



# The American Legion & Boy Scouts of America



**Department of Florida Fall Conference**  
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**Chris Ragusa, Scouting Chair**

614-940-9291 (m)

813-529-5330 (w)

[scouting@legionmail.org](mailto:scouting@legionmail.org)





# A Storied History



**The American Legion and the Boys Scouts of America share a common legacy of being united in purpose, and a bond of servitude to God and country, duty to others, and duty to self.**

- **1908 – Scouting movement began in UK**
- **1910 – Boy Scouts of America incorporated in USA**
- **1914 – World War I begins**
- **1916 – Congress charters The Boy Scouts of America**
- **1918 – World War I ends**
- **1919 – Congress charters the American Legion. At TAL's 1st national convention, the Legion resolved to charter BSA units as part of mission**
- **1922 – TAL adopts the Scouting program under the Americanism Commission**





# 2021 Highlights

The American Legion and Boy Scouting Booth at the Florida State Fair

Inaugural Class of female Eagle Scouts

2020 Outstanding Post Scouting Program Recipients - Post 273 (Madeira Beach) and Post 90 (Cape Coral)

Department of Florida 2021 Eagle Scout of the Year Recipient – Robert O’Bryan, Scouts BSA Troop 481, Chartered to Post 1 (Titusville)

Upcoming American Legion and Sons of the American Legion-chartered Cub Scout Camporee at MacDill AFB in Tampa





# Chartering versus Sponsoring

The difference between involvement (sponsorship) and commitment (chartering) is like ham and eggs. The chicken is involved; the pig is committed

**The terms chartering and sponsoring of Scouting units are often used synonymously but are distinctly different.**

**Chartering...a formal charter between a BSA council and a chartered organization (place of worship, school, veterans service organization or other community group)...entitles the organization or group to conduct the Scouting program with adult leadership that they approve in order to accomplish its mutual objectives and to serve the organization's and community's youth and families.**





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- Sponsoring is the less formal support of a Scouting unit. It often involves donating money, providing opportunities to earn money, allowing post property to be used for activities, courts of honor, service projects or meetings without that formal agreement that a charter codifies. Posts can provide this type of support to as many Scouting units as it can reasonably handle.
- **Posts can and should do both. Chartering BSA units, however, makes a bigger and longer lasting impact on the communities that we serve.**





# Why Should Post Charter A BSA Unit?

- An impactful investment in the post's community
  - Post and squadron-chartered BSA units demonstrate the Legion's local commitment to youth
  
- A great source of new members (Legion, SAL, Auxiliary)
  - Eligible families will want to affiliate with the post
  
- A self-funding program
  - BSA units raise their own funds and are not dependent on posts and squadrons for resources
  
- A great way to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism
  - BSA units promote duty to God and Country....the same tenets as the Legion!





# Chartering a Unit is Not Difficult!



- ✓ Identify a Legionnaire to serve as the Post Scouting Chair
  - He or she will serve as the advisor to the Post Commander on all issues relating to Scouting and BSA units
  
- ✓ Work with the Boy Scouts of America professionals to identify a need
  - CUB SCOUTS packs, grades K to 5, ages 5 to 10 ½
  - SCOUTS BSA (formerly Boy Scouts) troops, grades 6 to 12, ages 10 ½ to 17
  - VENTURING crews, grades 8 to +12, ages 13 to 20
  - SEA SCOUTS grades 8 to 12, ages 13 to 20 Organized as Ships
  
- ✓ Communicate with your District Scouting Chair on a strategy.
  - Scouting has been around for a long time....there is no need to reinvent wheels, and your District and State Chairs know a lot (of things and people)!
  
- ✓ Use the resources available online.





