareness Recognition Activity -- The purpose of this activity is to bring awareness of scouting in the Catholic Church throughout the world.

Need help in doing a presentation on religious emblems to your unit?

PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) has excellent resources! PRAY also has a great patch activity. Check it all out at www.praypub.org.

Need help? Have questions?

All of the Catholic Committee on Scouting/Camp Fire is willing to help – just ask! Our primary contacts are:
Rev. Paul Soukup, SJ – committee chaplain; psoukup@scu.edu
Ann Resch – committee chairman and Cub Scout religious emblems coordinator; a.resch@att.net
Patricia Cuadros – Boy Scout and Venture religious emblems coordinator; patricia-c@usa.net

Thanks again for all that *you* do to promote Scouting as Catholic Youth Ministry!

Yours in Christ,
Yours in Scouting,
The Catholic Committee on Scouting/Camp Fire, Diocese of San Jose