04 October 2010

Subject: The “25 Unit Rule”

The purpose of this motion is to reiterate that the “25 Unit Rule” is still in effect, also to clarify and modify the application of the “25 Unit Rule”.

The “25 Unit Rule” simply stated is “In order for a Faith Group’s Religious Awards Program be recognized by the BSA a Faith Group must have 25 units registered with the BSA, in that Faith Groups Name.

A “unit” is defined as a “Cub Pack, Scout Troop or a Venturing Crew”

In May 2008 the rule was modified by the Religious Relationship Committee to provide for individuals, not of a Faith Group with 25 units registered with the BSA, to have the ability to earn a Religious Award from their Faith Group and have it recognized by the BSA. To receive “Individual Recognition” the individual must submit to the Community Alliance Task Force the criteria for the achievement of the award and the proposed medal or patch design, if one is to be proposed, for prior approval to the earning of the award.

Recognition in this situation is defined as permission to wear the Religious Award “Universal Square Knot” and badge or medal signifying the Award on the official Scout Uniform in accordance with the Official BSA “Uniform Guide” and the “Insignia Guide”.

It is proposed that the “25 Unit Rule” be further modified. In order to expedite the approval of “Individual Religious Awards” submitted by a Faith Group that does not meet the criteria of the “25 Unit Rule” but anticipates multiple awards. The Faith Group may, at the Faith Groups discretion submit to the Community Alliance Task Force the criteria for the achievement of the award(s) and proposed medal or patch design for pre approval by the Religious Relationship Task Force. When the criteria and design are approved, the Faith Group will be notified of the approval and their approved materials put on permanent file by the Community Alliance Task Force. At the time of the award(s) the Faith Group shall submit the name(s) of the individuals qualified to receive the “Individual Award(s)” and the level of the award(s) and a statement certifying that the criteria and medal design on file has not changed. The request for Individual Recognition(s) will be submittal to the Insignia and Badges Subcommittee Chairman for approval with no further approvals necessary. A copy of the approved request will also be kept on file by the Community Alliance Task Force.

NOTE: Proposed changes are shown in italics.

This rule does not preclude any other actions between the Faith Group and the BSA. ie: Memorandums of Understanding, Memorandums of Agreements. It is limited in scope and only as it pertains to Religious Awards.

Yours in Scouting

Wray C. Johanning
Chair of the Subcommittee
Insignias and Badges