

The National Lutheran Association on Scouting (NLAS) is pleased to provide our third newsletter to Chartered Organization Representatives, Committee Chairs, and Leaders of Boy Scouts of America units chartered to Lutheran Congregations. Although not all top leaders of units chartered to Lutheran congregations are Lutheran, we hope that you will pass on the newsletter to the Pastor or find valuable information supporting your unit's operation.



## National Lutheran Association on Scouting

June 2018

### BSA National Executive Board Reaffirms commitment to Duty to God



One of the things we are taught to do as Scout leaders is to manage change. Change has seemed to come rapidly over the past five years, culminating in 2018-2019 in the option to chartering organizations to open their Cub Scout and Boy Scout (Scouts BSA) programs to family scouting. One of the most commonly heard statements at the 2018 BSA National Annual Meeting (NAM) was “We are now in execution mode,” meaning attention and effort are focused

on bringing this premier character development program to the nation's youth. But the BSA's core values are not changing. In a statement elevated through the National Religious Relationships Committee, the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the fundamental value of Duty to God and to the Declaration of Religious Principle in its foundational document. The BSA Declaration of Religious Principle reads, “The recognition of God as the ruling and leading power in the universe and the grateful acknowledgement of His favors and blessings are necessary to the best type of citizenship and are wholesome precepts in the education of the growing members. No matter what the religious faith of the members may be, this fundamental of good citizenship should be kept before them.” Check out the resolution at:

[Duty to God Resolution](#)

### Scouting in the Lutheran Church Conference

As often as we are able, NLAS sponsors a Scouting in the Lutheran Church conference at the Philmont Training Center (PTC) at Cimarron, NM. The Scouting in the Lutheran Church conference brings together

Lutheran chartered organization representatives, clergy, and Lutheran Scouters who want to learn more about using Scouting as an outreach ministry to young people and their families. See how Scouting can become part of a congregation's youth ministry strategy and contributes to reaching young families and building and sustaining membership. Learn about the religious emblems program and how it builds faith in youth. Share with Lutherans from across the country success stories and best practices for developing and maintaining relationships with Lutheran chartering partners, and how to best serve our youth and our churches. Bring your family for a truly memorable vacation experience. The Philmont Training Center offers a full, organized program for every member of the family—from children to spouses. Family members will be joined by others in their age group and will participate in a carefully designed, age and ability specific program under the leadership of trained and experienced staff. Groups will enjoy hiking, tours, handicrafts, games, campfires, and outdoor activities. Every evening there are fun activities for you and your family. PTC hosts Western Night, evening Craft Center opportunities, Cobbler Night, Movie Night, and Ice Cream Night, not to mention Opening and Closing Campfires each week. Don't forget your Western clothes and hat for Tuesday night's Buffalo Barbecue and Western Night games and dance. NLAS promises to give you Wednesday afternoon off to enjoy horseback riding or hiking with your spouse. This year's conference will be held July 15 – 21 at PTC. For more information and registration visit the PTC website at: <http://PhilmontTrainingCenter.org>. Come and enjoy the fellowship of Scouting in the Lutheran Church!



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### EARN RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS Showcase the Lutheran Award



Although BSA has integrated "Duty to God" into the rank requirements, the religious emblems are introduced as an "option" alongside other Duty to God activities. While these other activities meet the Duty to God requirement, they do not qualify the Scout to receive the religious square knot. For Scouts of Protestant Faiths only by earning a P.R.A.Y. Award – God and Me, God and Family, God and Church, God and Life – does a Lutheran Scout qualify for the religious square knot. Encourage your chartered organization to offer the P.R.A.Y. Program so that your Scouts have the opportunity to earn their religious square knot and proudly wear their Lutheran award.

Click on the appropriate program for more information:

[God and Me, grades 1-3](#)

[God and Family, grades 4-6](#)

[God and Church, grades 6-8](#)

[God and Life, grades 9-12](#)

[Need help getting started? Visit the PRAY Resource Library.](#)

[Search by denomination for information on guiding scouts of other faiths.](#)

### Unit Chaplain and Chaplain Aide Training

Position specific training (developed by the National Religious Relationships Committee) was recently announced for Chaplains at the unit, district and council levels. This training can be taken online at the BSA Learn Center: <http://my.scouting.org> -> BSA Learn Center -> Position Specific Training -> Chaplain . Chaplain position specific training consists of modules on [1] Chaplain Roles and Responsibilities, [2] Religious Emblems and Awards, and [3] Interfaith Considerations. BSA (through the Religious Relationships Committee) recently released a syllabus to support conducting advanced Chaplain and Chaplain Aide training at the council level <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Chaplain-Training-V-4-04042018.pdf>

## **Who is NLAS, and What does NLAS Do?**

Based on questions from previous newsletters, it seems that a more detailed description of the NLAS is desired. NLAS operates in partnership with the offices of youth ministry of the two largest national Lutheran church bodies – the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod – to encourage Lutheran congregations and schools to extend their ministry to youth and their families using the programs of BSA and similar youth serving agencies (Girl Scouts USA, American Heritage Girls, Campfire USA, 4-H). Scouting-type programs provide congregations outreach into the community. It has been estimated that 30-60% of youth participants have no affiliation with a church. These represent young families from the surrounding community – youth, siblings, mothers, young fathers – meeting weekly in the congregation’s facilities. It has been estimated that up to 12% of those participating in Scouting join the congregation, if made to feel welcomed to the church.

NLAS advocates emphasis on Duty to God in the programs of our youth serving partners. NLAS partners with the Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) to promote use of the Religious Emblems program. We have representatives working in multiple groups of the BSA National Religious Relationships Committee, along with members from approximately 30 faith groups, to identify and address areas where the BSA training and programs could better reflect BSA’s commitment to Duty to God and respect for those of different beliefs. NLAS recruits and provides Lutheran chaplains for National events, such as BSA Jamboree, Philmont and National OA Conferences, and runs the Lutheran exhibit in the Duty to God and Country area of the Jamboree. NLAS conducts periodic training at the Philmont Training Center on using Scouting in the ministry of the Lutheran Church for unit and district Scout leaders, council religious relationships leaders, and pastors.

To learn more about NLAS, please visit [NLAS](#) on the web or learn more about its [history](#).

**Blessings on your Scouting ministry!**