

What It Means To Be A Chartered Partner

Since its inception in 1910, the Boy Scouts of America has been serving the youth of America. The purpose of the organization is to provide an educational program for boys and young adults, to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness. Scouting achieves this mission by working in close conjunction with chartered partners such as religious institutions, schools, businesses, and other community-based organizations that share a common mission.

Who owns the Scouting Unit?

First of all, a unit is a generic term used in Scouting to describe a Cub Scout Pack, a Boy Scout Troop, a Varsity Team, Venturing Crew, Sea Ship, Exploring Post, or Learning For Life Group. Each unit must be chartered (“registered” or “sponsored”) to a permanent institution in the community. Thus, the institution owns the unit(s) it charters. The institution becomes a chartered partner when they agree to the following four obligations:

1. *Leadership.* The chartering organization secures and maintains an active Scout committee and unit leaders.
2. *Meeting place.* The chartering organization provides adequate meeting facilities for Scout meetings.
3. *Support of the program.* The chartering organization cooperates with the committee and the leaders in plans for special meetings, securing equipment, helping with special financial needs as deemed necessary, and youth and leader recruitment.
4. *Policies.* The chartering organization ensures that the unit(s) program follows the established policies of both the organization and the Boy Scouts of America.

What support will the chartered partner receive from the Atlanta Area Council?

The Atlanta Area Council will assist the chartered partner in the deliverance of the Scout program. The Council will help in the recruitment and training of adult leaders. Various activities and outdoor educational programs will be offered. For example, the Council operates three Scout camps – two of which offer Boy Scout Resident camping. Other activities are: merit badge clinics, camp-o-rees, day camps, aquatic training, and many others. Literature and advancement opportunities exist; as well as many ongoing community service projects. The Council’s Volunteer Service Center supports the many and various programs, which, in turn, supports each chartered partner. A professional Scouter (District Executive) is available to help each individual chartered partner. This person serves a geographic area and maintains the Scouting program by working in close cooperation with volunteer Scouters and community leaders.

What about costs?

Beyond a \$40.00 per unit, annual insurance-related fee, chartering of a Scout unit involves no specific financial obligation. However, many organizations include some funds in their annual budget to support their Scout program.

What are the costs of membership?

Each youth member pays an annual membership fee of \$24.00 and has the added option of subscribing to the award-winning Boy Scout publication: Boys' Life. Each adult leader must also register and pay the annual membership fee of \$24.00. This fee does include a subscription to the adult publication: Scouting magazine. All registered members receive a membership certificate and the chartered partner receives a charter from the National Council, Boy Scouts of America.

How is the Scouting program financed?

Financing the Scout program is a community-wide responsibility. Scouting provides a program that serves the organizations, the youth, and their families. Additionally, the program services the community. In the Atlanta Area Council, the financial support is secured in many different ways. The Council is a proud agency of the United Way Greater Atlanta. Annual Friends of Scouting campaigns are conducted in which interested citizens of the community, parents, and others are given the opportunity to contribute. The leadership of every unit is expected to assist in organizing the Friends of Scouting campaign among the parents of its membership each year. Scouts have the opportunity to sell popcorn and camp cards which also provides funding.