



Catholic Committee on Scouting Archdiocese of Cincinnati Newsletter

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Catholic Committee on Scouting Meeting

September 24, 2025, 6 pm
Online

CST Territory 9 / NCCS Region 6 Catholic Camporee and Retreat - 2025

October 17-19, 2025

Location - Camp Miakonda

January 2026 Board of Reviews

St Maximillion Kolbe Parish on
January 19 at 7 pm

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
on January 21 at 7 pm

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish on
January 23 at 7 pm

Also by request

Cathedral Ceremony - 2026

March 22, 2026, 1:00 PM

St. Peter in Chains Cathedral

Emblems Counselor Training

Available by request

Contact John Hughes or Harry
Heaton to schedule.

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VOLUME VII, ISSUE III

SUMMER 2025

CST 9 / NCCS Region 6 Catholic Camporee and Retreat

Join us at Camp Miakonda (5600 W Sylvania Ave., Toledo, OH 43623) for the first ever Council Service Territory (CST) 9 / NCCS Region 9 Catholic Camporee and Retreat! All scouts in Scouting America troops, crews and ships from across Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and beyond are encouraged to attend regardless of their faith background! Arrow of Light

Scouts are welcome to participate in this event as long as the Scout is within the Safe Scouting Guidelines.

This is **Catholic Scouting** where prayers are as powerful as pocket knives, saints are our trail guides, and the rosary is packed right next to your snacks! Activities will include Jubilee year catechesis (with the opportunity to earn the Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope patch), Scout skills games, a vocations panel (which aids religious emblem work), Mass and Liturgy of the Hours, archery, and more!



Saturday's breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and Sunday's breakfast are included in the cost! Pitch your tents, leave your trailers at home, open your hearts, and join us for a weekend of faith and fun! Many thanks to the

generosity of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Erie Shores Council for hosting this event! Registration is live at <https://www.erieshorescouncil.org/cst9>

For more information, contact Bro. Andrew Kosmowski (kosmowskia1@udayton.edu).



Archdiocese of Cincinnati Scouts Earn NCCS Scholarships

This year, NCCS awarded thirteen service scholarships totaling \$36,000 to recognize Scouts nationwide for outstanding service and leadership in four areas: the Catholic Church, their community, school and Scouting, and two of those are from our Archdiocese!

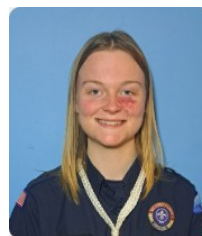


Matthew Irvine from the St. Mary Magdalene Parish Family, and Troop 135 in Dan Beard Council, was

awarded the Frank Parater \$4000 Scholarship. He earned all four of the Catholic Religious emblems offered by NCCS.

When asked why volunteering is important to him, he responded "We are each called by God to serve others and the community. I have chosen to devote myself to cheerful service for the welfare of others so that I can live to my fullest potential and attain full stature in Christ." In service to his Catholic parish, Irvine is an altar server and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

MacKenzie Specht from the St. Mary Magdalene Parish Family, Troop 1281, Crew 6145 and Ship 5145 in Dan Beard



Council, was awarded one of the two \$2,000 Tony & Patrice Steenkolk Family Scholarships. She earned one of the Catholic Religious Emblems offered by NCCS.

Specht truly embodies the idea of servant leadership. When asked why volunteering is important to her, she responded, "I love volunteering because it provides me with the opportunity and the honor to be the change in

someone's life and to create a special relationship with them, knowing that I am following God's plan for my life." In service to the Catholic Church, Specht has volunteered her time as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and as a lector.

Looking for a way to recognize your Catholic chartered Unit's commitment to include Catholic Scouting in your programs?

EXPLORE THESE NEW RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

JUBILEE OF HOPE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY (ENDING SOON!)

In conjunction with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) is offering the **Jubilee 2025 Religious Activity** through **December 2025**. The Jubilee 2025 activity is part of the Faith Series during the Jubilee Year. The Faith Series examines traditions and teachings of the Catholic Faith. The goal of the activities in this series is to help young people and adults learn more about the traditions and teachings of the Catholic faith.



