



Charter Presentation

The date of this ceremony is determined by the time of the receipt of the charter renewal application at the council service center. From four to six weeks should be allowed for the return of the charter. Membership cards are mailed to the unit leader by the council registrar according to the current national membership validation procedures.

If possible, stage the presentation under the auspices of, and at a regular meeting or activity of, the chartered organization. This serves to accentuate the character of the relationship, puts the organization in a better position to recognize its unit leaders, and assures attendance of the largest possible number of the organization's members.

The charter presentation belongs in the hands of the organization rather than the unit itself. There are members of the organization who will attend an organizational affair, but who will not be motivated to attend a meeting put on by the unit. It is important to capture the interest of as many members of the chartered organization as possible. Parents of youth members will be just as likely to attend in either case.

Each occasion must be considered individually, and circumstances will color the decision as to location of the ceremony. A unit consisting of youth of different religious faiths will require careful consideration, particularly if the organization is a religious one. Other things to be taken into account are personalities involved, available facilities, and community attitudes.

The charter should be presented to the head of the chartered organization unless that person directs otherwise.

COMMISSIONER'S ROLE

Guide the unit leadership and the chartered organization in setting up the ceremony. Select a time when the ceremony can take place at a meeting or activity of the chartered organization, if this is practical. Otherwise, make sure that the head of the chartered organization can be present at a special meeting of the unit.

You should help coordinate the program, making sure that many people are involved. Some of the assignments might be:

Chartered Organization Representative. Reserve meeting facilities. Make an appointment with the head of the chartered organization to be present and prepared to receive the charter. Invite members of the chartered organization to attend.

Committee Chairman. Invite parents. Involve committee members in the program.

Committee Members. Help unit leaders with parts of program (awards, ceremonies) and setup (decorations, seating). Plan refreshments.

Unit Leaders. Plan unit program around the charter presentation.

Many councils develop special teams to present charters within the district. Toastmasters clubs are a good source of personnel for charter presentation teams as well as chamber of commerce members.

This in no way should detract from the commissioner's role—only supplement it if the human resources can be found.

Participants in the charter ceremony should include the head of the chartered organization, the chartered organization representative, chairman and members of the unit committee, unit leaders and assistants, den leaders and Webelos den leaders (if a Cub Scout pack), youth leaders (if in a Boy Scout troop or Venturing crew), and youth members of the unit.

Be sure you have the new charter to present.

CHARTER PRESENTATION CEREMONY

This ceremony may be used at a meeting of a service club or as a part of a regular meeting of a chartered organization.

Note: A short inspirational message could be added to the following suggested charter presentation ceremony. Note that this ceremony is written for a troop, and must be adapted for use at a pack, team, crew, or ship charter presentation ceremony.

Opening Statement. “I am pleased to be with you to recognize the great relationship that exists between the Boy Scouts of America and _____ (name of organization). The Boy Scouts of America exists primarily to serve chartered organizations and their needs as they reach out to serve youth of their respective organizations and youth in the nearby community.

“In recognition of this great relationship, I would like to call forward at this time the chairman and members of the (unit committee).”

Charge to the Unit Committee. *(Call forward the troop committee chairman and the members of the committee.)* “You have assumed the responsibility of being the board of directors for Boy Scout Troop _____ (number) a _____ (organization). The chairman of the committee presides over the monthly meetings of the troop committee and also assumes the direction of the troop should the Scoutmaster or assistants be unable to serve. As members of the committee, you have assumed the obligation of providing the troop with camping experiences, advancement opportunities, information on events and activities conducted by the district and council, transportation for troop activities, the financial stability in support of approved fund-raising projects, and guaranteeing continuity of the troop through the years.

“On behalf of the chartered organization, do you accept these responsibilities to be accomplished to the best of your ability? If so, answer ‘We do.’ *(Committee members respond.)*”

“Congratulations! Please accept your registration cards as a member of the Boy Scouts of America.” *(Present cards to each person.)*

Charge to the Scoutmaster and/or Assistants. *(Call forward the Scoutmaster and assistants.)*

“You have accepted a major role on behalf of this chartered organization by assuming leadership of young people who will enjoy the Scouting program. You have accepted the responsibility of providing weekly programs, monthly camping trips, and participation in council and district events for your troop members. The time you devote to these young people will only be rewarded in the satisfaction you get from seeing them grow into great American citizens who will live by the Scout Oath and Law.

