



Catholic Scouting America Archdiocese of Cincinnati Fall 2026 Newsletter



Upcoming Events

Sept. 22, Oct. 6, 20

National Catholic
Leadership
Development

Online 7-9 PM

Link on page 3.

September 23

Archdiocese of
Cincinnati Catholic
Committee on
Scouting (ACCoS)
meeting

Online 7-9 PM

Link on page 3.

October 23-25

Catholic Scout
Camporee and
Retreat

Camp Birch

Link on page 1.

March 7, 2027

Religious Emblems
Ceremony

Cathedral of St.
Peter in Chains

April 8-11, 2027

Catholic Scouting
Summit

Renaissance Hotel
Saint Louis, MO



2026 Catholic Scout Retreat Patron Named!

The 2026 Catholic Scout Camporee and retreat will be held at Camp Hugh Taylor Birch of the Tecumseh Council on October 23, 24, and 25. This year the catechetical sessions will revolve around Servant of God Frank Parater, an Eagle Scout and seminarian of the Diocese of Richmond who died in Rome. Joseph, who represented the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at Saint George Trek (see below) will lead the sessions about him and his life.

The program will also include a

vocation panel with, among others, Fr. Michael Willig, the vocation director for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. This panel will meet the requirements for Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII emblems.

Among the Scout Skills training session will be Stop the Bleed, given by Harry Heaton.

The link for more information and the leader and participant guide is at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aaMjau0pb0Y1URewyC-IXH7uxqEMY8JI/view>



Joseph Represents!

Joseph, a scout from Miami Valley Council, represented the archdiocese at Saint George Trek, a program to help high school scouts discern vocation at Philmont. [This reflection and above photos are his.](#)

The St. George Trek was an incredible opportunity to see Christ in the outdoors and the beauty of His creation. By being in a community of believers whom I did not know beforehand, I grew closer to the Lord through them. By seeing different walks of life in the faith and growing in close connection with my three advisors (two priests and one seminarian), I came to grow in deeper prayer towards the discernment of my vocation.

It was a gift to meet and be in relation with so many youth and peers my age. It helped me realize that the Body of Christ is present everywhere in our nation. And these people are seriously discerning the Catholic Priesthood, Religious Life, or

Marriage – not just “flinging” their vocation around but intentionally praying and seeking for the Lord in their lives. These peers I grew closer to through my role as Chaplain’s Aide, as well as daily Mass on the trail, Roses/Thorns/Buds, and hiking on a strenuous uphill trail.

When the trek came to an end and I was dropped off at the Base Camp of Philmont, I realized that *I can do hard things*. That the pain, tiredness, or exhaustion pushed me to dig deeper into *Salvifici Doloris* (Redemptive Suffering). I grew closer to the Lord and to His Body of Believers. I intentionally grew closer to the Servant of God, Michelle Duppong. Her joy kept me going through the long nights at Philmont. She radiated the joy that I wish to provide to people so that all may come to know the Lord. The St. George Trek has made an everlasting impact on my vocational discernment, and ultimately, to radiate the joy which Christ has provided to me to all the world.

Catholic Scouting America Scholarship Process

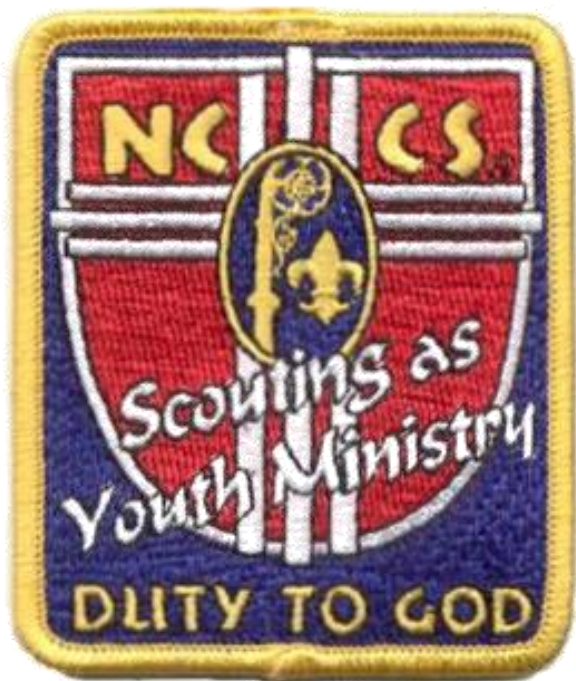
Online applications for the 2027 NCCS College Scholarship Program are now open. This year, Catholic Scouting America will award 15 scholarships totaling \$41,500 to Scouts who are graduating high school seniors registered in a Scouting America program who plan to continue their education after graduation.

View scholarship details, eligibility requirements, and application materials at <https://catholicscoutingamerica.org/college-scholarships/>

Help us recognize and support the outstanding Catholic Scouts of today as they prepare to become the faith-filled leaders of tomorrow.



Scouting as Youth Ministry Online Forum



In some of the families of parishes, Scouting America is the main youth ministry outlet. In others, it is one of many. In some, there is no Scouting America presence.

Regardless of which of these describes your parish, you are welcome to attend a free online training session to strengthen the connections between Catholic Scouting and parish youth ministry. This series will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on September 22, October 6, and October 20. As per Scouting America policies, since youth are presenting as part of this program, this will not be recorded. Even if you cannot attend all three sessions, consider coming to one. Register at

<https://forms.gle/v2X4NrgXswygGNgPA>

Also feel free to register for the next Catholic Committee on Scouting America meeting which is September 23, online, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. To register, visit this link:

<https://forms.gle/iiKze8bbw3FELTEh8>

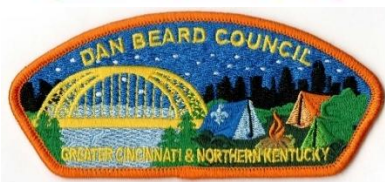


Do you need any help navigating the religious emblems programs or logistics? Reach out to any of the following in your local council.



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 deaondaveshafter@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
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Camporee & Retreat Coordinator

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