

Steps for Organizing a Unit

1. The BSA organizing committee (unit commissioner, district executive, and member of the district membership team) meets with the executive officer/head of the religious organization to introduce and inform the organization about Scouting.
2. Working with an assigned unit commissioner from the BSA district, the executive officer/head of the religious organization and its membership officially adopt Scouting and select a chartered organization representative. The new-unit application is signed with a charter fee.
3. The BSA organizing committee continues to work with the executive officer/head of the religious organization and the chartered organization representative to help select volunteer adult key unit leadership and committee members and to develop a succession plan for future key leadership.
4. New leaders are required to complete Youth Protection training within 30 days of registering. Youth Protection training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer does not meet the BSA's Youth Protection training requirement at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be reregistered.
5. New volunteer leaders are to be trained immediately with Fast Start online training, unit budget planning, and unit program planning training.
6. The unit commissioner and district program committee help plan the new unit's program for one year.
7. The BSA organizing committee helps the religious organization with recruitment of local youth.
8. New youth and their parents complete applications and fees for registration.
9. New unit meetings are planned and begin.
10. The BSA organizing committee helps present the religious organization with its first charter at a formal ceremony of the organization.



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SKU 522109



522-109 2011 Printing



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

A Scout Is Reverent



परस्परपुण्यहे जीवानाम्
Live, Let Live and
Help Others To Live

BSA Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America 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.

The Jain Community and the Boy Scouts of America

The Jain community (Jains) of North America is pleased to sponsor BSA packs and troops in the U.S. Scouting is a successful way to train our youths to become good, law-abiding citizens and to live in peace and harmony with dignity and within the community at large.

Theological Foundation

Jain Associations in North America (JAINA) is a federation uniting Jain organizations in North America that follow the principles of Jainism. Thus, the Jain community is connected with every center deputing their representatives, thereby forming the general body of JAINA. Each center or society is financially and functionally an independent entity but is interconnected through JAINA. Biennial conventions, regional conferences, and regular meetings of the Executive Committee maintain the unity within the faith. Saman Suttam is the scripture that unites all of the divisions within the denomination.

Scouting and Jainism

Train a child under Ratnatriya (Right Thought, Right Speech, and Right Action), and you train a human being.

Medals and Recognition Programs for Local Jain Centers

The religion program is in four progressive stages, which are color-coded and adapted to the youth's developing maturity. The stages may approximate the following age groups and Scouting rank advancements as guided by the input of the candidate's spiritual leader or appointee:

Stage 1

Cub Scouts
Ages 8–10
(from Wolf to Webelos)



Stage 2

Boy Scouts
Ages 11–14
(at least Tenderfoot rank)



Stage 3

Boy Scouts
Ages 14–17
(at least First Class rank)



Stage 4

Boy Scouts
Up to age 18
(at least Life rank)



The Jain Scout Gold Medal

This award recognizes a Jain individual who has given an exceptional service in the use and promotion of local Scouting programs. A minimum of three years of service is required.

The Jain Scout Samaritan Medal

This award recognizes children, youth, and young adults who serve others through outreach and humanitarian assistance. Recipients must be between the ages of 6 and 30.

The Jain Center Recognition Medal

This medal honors Jain centers or Jain societies that provide outstanding promotion and support to their local communities.

Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) Awards

P.R.A.Y. awards are the religious program designed for use by the BSA and other youth agencies. However, any young person who is a member of any place of worship may use the P.R.A.Y. program, regardless of whether he or she is in Scouting. For more information, please visit www.praypub.org.

Adult Leaders in Jain Scouting

Scouting specialists are members of the Jain community who have an interest in helping local Jain centers to establish or expand their Scouting groups. These volunteers help members to view Scouting activity as a group while serving as communication liaisons. Each Scouting specialist promotes training events, recognition awards, Scout Sunday, and the support of the religious schoolteachers. All interested candidates must be at least 18 years of age and members of the Jain Center. They must pay an annual registration fee and complete Youth Protection training within 30 days of registration. Ongoing training is provided.

Five Reasons to Establish or Expand Your Scouting Unit

1. Scouting provides an outreach opportunity. The Jain Center prepares the followers of Tirthankars (the last Tirthankar was Lord Mahavir) for the transformation of our world. A Scouting program offers an opportunity to welcome young people and their families to a place where they may be nurtured as true Jains in the service of the community.
2. Scouting provides opportunities for spiritual growth, including awards for Scouting specialists and religious schoolteachers to educate young people about Jainism.
3. Scouting provides an opportunity to the community. Although many Scouts may not become active faith followers or part of the religion, Scouting provides valuable community service experiences. Through Scouting for Food, Eagle Scout projects, and other service initiatives, Scouts serve their communities.
4. Scouting is intergenerational. Often, older adults and youth unite as a group or unit, and set an example that demonstrates that "unity is power" or "united we stand, divided we fall." Adults can become merit badge counselors, mentors, leaders, or committee members of the BSA.
5. Scouting may be coeducational. The Venturing program is for young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20, or 13 with the completion of the eighth grade. Its structure and activities complement our society's youth group. BSA local councils provide leadership education and access to high-adventure activities.