Great Salt Lake Council, Boy Scouts of America

Chartered Organization Representative Orientation and Training

Module 1

The Role of the Chartered Organization Representative

Dear Chartered Organization Representative,

Thank you for registering as the Charter Organization Representative (COR) for one of our valued chartered partners in the Great Salt Lake Council (GSLC). As a COR, you are very important to the scouting programs in your organization, and you have both voice and vote in the governance of the GSLC. We urge you to take the few minutes needed to review this module and to keep it on file. You may already know much of what is in this communication, but most CORs don't truly appreciate how important they can be to scouting. We hope that this Orientation and Training Module will help you better understand your COR role.

Question: How may scout units does the GSLC own?
Answer: none

Our Chartered Partners, not the Council, "own" the units: Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Varsity Scout Teams, and Venturing Crews. And you as the COR are the manager of the units you own. As manager, you are the person authorized to "hire" and "fire" the committee and adult leaders for your unit(s). Whether you have one unit or all four types, your organization has only one COR.

How Scouting is Organized

The Boy Scouts of America includes nearly 300 local councils of which the GSLC is one of the largest. Annually, each Council must meet youth service and other criteria be re-chartered by the National Council based in Irving Texas. Each council in turn, is authorized to charter units within its geographical area.

The Great Salt Lake Council SLC includes over 5,000 units which serve 70,000 youth. Over 30,000 adult volunteers and a professional staff of 40 support the units, districts and council. The Council is governed by an Executive Board which meets quarterly. The Council President, Commissioner, Scout Executive, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and Chief Financial Officer comprise the Executive Committee which meets monthly and as needed. Scouters with voice and vote at the Council annual business meeting include the officers, the Executive Board, Officers and you – the CORs.

Each COR received an invitation to the Annual Meeting last June 2 and we hope you will join us this year when we meet again.

The Great Salt Lake serves Salt Lake County, Summit County, Tooele County and Southern Davis County. For efficiency, the Council is divided into 24 Districts, 23 of which are geographical. District 6-the Gateway District is a functional district that encompasses our Hispanic Initiative.

Each District is governed by a District Chairman, District Commissioner, and professional scouter (District Executive or other Executive assigned to serve that District) known as the District "Key Three", and a District Committee.

Chartered Partners

Question: What are these Chartered Partners that "own" the units?

They are formal or informal groups of adults who choose to use scouting **programs** ***to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.***

Those Italicized words are the Mission Statement of the Boy Scouts of America. Our chartered partners are the groups that make it happen.

Our Chartered partners are:

- Religious organizations including churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, parochial schools, religious fraternal organizations, and religious umbrella organizations.
- Community service clubs including Rotary and Kiwanis
- Community fraternal organization including the Elks, Moose, and Free Masons
- Businesses and clubs
- Veterans organizations such as the VFW and American Legion
- Homeowners Associations
- Informal parent groups

Question: What are the Chartered Partners' responsibilities?

Chartered partners, sometimes called sponsors, provide

- the meeting place for the unit(s) they sponsor
- adult leaders, and
- youth members

Through the local District the Council supports the units by providing for each Chartered Partner

- the program
- professional (Executive) and volunteer (Commissioner and District Committee)support
- camps and activities
- training courses and monthly roundtable training meetings for adult leaders
- fundraising programs to allow units to become self-sufficient

How Scouting Units are Governed

Each Chartered Partner may operate its unit(s) as it sees fit as long as this is done in a manner consistent with the Scout Oath and Law. Fro example some Chartered Partner churches use scouting as a form of youth ministry. Other Chartered Partners place greater emphasis on outdoor adventures and camping. All units should use the established and proven scouting programs. The scouting programs provided should reflect the values of the Chartered Partner.

CORs have the opportunity and obligation to assure that the program is consistent with their organization's values. The organization Executive Officer and COR are responsible for selecting the unit leaders and assuring that they operate the units in a manner acceptable to the organization. Essentially, the COR has full say on how the units should be governed. We encourage each COR to visit unit meetings periodically to assure this is true. A COR is entitled to wear an adult scouter uniform with the COR badge of office on the left sleeve.

It is important for CORs to have a basic understanding of the structure and functions of the BSA.

Mission, Vision, Purposes, and Methods of Scouting

The Mission of the Boy Scouts of America (as noted above) is

> ***to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.***

In support of our Mission, the BSA has adopted the following Vision, Purposes, and Methods.

