



August 7, 2015

Dear Pastor, Youth Minister, Deacon Chairman, and/or other church leadership:

Thank you for using the programs of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) as part of your outreach ministry to your community and congregation. Whether it has been through a Cub Scout Pack, a Boy Scout Troop, or a Venture Crew – or some combination of these – I trust that you have seen lives changed and families brought into your church through that ministry.

I'm sure you've seen or heard news articles or other information regarding the action of the BSA on July 27 to revise its policy with regard to its adult leader membership standards. In short, they have fully placed into your hands, as a religious chartered partner, the right to select your adult BSA leaders on the basis of your congregation's beliefs and moral standards.

I am a Baptist, and I am currently serving as the President of the Association of Baptists for Scouting. As a Baptist, I know that your church is autonomous and can operate your BSA unit without interference or control from any other Baptist church, association, convention, or other entity. As a church body living and ministering within your community, you can best decide how aggressive you wish to be in reaching out to those in a lost and dying world – and who may be more readily looking for a “Scouting” home rather than a church home. That's the nature of the un-churched world, and that is the power of the Boy Scout brand.

I hope and pray that you will continue to operate your BSA unit in a way that can help reach this world for Jesus Christ, while also providing an excellent program for citizenship training, leadership development and personal fitness for youth. Through Scouting I believe you can continue to help them truly know – and then put into practice – their “duty to God.”

I have enclosed two documents that I hope will be of some help to you. The first is a [position Statement](#)¹ recently issued by the Association of Baptists for Scouting and the other is a “[Fact vs. Fiction](#)”² document that may help resolve any confusion that any congregation has with respect to their unbridled opportunity to continue to use Scouting within their outreach or “in-reach” ministry.

If I or the Association of Baptists for Scouting can be of any assistance to you, please feel free to call on us.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ted'.

T. S. “Ted” Spangenberg, Jr.
President

website: www.baptistscouters.org (check for upcoming updates with new resources for you)

personal email: tspang2@live.com

¹ <http://www.baptistscouters.org/ABS Position Statement BSA Adult Member Standards Change 2015-07-27.pdf>

² <http://www.baptistscouters.org/Fact vs Fiction BSA Adult Leadership Standards.pdf>