

Membership Initiative – Program Information

History

The following is a listing of key events In the history of Catholic Scouting in the United States

- 1908** Lord Baden-Powell confers with Cardinal Bourne and Benedictine Fathers while developing the scouting program.
- 1910** BSA Incorporated.
- 1912** BSA Chartered by Congress.
- 1912** Brother Barnabas, Victor Ridder, and James West encourage John Cardinal Farley to charter a troop at St. Patrick's Cathedral. While other units chartered to Catholic organizations predate this charter, Cardinal Farley set standards for Catholic Scouting units by requiring Scouts to be members of Catholic Youth Programs like the Junior Holy Name Society and Chaplains were assigned to each unit. Brother Barnabas, FSC, was a Christian Brother and the Director of the Catholic Bureau of the BSA, and later responsible for founding youth programs in the Knights of Columbus. Victor Ridder was a National Scout Commissioner to Catholic Churches. James E. West was the First Chief Scout Executive.
- 1917** National Catholic War Council (NCWC), composed of American Bishops, is formed to assist servicemen.
- 1919** National Welfare Council (NWC) is formed in response to Pope Benedict XV.
- 1922** NWC name is changed to the National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC). This body of American Bishops is consultative (not legislative) to address concerns for education, unionization, and social action.
- 1924** Brother Barnabas and Victor Ridder found the Catholic Committee on Scouting consisting of Patrick Cardinal Hayes (Archbishop of NY) as the honorary Chairman, Bishop Joseph H. Conroy – Chairman, and Fr. Matthew J. Walsh – (President of Notre Dame University) National Counselor (Chaplain).
- 1928** The CCS publishes "Scouting for Catholics" a guideline for forming troops in Catholic organizations.
- 1933** The CCS was reorganized to the NCCS with a Bishops' Committee and a Layman's Committee.
- 1934** NCCS and BSA developed a Plan of Cooperation in which the BSA recognizes the Church's interest in the spiritual welfare of Catholic Youth and the Church endorses Scouting as a Youth Program for Catholic youth. The American Catholic hierarchy, the National Catholic Welfare Council (NCWC), approved the plan.
- 1940** Ad Altare Dei, first BSA National Religious Emblem, requirements approved.
- 1954** Saint George Emblem for Catholic Lay leaders is approved.
- 1964** NCCS restructures to include chaplains and lay representatives from each diocese that adopts the Plan of Cooperation.
- 1965** Scouter Development Program adopted.
- 1966** The National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) and the United States Catholic Conference (USCC) are formed. The NCCB is to address United States concerns or those called for in a decree on the Bishops Pastoral Office. The USCC is to address issues of larger society.
- 1968** The NCCS Plan of Cooperation is revised to operate with an Executive Board with a lay Chairman and National Chaplain.
- 1972** Pope Paul VI National Unit Recognition started sponsored by the Catholic Knights of St. George.
- 1974** First Annual Training Conference at Philmont.
- 1992** First Saint George Youth Leadership Trek held at Philmont with the sponsorship of the Sacred Constantinian Military Order of Saint George.
- 2001** NCCB and USCC are combined to form the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to do the work of both and all United States Bishops are members.