In his 2022 letter announcing the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis wrote “We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart, and a far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, *Pilgrims of Hope.*”

See <https://nccs-bsa.org/download/faith-series-2025-jubilee-religious-activity/> for more information about the activity and the requirements for this patch. Attending the CST 9 / NCCS Region 6 Catholic Camporee and Retreat at Camp Miakonda in October (see page 1) will fulfill many of the requirements for this activity.

POPE—VICAR OF CHRIST ACTIVITY (NEW!)



“For the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 882). **Pope Leo XIV**, the 267th pope, is the first pontiff born in America! The patch for this activity features his image and explores the role of the pope as the Vicar of Christ. He was a Cub Scout while he was growing up in Chicago, Illinois.

The Pope—Vicar of Christ is part of the Faith Series, which examines traditions and teachings of the Catholic faith. The goal of each activity in this series is to help young people and adults learn more about the traditions and teachings of the Catholic faith.

See <https://nccs-bsa.org/download/pope-vicar-of-christ/> for more information about the activity and the requirements for this patch.

THE ACTIVITIES AND THEIR COMPLETION

All young people and adults—Scouts or non-Scouts, Catholic or non-Catholic—can work on the activities in this series and earn a patch for each activity they complete. The activities in this series can be worked on individually or as a group. Young people must fulfill the requirements for their grade level to complete these activities. Adults must fulfill the adult requirements to complete these activities. See <https://nccs-bsa.org/religious-activities/faith-series> for more information.

After a young person completes the requirements, a parent, guardian or Scout leader will review the Scout's work to confirm accuracy and understanding for the activity. Then, the parent, guardian or Scout leader will order the patch from the NCCS Online Store. Detailed documentation of completion or fulfillment of activity requirements should not be sent to NCCS.

Summer Camp Masses

Camp Friedlander and Camp Birch both once again hosted Wednesday evening Masses during each BSA Summer Camp this year, although severe weather caused Camp Birch to move a few Masses indoors and one Mass at Camp Friedlander had to be cancelled for safety reasons. Numerous scouts took advantage of the opportunity to show Reverence to God during their adventures at Summer Camp.



The Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting is grateful to the various priests who took time out of their schedules to say Mass for out scouts at Camp.



Additionally, those attending Week 2 of Summer Camp at Camp Birch had a unique opportunity to congratulate Tecumseh Council's Scout Executive, Mr. Robert Lavoie, as he was presented the certificate for his St. George Emblem at the end of Mass! He was awarded the St. George Emblem at the Religious Emblem Award Ceremony in March, but due to the change in Archbishop around that time and the illness of Archbishop Emeritus Dennis Schnurr, his certificate was unable to be signed in time. However, this gave the Catholic Committee the opportunity to recognize Robert Lavoie at his home camp as well, as Brother Andrew presented Mr. Lavoie his certificate during the Week 2 Summer Camp Mass. Congratulations, Robert Lavoie! Thank you to all the scouts, scouters, and priests who joined the Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting for Mass this summer!



Updates and Reminders

The **2025 National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) Annual Member Assembly** took place in Charlotte, NC from April 24 to April 27, 2025. Next year's annual member assembly will take place in Wichita, Kansas the second week of Easter (April 16-19, 2026). Noteworthy information that came out of this meeting is the decision that both Bronze Pelican and St. George Emblem Recipients are now entitled to wear the BSA Religious Emblem knot.

The **Saint George Trek** is Catholic Scouting's 11 day high adventure leadership program and vocation retreat that will be taking place at Philmont July 1-16, 2026, and is led by priests, seminarians and religious advisors from around the country. Every two years, approximately 70 scouts ages 15 to 18 years old from across the country are selected to participate on the basis of the Scout's demonstrated maturity, physical ability, leadership potential, an interest in the life of the Church, and an openness to the discernment of vocation to the priesthood or religious life. Earning Religious Emblems and involvement in parish, school and scouting activities are also taken into consideration. Registration is now open and more information can be found at <https://nccs-bsa.org/saint-george-trek/>

Catholic Scout leaders are always welcome to attend CNE events such as:

- The Gift of Fertility: Mother & Daughter Workshop on October 4 at St. Bartholomew Church in Cincinnati
- Exalt North on October 8 at Minster Elementary School
- NET Lifeline on several upcoming dates at St. John the Evangelist in West Chester
- These events and others can be found at <https://www.centerforthenewevangelization.org/events>

