

The General Commission on United Methodist Men is tasked by The United Methodist Church through the General Conference with supporting and growing the partnership with Scouting Ministries. To support local congregations and Scouting units, GCUMM is endorsing Groups of Citizens which meet best practices and a commitment to ministry.

Group of Citizens

The Group of Concerned Citizens model for Scouting is an opportunity for the community to engage and embrace Scouting within the community. While the formation of units in connection with existing organizations is preferred, when conditions warrant, the Local Council may grant a charter for the formation of a unit independent of any relationship with an existing organization. Groups of Citizens Units are intended to be a short-term option to enable units who have lost their charter organization time to secure a new charter organization, or in the alternative, to transition to a Council Registered Unit. In such cases, the obligations upon the applicants for a charter are the same as those required for traditional charter organizations. Group of Citizens Units can sign an Affiliation Agreement or a Facilities Use Agreement with the local United Methodist Church to define the church's level of involvement. This option is not without risks, and those considering this option should consult their own legal and tax advisors.

- The Group of Citizens should obtain their own tax and legal advice before applying for an EIN to open a bank account in the name of the unit.
- The Local Council should provide the unit leadership with the BSA Fiscal Policies and Procedures for Units.
- Agreements: (1) Charter Organization Agreement; AND (2) either Affiliation Agreement OR Facilities Use Agreement.
- The Citizen's Group is responsible for selecting and approving adult leadership through the local Councils and does not work with local congregations for approvals.

The historical challenge has been a group of parents or friends of group support diminishes as their associated Scouts reach the Eagle Rank or age out the program. The unique advantage of this organization is twofold: the first is the Group of Citizens supports more than one charter (possibly a pack, two troops, and a Crew, though the number and mix may vary) and the group may be endorsed by the GCUMM.

Basic Requirements for Endorsement

- The Group of Citizens agrees to work with the congregations to build the relationship in ministry.
 - The use of equipment and space are regular conversations including regular times, special Scout events, and coordinating with special church congregation events.

- The Group of Citizens works with the congregation to participate in a Covenant of Ministry and Service worship service. The Group will encourage all units to affirm the foundations of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The congregation renews its commitment to be the Body of Christ in community including those in the Scouting community.
- The Group of Citizens plans with the local congregation joint service projects: Scouting for Food, Annual or semi-annual church workday (landscaping, basic service to help with the facility), and community service aligned with the needs of the community.
- The Group of Citizens meets at least quarterly with the Local Scouting Coordinator for the church. Share in the joys, needs, and plans for the unit. The Local Scouting Coordinator will share any concerns about the use of facilities or opportunities for the community youth to learn of faith.
- The Group of Citizens will encourage the support of Scout Sunday, typically the second Sunday of February.
- The Group of Citizens completes a financial audit of the Scouting Units it charts each year and submits them to the Council.
- The Group of Citizens reviews equipment for suitability for use following the guidelines from the BSA. They share any needs and a listing of equipment.

Endorsement does not imply a legal relationship but a recognition of commitment to best practices.

The General Commission will provide you with training opportunities, connections, and support. You join the United Methodist network of Scouting across the world.