

This email is being sent from [John Churchill](#) on the Communications Team to all Scout executives, area directors, and regional directors, as well as team leaders and above at the National Service Center

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

This is a special edition of the BSA Councils Communications Packet:

Knights of Columbus to Move Away from Chartering Units; Will Focus on Transferring Units to Parishes

For more than 95 years, the Boy Scouts of America and the Knights of Columbus have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship serving youth and communities across the nation. As a religious fraternity of the Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus – like the BSA – believes that spirituality plays an important role in a young person's development.

We were recently made aware that the Knights of Columbus is refocusing its mission. As a result, Knights of Columbus-chartered units should be transferred to local Catholic parishes. The Knights of Columbus would prefer to have this transition completed as soon as practically possible, with the understanding that some transitions may extend into 2016. We will work together with the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Church to ensure a seamless transition for our youth members and adult volunteer leaders and do not foresee any disruption to the program. We look forward to continuing our work with the Knights of Columbus and helping young people reach their full potential.

For additional background, I've also enclosed two letters for your reference:

- Letter from Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight Carl Anderson to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, Nov. 18, 2015 (KOC Letter 111815.pdf)
- Letter from the chairman of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, Dec. 1, 2015 (NCCS Letter 120115.pdf)

Also, we have anticipated that you may receive questions from your board or other members of the community and have provided a brief FAQ below:

Q. What is the next step for my council?

A. Local councils should seek to have the charters of Knights of Columbus-affiliated units transferred to local Catholic parishes as soon as practically possible. Both the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Church recognize that this process may extend into 2016. We will work together with both organizations to ensure a seamless transition for our youth members and adult volunteer leaders as we transfer these units.

Q. Do I need to reach out to my local bishop to discuss this change?

A. A communication from the local Scout executive would certainly help facilitate the process. Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone will be sharing additional information directly with local parishes.

Q. Will there be a disruption to local units?

A. No. We do not anticipate any disruption to the program. The BSA will work together with the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Church to ensure a seamless transition for our youth members and adult volunteer leaders.

Q. How many youth will this affect?

A. The Knights of Columbus currently charters approximately 1,100 units with nearly 34,000 youth members, or approximately 15% of Catholic-affiliated Scouts. It is important to note that we do not anticipate any disruption to the program for these youth and we will work to ensure a seamless transition.

Again, we are sharing this note to provide you with an update on this matter. We will share additional support material as it becomes available.

Should you receive any media inquiries on this matter, please don't hesitate to reach out to the national communications team at PR@scouting.org. Or, if you have any additional questions about this, please contact Lee Shaw, director of national alliances, at 972-580-2130 or Lee.Shaw@scouting.org.

Yours in Scouting,



Mike Surbaugh

Chief Scout Executive/CEO

 Please send all questions and comments to: communications@scouting.org