



Catholic Scouting America Archdiocese of Cincinnati Summer 2026 Newsletter



Upcoming Events

September 23

Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Committee on Scouting (ACCoS) meeting

Online

October 23-25

Catholic Scout Camporee and Retreat

Camp Birch

March 7, 2027

Religious Emblems Ceremony

Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains

April 8-11, 2027

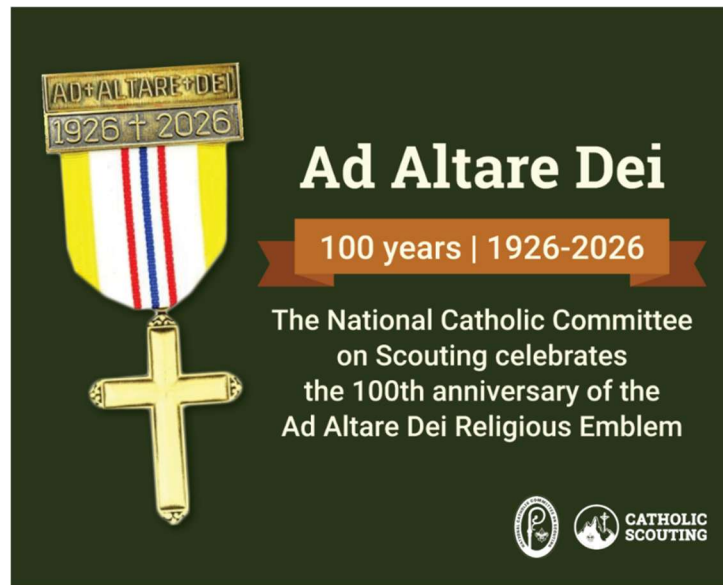
Catholic Scouting Summit

Renaissance Hotel
Saint Louis, MO

Nov. 5-7, 2027

Catholic Scout Camporee and Retreat

Maria Stein Retreat Center



Ad Altare Dei Turns 100!

This year marks the centennial of Ad Altare Dei, the oldest religious emblem program that is offered in conjunction with Scouting America.

To celebrate this, Catholic Scouting America created a special issue of the emblem. It has a centennial bar.

To ensure that we have enough on hand of this limited edition, we need to know the number of Scouts who are working on Ad Altare Dei and have plans to complete it in January 2027. Scan and send the "Intent to Start" form to Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, chair, whose email address is one the last page.

To facilitate completion of this emblem, as well as Pope Pius XII, the ACCoS offers a Catholic Scout Camporee and Retreat. Details for 2026 are on the left. Reach out to Harry Heaton with questions. His email is on the last page.

Ad Altare Dei requires trained counselors to work with the Scouts toward its completion. If your troop, crew, or ship needs a trained counselor for this emblem, email Bro. Andrew.

Completion of Ad Altare Dei fulfills a requirement for Catholic Scouting America scholarships. To learn more about these, visit this webpage: <https://catholicscoutingamerica.org/college-scholarships/>



100 Scouts Receive Religious Emblems

In the 2025-2026 scouting year, Catholic scouts earned 100 religious emblems throughout the entire archdiocese.

Forty-four Tiger and Wolf Cub Scouts completed Light of Christ. Seven are from Tecumseh Council and 37 are from Dan Beard Council.

Fifty Bear, Webelos, and Arrow of Light Cub Scouts received Parvuli Dei. Of these, 7 are from Black Swamp Area Council, 29 are from Dan Beard Council, and 4 Seven are from Tecumseh Council.

Sixteen Scouts earned Ad Altare Dei. Four are from both Black Swamp Area Council and Tecumseh Council, and 8 are from Miami Valley Council.

Congratulations!

Join in Praying for America

Catholic Scouting America has launched "[Prayer for America](#)"—a nationwide novena for the 250th anniversary of the United States. This July, as our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, Catholic Scouts across the United States will come together in a powerful novena to honor America and seek the intercession of **Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas**. United by faith, we invite Scouts, their leaders and their families to join in this special prayer for our country, asking for blessings, healing, and guidance as we celebrate our nation's history and future. **Nearly 20,000 prayer cards have already been requested and given out!**

[Order your free Novena Prayer Cards today](#)



NCCS Becomes Catholic Scouting America

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS), is now calling itself Catholic Scouting America to ensure that every parish, bishop, and new family can easily find and understand that it is a national movement grounded in faith, service, and leadership.

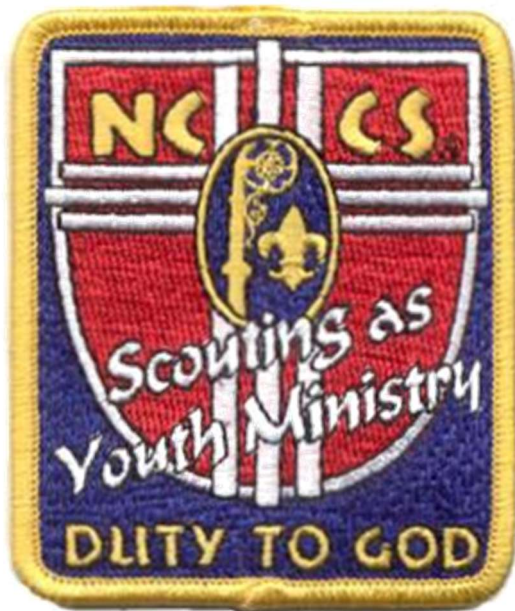
This means a new website that though updated still has the same resources: CatholicScoutingAmerica.org.

While the new look is more family-friendly, it continues a 100-year legacy of leading young people to the Altar of God through the trail of Scouting.



CATHOLIC SCOUTING AMERICA

Catholic Scouters Recognized for Faith and Service



On May 30, 2026, Carrie Bartsch received the Saint George Emblem from the ACCoS for her dedication to the Scouting America programs as a form of youth ministry. Carrie is an active parishioner at Our Lady of Light – Church of Saint Francis of Assisi in Centerville and serves as Scoutmaster and a religious emblems counselor for Troop 85 at Saint Michael – Church of Saint Luke in Beaver creek.

On May 31, 2026, John Hughes received the council-level Duty to God Award from Dan Beard Council. He is an active parishioner at Divine Mercy – Church of Saint Jude in Bridgetown. He serves on the national Religious Emblems committee of Catholic Scouting America. For that work, he received the Silver Saint George for exceptional service to Catholic Scouting America.



We are grateful for these Scouters' dedication to promoting Scouting as youth ministry.



Do you need any help navigating the religious emblems programs or logistics? Reach out to any of the following in your local council.



Black Swamp Area Council
Auglaize and Mercer Counties

(vacant)
Contact Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, chair. Email is below.



Dan Beard Council
Ohio portion

John M. Hughes Deacon Dave Shaffer
jmhughes@fuse.net deacondaveshaffer@gmail.com



Miami Valley Council

Bro. Andrew J. Kosmowski, SM
kosmowskia1@udayton.edu



Simon Kenton Council
Adams and Highland Counties

Laura Martin
eyethings45@gmail.com



Tecumseh Council

Carrie Bartsch
cmbartsch@ieee.org

Chaplain

Fr. Mark Bredestege
frmbredestege@catholicaoc.org

Chair

Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, SM
kosmowskia1@udayton.edu

Archdiocesan Liaison

Audrey Melton
amelton@catholicaoc.org

Camporee & Retreat Coordinator

Harry Heaton
harryheaton@me.com