



Catholic Scouting is

Faith. Family. Adventure.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

P.O. Box 949
Rociada, NM 87742

Dear Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting Leaders,

Thank you for your dedication to forming young people in faith, character, and service. Your leadership is vital to the Catholic Scouting mission, which goes far beyond program administration—it is about nurturing disciples, supporting families, and ensuring Scouting remains a vibrant and faithful ministry of the Church.

I am excited to invite you and your committee members to attend or promote the National Catholic Committee on Scouting's course, **Scouting in the Catholic Church**, held at the Philmont Training Center in Cimarron, New Mexico, **July 12-18, 2026**. This course is designed for anyone—clergy, lay, or religious—who is committed to making a significant difference in the lives of youth through Catholic Scouting.

About Philmont Training Center: Nestled in the beautiful Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Philmont offers a unique environment for learning and reflection. The Training Center is adjacent to the historic town of Cimarron and close to Santa Fe, Taos, and Red River. Within Walking distance are the National Scouting Museum and the Tooth of Time Traders, an award-winning retailer of Scouting gear. Programs are available for family members, so everyone can share in the "Philmont experience." Alumni often write IWTGBTP ("I want to go back to Philmont!")

Course Benefits: Participants will return to their dioceses equipped to:

- Support and expand Catholic religious emblem and activity programs
- Work more effectively with clergy and parish leadership
- Integrate Catholic identity into Scouting activities
- Mentor other adult leaders in faith-filled service

The course includes adult faith formation and explores Scouting as youth ministry. Each day begins with an Exploration from the *National Catholic Leadership Development* program and ends with sacred liturgy. Content is delivered using adult learning principles, referencing the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the USCCB document *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*, and *Listen, Teach, Send*. In addition, an overview of the programs and structure of the NCCS is presented. The course is staffed by experienced NCCS Executive and Advisory Board members.

Building Community: Attendees will connect with Catholic Scouters from across the country, sharing best practices, challenges, and solutions. These relationships often become valuable, long-term resources for diocesan committees seeking guidance, speakers, or program ideas.

My Request: Please actively promote this opportunity within your committee. Identify and encourage potential participants, and, when possible, support attendance through diocesan resources or scholarships. Investing in well-formed leaders is essential for sustaining strong programs, developing future leadership, and ensuring Scouting remains a faithful and effective ministry of the Church in your diocese.

The first 25 who register by April 30 will be given a **\$100 gift certificate** to the Tooth of Time Traders. **More information** can be found here: <https://nccs-bsa.org/scouting-in-the-catholic-church-conference/> or here **to register:** <https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc/ptc-conferences/>.

If you have questions or would like to discuss how your diocese can benefit from this course, please reach out.

Yours in Christ and Scouting,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward P. Martin".

Edward P. Martin
Course Director for 2026
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