

Scouting America Newsletter Article
2-18-26

The ARUMC continues to encourage local churches to connect with their communities through scouting ministries. Information regarding best practices to guide church trustees' decision-making for scouting ministries can be found at [Scouting Ministry · United Methodist Men](#).

Churches currently chartering a Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America) unit or considering doing so in the future are directed to the [Affiliation Agreement and Facilities Use Agreement](#) provided by Scouting America through the United Methodist Men of the United Methodist Church. For all churches interested in the scouting ministry, here are a few things to know:

- While the detailed insurance and indemnity coverage provided by Scouting America for all UMC entities engaged in scouting are robust, church Trustees are strongly encouraged to have their church insurance carrier review the Scouting America insurance plan to determine if there are areas where their local church insurance may need to be strengthened.
- Churches should continue to follow their own Safe Sanctuary/Safe Gathering policies in addition to any training and background checks Scouting America requires. At a minimum the church should require all Scouting America staff or church members associated with the unit to comply with the Arkansas conference Safe Gatherings training.
- The Scouting America insurance policy renews in March each year. It is highly recommended that an Affiliation Agreement be signed yearly by the church Trustees Chair or another member of the Trustees Committee and not by the pastor.
- Since the church's current charter or future affiliation agreement is ultimately an agreement between your church and Scouting America, questions about the affiliation agreement should be directed to the local scout council or Steven Scheid at GCUMM. SScheid@gcumm.org.