On behalf of the chartered organization, do you accept these responsibilities to be accomplished to the best of your ability? If so, answer ‘We do.’ *(Scoutmaster and assistants respond.)*

“Congratulations! Please accept your registration cards as members of the Boy Scouts of America.” *(Present cards to each person.)*

Charge to the Chartered Organization Representative. *(Call the Chartered Organization Representative forward.)* “You have been appointed by your chartered organization to represent it as a voice in the local council of the Boy Scouts of America. You become an automatic voting member of the local council and will represent your organization at the annual council meeting, which selects leadership for the council for each ensuing year. In addition, you have the responsibility of coordinating the various Scouting units that exist in your chartered organization, making sure that they work one with the other to coordinate a natural graduation program from the Cub Scout pack to the Boy Scout troop to the Varsity Scout team or Venturing crew or ship. You are also a member of the district and are encouraged to provide assistance whenever and wherever you are able.

“On behalf of the chartered organization, do you accept these responsibilities to be accomplished to the best of your ability? If so, answer ‘I will.’ *(Chartered organization representative responds.)*”

“Congratulations! Please accept your registration card as a member of the Boy Scouts of America.” *(Present registration card.)*

Youth Leaders. *(Call forth all youth leaders.)* “You have been selected as the youth leaders of this troop. You will be expected to be an example and you will be asked to provide leadership, program ideas, and initiative to all the members of the troop who fall under your influence. You are, above all, expected to abide by the Scout Oath and Law and set a leadership pattern for all to follow. On behalf of the chartered organization, do you accept these responsibilities to be accomplished to the best of your ability? If so, answer ‘We will.’ *(Youth leaders respond.)*”

“Congratulations! Please accept your registration cards as members of the Boy Scouts of America.”

(Present registration cards.)

Members of the Troop. “Will all members of the troop please stand? As members of this Scout troop, will you do your best to attend meetings regularly, provide help to your leaders, personally advance in rank, and demonstrate your willingness at all times to abide by the Scout Oath and Law? On behalf of the chartered organization, do you accept these responsibilities to be accomplished to the best of your ability? If so, please answer ‘We will.’ *(All members of the troop respond.)*”

“Congratulations! Please accept your registration cards as members of the Boy Scouts of America.” *(Present registration cards.)*

Charge to Parents. “Will all parents please stand? As parents, you are expected to attend parents’ meetings of the troop, assist with needed transportation, provide leadership support when needed, and be willing helpers in time of need, in order to provide the troop with an outstanding program, quality leadership, and good parental support. If you are willing to do your best to support the leadership of the chartered organization and provide what help you can give to the program, please answer ‘We will.’ *(All parents respond.)*”



Charge to the Chartered Organization. “Will all members of the _____ (name of chartered organization) please stand?”

“You have heard the troop committee, the troop leadership, the Chartered Organization Representative, the youth leaders, members of the troop, and parents all pledge their support to the Scouting program in this chartered organization. May we ask you to cooperate with the Scout leadership chosen by your chartered organization and provide, whenever called upon, help to make this program a vibrant living part of the youth program and youth outreach of your organization? If so, answer ‘We will.’”
(All members of the organization respond.)

Charter to the Head of the Chartered Organization. *(Please call him or her forth.)* “You have heard the pledge of commitment of all these members of your organization and the troop in supporting the Scouting program as a major youth program for your organization. With the acknowledgment of this support, I am

pleased to present to you the charter signifying your right to use the Scouting program for the year ahead in a way that conforms with both the rules and regulations of your organization and those of Scouting. On behalf of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, I present your charter and pledge the cooperation of the local district and council to help make the program a vibrant living part of your program for youth.

“I would also like at this time to introduce the volunteers (if these are present) from our district who will provide support to you. May I introduce (the district chairman, your commissioner and/or district commissioner, and any other visiting Scouters) who will help you carry out an effective program of Scouting for the year ahead.

“Thank you for the opportunity to present this charter and thank you for accepting Scouting as a program of action for your organization.” *(Present the charter and turn the program over to the head of the chartered organization to make any remarks.)*