

Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop



Blanchette Catholic Center
16555 Weber Rd.
Crest Hill, Illinois 60403

July 23, 2018

Dear Brothers,

Recently I had the opportunity to serve on the faculty of a training program at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. The program was arranged by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, and most of the participants were members of diocesan committees on Scouting. The primary purpose of the training program was to assist the participants in making Scouting more effective as a means of youth ministry.

Although the program covered many topics, the Boy Scouts of America's introduction of "Family Scouting", permitting girls into the Cub Scout and what will be called the "Scouts BSA" program for youth eleven and older, received considerable attention. I wrote to you about this innovation a few weeks ago.

As I mentioned at that time, it will be up to each chartered partner, such as a parish, to decide whether to adopt the change. However, participants at the training program thought that it would be helpful for Catholic chartered partners to receive some guidance from their diocese. Although there does not need to be uniformity throughout a diocese, a bishop may decide that there should be. You may simply want to provide some guidance.

My suggestion is that you consult with your own diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (if you have one) and your youth ministry staff. You may also wish to consult with your diocesan Pastoral Council and Presbyteral Council.

To assist you and your advisors, I have attached a rather thorough "question and answer" provided by the Boy Scouts of America <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/FAQ-Family-Program-061218-FINAL.pdf>. If you have further questions, please, feel free to contact me or your local Scout office.

May the Lord bless you and your ministry.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Daniel Conlon". To the left of the signature is a small blue cross.

Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon
USCCB Liaison to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting
Bishop of Joliet