

LDS Scout Unit Transition Update

In May 2018, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (hereafter referred to as “LDS Church”) announced they would be concluding their relationship as a chartering organization with the Boy Scouts of America, effective December 31st, 2019. With that date almost upon us, we’d like to suggest several actions for LDS Church-sponsored units to consider as their membership with BSA ends in two months.

- First, some units have accounts with the Scout Shop. A reminder that any such accounts should be reduced to a zero balance, and the account closed. If you’re unsure if your unit has an account, or a balance in the account, please contact Jessica Parsons at the Scout Office, 505-503-2392, or jessica.parsons@scouting.org. Any funds remaining in these accounts after March 1st, 2020, will be transferred to the Council’s Opportunity Fund, which exists to help Scouters in need of assistance for such things as registration fees, camping fees, uniforms, or handbooks.
- With details of the new LDS Church’s youth program released in September, units are developing ideas for implementing it. While there may be components of the Scouting program that units will incorporate into their new youth program, there will probably be many items that are no longer needed. Please consider donating the following items to the Scouting movement:
 - Uniform items (shirts, pants, belts, socks, jackets, etc)
 - Rank advancement or other program-related patches (e.g., merit badges, patrol patches, rank pins, etc)
 - Equipment items (camping gear, cooking gear, etc)
 - Program items (ex: Pinewood Derby cars and/or tracks, Rain gutter Regatta items, etc.)
 - Program materials (youth and adult handbooks, training materials, blank merit badge blue cards, etc)

Donation of these materials can be arranged by contacting your District Executive, or by calling the Scout Office at 505-345-8603.

The Great Southwest Council has enjoyed a long and productive relationship with the LDS Church, its units and members. If there is anything the Council can do to help make the transition a smooth one, please feel free to reach out to the Council Office and the staff at 505-345-8603.

For those that might wish to continue their affiliation with Scouting, or are undecided about how Scouting might be incorporated into the new LDS Church youth initiative, the attached ***Scouting & Children Youth Initiative Updated.pdf*** file was developed by the San Diego-Imperial Council. It shows how Scouting can support the four areas of the Church’s youth initiative (Spiritual, Social, Physical, and Intellectual). There are separate pages for each BSA program (Cubs, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts, and Exploring). Questions about forming a new Scouting unit, or finding an existing unit that may meet your family’s needs can be address to your District Executive, or by calling the Council Office, 505-345-8603.