

**Did you know?** Found on [www.wpcbs.org](http://www.wpcbs.org) As an organization with broad appeal to adolescent boys that encouraged good citizenship and moral virtue, Scouting appealed to youth leaders and organized religion from the very founding. The Roman Catholic Church first began their study in 1910, the year Scouting was founded. The first two churches to sponsor troops were St. Marks in Minnesota and Our Lady of Angels in New York, both in 1912. In 1919, Pope Benedict XV gave formal endorsement of Scouting, and in 1923, Cardinal Hayes chaired the first Catholic Committee on Scouting.

In 1911, the LDS or Mormon Church began a formal study of Scouting under the leadership of Joseph F. Smith, grandson of their first prophet. In 1913 they adopted the Boy Scouts of America as the official boy program of the church.

The Jewish organizations began their formal review in 1915, and in 1926 the National Jewish Committee on Scouting was formed, embracing all four branches of Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstruction.

By 1915, of 7,375 Scout troops, over 4,000 were sponsored by Protestant churches. Fully 1,645 Scoutmasters were also ministers. In 1922, the first National Protestant Committee was chaired by Dr. Ray Wyland.

Eastern Orthodox Catholics soon made scouting a part of their youth program.

The Buddhist Committee on Scouting required instruction to all youth on the Noble 8- Fold Path.

American Muslims made Scouting their official youth program in 1955.

Today, most of the world's religious organizations provide religious emblem programs to the Boy Scouts. Training is done within the individual's religious body. The emblems are purchased from BSA and may be worn on the uniform.

It has been said, that of every 100 Scouts, 12 of the hundred will receive their first church contact through Scouting, 5 of the hundred will receive church awards, and one will enter the clergy.