Catholic Committee on Scouting

Archdiocese of Cincinnati



Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, SM - Committee Chairperson

kosmowskia1@udayton.edu

Fr. Mark Bredestege - Chaplain

frbredestege@holyltrinity-ac.org

Audrey Melton - Archdiocesan Representative

amelton@catholicaoc.org

Harry Heaton - Northern Area Coordinator

harryheaton@me.com

Mr. John M. Hughes - Emblems Coordinator

jmhughes@fuse.net

Deacon Dave Shaffer - Emblems Coordinator

deacondaveshaffer@gmail.com

Websites:

<https://www.centerforthenewevangelization.org/scouting>

<https://www.archcincycos.org>

The mission of the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati is to provide the guidance and resources necessary to add the elements and principles of the Catholic faith to the Scouting experience for all Units in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

We can only accomplish this mission with the prayers and support of all of our leaders and Scouts, so please make it a goal to always include "Duty to God" as a fundamental part of your programs.

Chaplain's Corner

I remember in my youth meeting people who would come back from Philmont speaking about how great their trek was. In these conversations there would always be some scouts and leaders, alike, who would say something along the lines of "I don't get why people enjoy going out to Philmont just to spend all day hiking multiple days in a row in the New Mexico heat only to wear a belt." I had conceived that in my own mind that is all it was. I never had a desire to go to Philmont as a youth. When I was given an opportunity in college to join a trek, I did not pass the opportunity, though I did not truly grasp what I was getting

into. Our crew consisted of veteran hikers and beginners, those who had been to Philmont many times and first timers like myself. The experience of going was much more than "just hiking all day". We spent time fishing, panning for gold, horseback riding, mountain climbing and even took care of a burro for a few days. Ultimately the pre-conceived notions and expectations I had from my youth were not what I expected when experiencing for my self. When looking to the spiritual life we can find ourselves in similar situations. The basis of our prayer life is rooted in relationship with God, a desire for connection and communion with Him. Many times we find ourselves being influenced by others, maybe not maliciously, but their experience or understanding of prayer is recitation of written

prayers, going to Mass because 'it is Church law', praying before meals 'because it is tradition'. What we see in these situations is a staleness in the spiritual life. In these instances prayer has become a chore or even a burden. What God is calling us to is communion with him. A remedy to this is no longer seeing prayer as something 'I have to do' but as something 'I have an opportunity to do' we can put aside those thoughts that 'Mass is boring and the Rosary is repetitive' and turn them into 'I get to/want to encounter God at Mass and grow in my relationship with Him through various devotions'. The spiritual life can be hard if we are not allowing ourselves to be open to the possibilities God is calling us to.

Archdiocesan Representative



Audrey is the Associate Director for Youth Evangelization at the Center for the New Evangelization, and has been serving in this role for two and a half years. She graduated from the University of Dayton in 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies & Theology and a minor in Theatre, Dance, & Performance Technology. Audrey has a background in youth evangelization through her work with Damascus Summer Camp and local high school retreat ministry. Passionate about the intersection of art and faith, in her free time she works as a professional worship leader and singer/songwriter, with her most recent single "Tabernacle Heart" being released on streaming services in January 2025. For any questions or information regarding scouting in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati or youth evangelization in general, Audrey can be contacted at amelton@catholicaoc.org.

Note from the Chair

Numerous Catholic scouts are beginning religious emblem work. Many troops are forming groups for Ad Altare Dei and for Pope Pius XII in parishes and are inviting nearby troops to participate with them. Many packs are preparing to help families complete with their cub scouts Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei.

In the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII, both have an "Intent to Begin" form which requires signatures of pastors or their delegates, and a copy of this form needs to be mailed to the archdiocesan offices. Such a form is not in the Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei. To better assist the committee, we ask that we get a heads up as to how many youth might be receiving religious emblems so we

have on hand what you think you need. You can contact any of the scouting volunteers whose names and contact information are above.

If your unit's religious emblem coordinator needs any help navigating the religious emblems programs, please contact any of the scouting volunteers above as well.