The Vision Statement of the Boy Scouts of America is to:

The Boy Scouts of America is the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training. In the future Scouting will continue to

- ***Offer young people responsible fun and adventure;***
- ***Instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law;***
- ***Train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership;***
- ***Serve America's communities and families with its quality, values-based program***

The stated purposes of the Boy Scouts of America are:

- ***Citizenship training***
- ***Character development***
- ***Personal fitness***

To help achieve our Mission, Scouting has adopted the following eight methods:

- ***Scouting Ideals***
- ***Patrols***
- ***Outdoors***
- ***Advancement***
- ***Personal Growth***
- ***Adult Association***
- ***Leadership Development***
- ***Uniform***

The Scouting Programs

Scouting offers a range of age-appropriate programs which are delivered by units. Each Chartered partner may sponsor one or more units. Each Chartered partner has only one COR whether the partner sponsors one or the full range of programs. A full family of programs includes a

- Cub Scout Pack for first through fifth grade boys
- Boy Scout Troop for boys aged 10 ½ (10 if they have earned the Arrow of Life award in Cubbing) through 18
- Venturing Crew for 14-20 year old young men and women.

- Some Chartered Partners, primarily LDS Wards, also sponsor Varsity Scout Teams for 14-16 year old boys. Teams are useful if the organization's youth programming favors separation of younger boys from those who are 14 to 16 years old. Otherwise, all aspects of the Varsity program can be incorporated into a Venturing Crew program and Venturers can participate in most District and Council Varsity events in addition to events limited to Venturers.

The Council encourages Chartered Partners to offer the full range of programs to provide the most age-appropriate scouting experiences for the youth. These are described in Module 2 of this orientation and training program.

Great Salt Lake Council, Boy Scouts of America

Chartered Organization Representative Orientation and Training

Module 2

Scouting Units

Scouting Units

Scouting units include:

- Cub Scout Packs
- Boy Scout Troops
- Varsity Scout Teams
- Venturing Crews
- Sea Scout Ships

Each unit is led by adult leaders and supported by a Unit committee

Unit Leaders and Committees

The adult leaders of the three major types of scouting units as well as Varsity Scout Teams (which are an optional type of unit for 14-16 year Boy Scouts) and Sea Scout Ships (which are a specialized type of Venturing Crew) are;

- Cubmaster
- Scoutmaster
    - Varsity Team Coach
- Venture Crew Advisor.
    - Sea Scout Ship Skipper

Cubmasters run the Pack and Den Leaders run the Dens. A Pack may also have one or more Assistant Cubmasters depending on its size and programs.

Scoutmasters are assisted by Assistant Scoutmasters and Junior Leaders who are elected by their fellow scouts and/or appointed by the adult leaders or Patrol Leaders Council.

Crew Advisors may have one or more Associate Advisors to help guide the youth, but the Crew is led largely led by its elected youth officers; the President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Each Pack, Troop, and Crew is supported by a Committee that supports the adult leaders and unit activities. Roles of Unit Committee members include arranging needed transportation, obtaining rank badges and other recognitions, managing unit finances, and assisting in organizing activities. Unit Committee members may wear the adult leader uniform Badges of office for each position are available; some of which are illustrated below for each program.

The Cub Scout Program

When a boy first joins Cub Scouts at any age, he first earns his Bobcat badge signifying that he understands the Cub Scout Promise, Law of the Pack, Cub Scout motto, handshake, and salute, and what each means.

Cub Scout Bobcat, Tiger Cub, Wolf and Bear badges; Webelos badges to be worn on the blue Cub Scout uniform and khaki Boy Scout uniform (which is an alternate that Webelos may wear) respectively; and the Arrow of Light badge that can also may be worn on the Boy Scout uniform after the Webelos Scout graduates into a Troop.

Cub Scout Dens and Pack

Cub Scout Packs are comprised of Dens by school year, each of which has an age appropriate Handbook, activities and recognition program (rank).

- First graders are in the Tiger Cub Den
- Second graders are in the Wolf Den
- Third graders are in the Bear Den
- Fourth and fifth graders are Webelos Scouts in a separate Webelos Den.
  In the 4th grade, Webelos scouts typically work on the Webelos badge and in the 5th grade they work to earn the Arrow of Light badge.

Dens usually meet weekly on a designated day after school. Once each month all of the Dens in the Pack usually meet together at a Pack meeting. Den leaders are the adults who organize and supervise weekly Den meetings. The Cubmaster organizes and runs the monthly Pack meeting. Some Packs convene weekly and break into Dens for most of the meeting. Cub scouts typically advance together with the other boys in their Dens. At Cub Scout ages, cooperation and working as a group are valued more than individual advancement.