



Scouting for Lutheran Youth



Background

- Lutheranism is a major Protestant denomination that originated as a 16th century movement led by Martin Luther.
- 4.6 percent of the U.S. population are Lutherans. (Source: 2024 U.S. Religious Landscape Survey, Pew Forum)
 - 2.8 percent practice mainline traditional Lutheranism.
 - 1.8 percent practice evangelical traditional Lutheranism.
- In 2025, there were:
 - 21,800 Cub Scouts in 936 packs
 - 25,835 Scouts in 1,310 troops
 - 1,016 Venturers in 429 crews
 - 91 Sea Scouts in 14 ships
 - 33 Explorers in 2 clubs
 - 48,775 Total youth Members in 2,390 units



How the Lutheran Faith Is Organized

- The majority of Lutheran congregations belong to one of three national church bodies:
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
 - Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)
 - Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
- As of 2025, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America reported:
 - 2.7 million baptized members
 - 8,640 congregations
 - 14 high schools
 - 296 elementary schools
- As of 2025, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod reported:
 - 1.9 million baptized members
 - 6,000+ congregations
 - 200 high schools
 - 800 elementary schools
- The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod operates its own *Lutheran Pioneers* program for boys. Congregations are prohibited from chartering Scouting America units and families are discouraged from participating.



Role of Scouting in the Lutheran Church

- The ELCA (since 2009) and LCMS (since 1953) national Lutheran church bodies have both delegated the matter of working with Scouting America programs to each local congregation as they consider their unique ministry and communities.
- The local Lutheran congregations work with Scouting America to:
 - Develop and strengthen mutually beneficial relationships with Scouting America.
 - Provide literature related to Scouting and the church's ministry with children, youth, and families.
 - Provide and administer religious growth programs for Lutheran youth in Scouting.
 - Emphasize the religious aspect of the Scouting program.
 - Promote religious worship at outdoor Scouting functions, Scouting America national jamborees, and a chaplaincy program at Scout summer camps.
 - Foster among Lutheran congregations a regard for Scouting as a resource for ministry, and assist congregations with Scouting units to use those units as effective ministry tools.
 - Help Lutheran adults in Scouting understand and carry out their ministry roles and give recognition to those who faithfully serve children and youth through the Scouting program.
- The National Lutheran Committee on Scouting was formed in 1941 with representation from the Lutheran churches, which encompassed approximately 95 percent of U.S. Lutherans
- In 1967, the work of the National Lutheran Committee on Scouting was incorporated into the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. (LCUSA).



Scouting for Lutheran Youth

- The National Lutheran Association of Scouters was formed to equip Lutherans and other Christians to minister to young people, using the programs of our partner youth-serving agencies to:
 - o Encourage Lutheran youth to grow in knowledge of the Triune God and in their relationship to the Lutheran church through religious growth programs.
 - o Publish a periodic newsletter, The Lutheran Scouter.
 - o Foster the organization and growth of local Lutheran associations of Scouters, committees on Scouting, and similar groups.
 - o Sponsor national meetings and regional forums of the membership.
 - o Promote the use of unit and camp chaplains and chaplain aides.
 - o Foster such other relationships and programs as may be jointly approved by its executive board.

Religious Emblems Programs for Scouting Youth and Recognitions for Adults

- Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) administers the religious growth program for youth and adults as well as the National Lutheran Association on Scouting adult recognition awards programs.
- In 2025, according to P.R.A.Y., the God and Country religious growth programs were used by:
 - o 167 Cub Scouts
 - o 104 Webelos
 - o 120 Scouts and Venturers

In addition, 12 **Lamb Awards** and 22 **Servant of Youth Awards** were presented to adult Scouters

Youth Emblems



Jesus and Me

Grades K - 1

The Jesus and Me curriculum introduces Jesus as the Son of God in familiar terms so that young children can see Jesus in their own day-to-day experiences as a storyteller, teacher, friend, and healer.

Curriculum Goals:

- To provide an opportunity for children and their families to explore their faith together
- To introduce children to some of the stories of Jesus in the Gospels
- To teach children how to find the four Gospels in the Bible
- To help children relate four characteristics of Jesus to their own lives
- To identify Jesus as the Son of God



God and Me

Grades 2 - 3

The God and Me curriculum is designed to help children become best friends with Jesus and tell their story of "God and Me" together.

