

INFORMATION REGARDING THE BSA **AND DUTY TO GOD**

The Boy Scouts of America proudly states, through its mission statement, that the values which the organization strives to instill in young people are those based upon the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. A Scout pledges: “On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my Country and to obey the Scout Law...”

The first Boy Scouts of America *Handbook for Boys*, published in August 1911, declares that “...no boy can grow into the best citizen without recognizing an obligation to God.”

The latest edition of the Boy Scout Handbook, published in 1998 reads: “A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.”

The Boy Scouts of America has always been committed to the moral, ethical, and spiritual development of our youth. Scouting is not a religion, but duty to God is a basic belief tenet of the Scout Oath and Law.

Scouting does not seek to impose its beliefs upon others who do not share them. Virtually every religion is represented in Scouting, and the BSA does not define or interpret God. That is the role of the Scout’s family and religious advisors.

Scouting respects those who do not share its beliefs and it would not ask others to alter their faith in any fashion in order to become Scouts. They too are free to follow their own beliefs. Rather, the BSA membership believes that the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Law are central to the BSA goal of teaching the values of self-reliance, courage, integrity and consideration to others. Scouting has provided meaningful programs and adventures to more than eighty million young people in the United States.