# Legion Resources for Scouting

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**Resources**

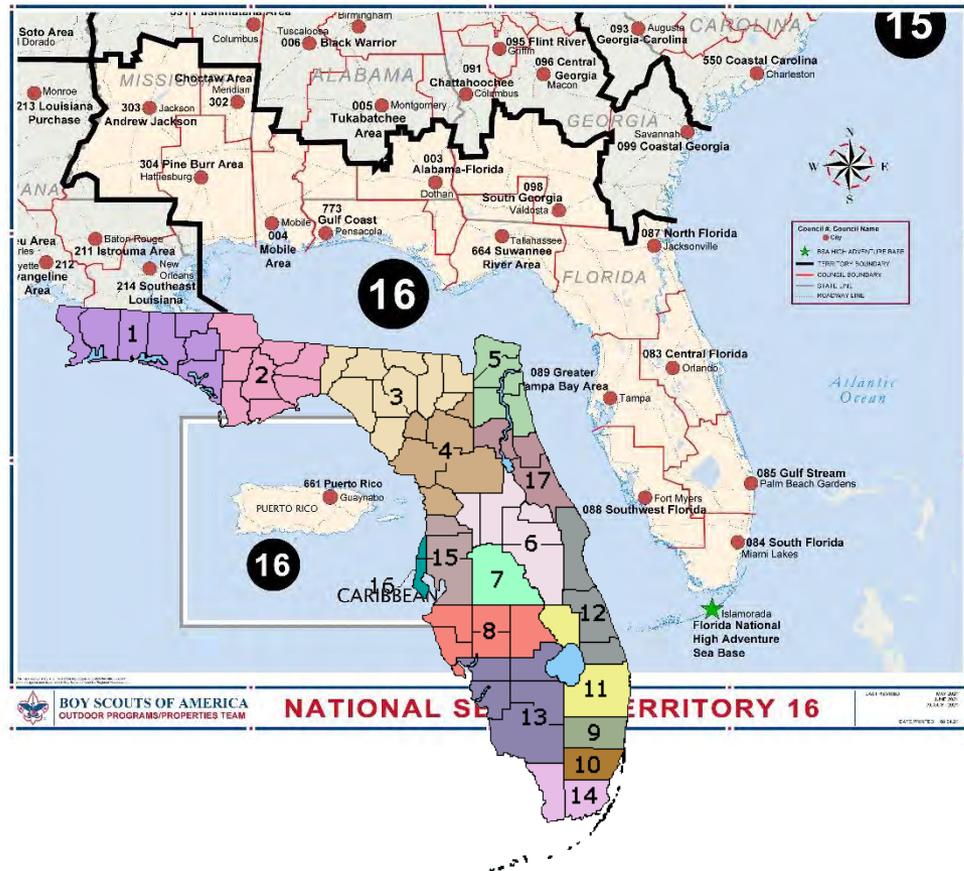
<a href="#">BSA regarding The American Legion</a>	<a href="#">Post Scouting Chair / Charter Org Rep</a>
<a href="#">2021-2022 Scouting Chair Guide</a>	<a href="#">American Flag on BSA Uniform</a>
<a href="#">Unit Financial FAQs from BSA</a>	<a href="#">Cost of BSA Registration: Scouts</a>
<a href="#">BSA Unit Fundraising</a>	<a href="#">BSA Community Organization Award</a>
<a href="#">Eagle Scout of the Year Application (Available in November)</a>	<a href="#">Outstanding Post Scouting Program Award</a>
<a href="#">Square Knot Guideline &amp; Application</a>	<a href="#">2021 MacDill AFB Club Scout Camporee Guide</a>

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# American Legion Department of Florida vs. BSA's new Service Territory Organization





# 2021 Big Rocks

## United Methodist Church

The Boy Scouts of America and United Methodist leadership continue to work together to resolve matters related to BSA's financial restructuring and have agreed, in the best interest of the young people who participate in Scouting, to strongly recommend to United Methodist chartering organizations and Boy Scout Councils to extend existing charter agreements and facility use agreements in force at this time through March 31, 2022.

## BSA Bankruptcy and Class Action Lawsuit

The Boy Scouts' bankruptcy case crossed an important milestone on Sept. 29, 2021, when the bankruptcy judge approved the Boy Scouts' statement that explains its plan to exit bankruptcy. That statement includes a proposal for compensating the tens of thousands of people who filed claims attesting that they were sexually abused while participating in the Boy Scouts' programs.





# 2021-22 Challenge

## Growth and Recognizing Excellence

At a minimum, approach one Post in your District about chartering a new (or another) BSA unit!

At least one Outstanding Post Scouting Program nomination and Eagle Scout of the Year application per District!

TAL Citation of Appreciation for Support of the Scouting Program to BSA unit leaders, meeting and event hosts, superior service to the BSA unit

TAL Thank You! Challenge Coins for meritorious service or noteworthy volunteerism

Provide Legion Links input to Scouting Chair

Consider the dedication of BSA unit's colors to the chartering American Legion post (Scouts BSA Troop 254 to Post 254)

