



DIOCESE OF MADISON  
BISHOP O'CONNOR CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTER

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Office of Safe Environment  
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To: Pastors & Safe Environment Staff  
From: Safe Environment Office  
Re: Scouting Units

Thanks again for your on-going commitment to insure that the young people of our diocese are safe and secure in our parish communities. As the 2007/2008 audit grows near for the Office of Safe Environment we have received several phone calls from parishes regarding the diocesan policy relating to scouting and other youth organizations that use the parish name or meet on church property.

According to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and consistent with the *Diocese of Madison Policy Regarding Sexual Abuse of Minors, Sexual Misconduct, and Sexual Harassment* promulgated by Bishop Morlino, all volunteers who work with children need the following:

1. To attend the Virtus "Protecting God's Children" Adults Awareness Session;
2. To complete a criminal background check through the Diocese of Madison;
3. To complete a drivers license background check if they will be transporting children;
4. Finally, to return a signed Statement of "Receipt and Agreement" for the *Diocese of Madison Policy Regarding Sexual Abuse of Minors, Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Harassment*.

These provisions apply to all scout leaders and volunteers functioning in your parish or using your parish facilities. They also apply if the organization incorporates the parish name into their organization name, such as in "St. John the Evangelist" Boy Scout Troup.

Volunteers with the scouting program need to comply with all of the safe environment measures set by the Diocese of Madison just as volunteers who work in parish schools or religious education programs need to comply.

**Scouting volunteers who have completed training and background checks from their Wisconsin Chartered Organization do not meet the requirements set by the Diocese of Madison.**

The simple truth is that while a formal program for scout leaders exists within the State Chartered Organization there is not the appropriate oversight provided that insures that all adult volunteers have undergone a criminal background check and the appropriate training.

I hope this memo clarifies any of the confusion regarding scouting programs or other youth programs that use parish facilities.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue, please feel free to contact The Office of Safe Environment at (608) 821-3133.

God Bless you in your work,

Cheryl Splinter  
Administrator for the Office of Safe Environment