Curriculum Goals

- To provide an opportunity for young people and families to explore their faith together
- To help children realize that God is active in every part of their lives
- To help children know that Jesus is their best friend
- To memorize the Lord's Prayer



Scouting for Lutheran Youth

GOD AND FAMILY



God and Family

Grades 4 - 6

The God and Family curriculum is designed to help youth understand the importance of family and God's role in a healthy family.

Curriculum Goals:

- To provide an opportunity for young people and families to explore their faith together
- To learn six ways of strengthening families through faith
- To help families grow in God's love
- To memorize the Ten Commandments

GOD AND CHURCH



God and Church

Grades 6 - 8

The God and Church curriculum is designed to lead youth on a three-part faith journey.

Curriculum Goals:

- To strengthen young people's relationship with Christ
- To challenge young people to learn about and participate in the worship and ministry of the church
- To have young people make a plan for daily Bible reading and memorize a creed or statement of belief or passage of scripture
- To provide the opportunity for young people to experience the joy of serving others

GOD AND LIFE



God and Life

The God and Life curriculum is designed to help students understand their call to a life of discipleship.

Curriculum Goals:

To provide opportunities for young people to:

- Strengthen their relationship with Christ
- Be open to God's calling in their lives
- Make a plan for daily Bible reading
- Experience the joy of serving others
- Write a statement of commitment

Adult Emblems



God and Country Mentor Program

Parents have the option of enrolling in the Adult Mentor program. In this program, the parent is an active participant alongside the child. The parent would have lessons and projects to complete in the Mentor Workbook just like the child, and then both parent and child would work on the student curriculum together. The mentor program is designed to provide the adult with additional opportunities to model his or her Christian faith and to help a young child talk about their belief in God.



Scouting for Lutheran Youth

Adult Recognitions



Lamb Award

The Lamb Award is given to Lutheran adults for their distinguished service in fostering the spiritual growth of youth through church and Scouting America programs, and to increase the use and quality of the Scouting America programs in Lutheran congregations as a part of their youth ministries.

Eligibility

- Be an active member of a Lutheran congregation.
- Minimum of 10 years of distinguished volunteer service to the church
- Minimum of 10 years of distinguished volunteer service to Scouting America
- Serve as a Christian role model and leader to young people encouraging them to participate in the spiritual life of their congregation.
- Promote the religious growth programs, the observance of Boy Scout Sunday, and chaplains and chaplain's aide programs.
- Exhibit leadership and be fully trained in the Scouting America area of responsibility.
- Help organize new units in the nominee's own and neighboring Lutheran congregations.
- Recruit youth and promote full involvement of members in the program.
- Encourage units to support group service projects in response to a community or congregational need.



Servant of Youth Award

The Servant of Youth recognition is given to acknowledge distinguished volunteer service by Lutheran adults in ministry to young people through Scouting America programs.

Eligibility

- Be an active member of a Lutheran congregation or of another Christian congregation who serves Lutheran young people through Scouting America in affiliation with a Lutheran congregation.
- Minimum of five years of service to the church
- Minimum of five years of service to Scouting America
- Be one whose Christian lifestyle is a model for young people.
- Encourage young people to participate in spiritual growth opportunities in their congregations.
- Promote the religious growth programs to young people.
- Recruit adult volunteers, especially Lutherans, to give leadership to Scouting America programs.
- Be fully trained in his/her area of responsibility.
- Reflect one's Christian faith and the position of his/her church body in discussions and meetings of the civic youth agency at every level at which he/she is involved.

Submit nominations for these recognitions by application to the National Lutheran Association on Scouting through the office of Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.).

For more information and materials on the religious growth programs and awards, contact:

Programs of Religious Activities With Youth (P.R.A.Y.)
7827 Town Square Ave #104, O'Fallon, MO 63368
phone: 800-933-7729 fax: 314-845-0058
Website: www.praypub.org

For more information concerning the National Lutheran Association on Scouting, visit the website at:

www.nlas.org

