

Counselor attributes

1. INTERESTED in youth and ready to be generous with time in helping others.
2. Able to UNDERSTAND the Scout's development process and therefore able to ACCEPT them at their level
3. OPEN enough to listen to youth to permit them to initiate, decide, try, and even fail, of their own accord. One who is not judgmental, but respectful of their feelings and views.
4. FLEXIBLE AND CREATIVE enough to be open to changes, who can adapt and understand rapid and continuous modification of youth ideas, modes, and cultures.
5. LIKABLE and acceptable by the youth. Not a stick in the mud!
6. Has a sense of HUMOR, enjoys life, and can laugh at themselves and with others, especially youth.
7. KNOWLEDGEABLE, understands, and agrees with all of the teachings of the Catholic Church.
8. COMMUNICATE by relating the teachings of the Catholic Church to youth. Should be able to both speak and listen. Should also have the ability to get others to talk.
9. SPIRITUALLY firm in their faith life and had the ability to share their faith openly and easily with youth. Also be able to demonstrate, through their actions, the importance of their faith life to youth.
10. SENSITIVE to the youth's family situation and his personal life, particularly in regards to the teachings of the Church.
11. OBSERVANT to interpret the signals youth project about their feelings on their faith and other issues.

Counselor's Role

- The Counselor needs to be approved in accord with local (Arch)diocesan guidelines and follow all Church and/or BSA youth protection guidelines.
- All religious Emblem Counselors and Facilitators must have current BSA Youth Protection Training. A Emblems Counselor must have local diocese youth protection Training.
- Use the AAD Counselor Guide. Use Religious Emblem Reference Manual, (free download, <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/pdf/ReligiousEmblemsReferenceManual.pdf>).
- Counsel the participants when required, and in general facilitate (keep moving and on track) the general discussion.
- Hold weekly meetings lasting 60-90 minutes.
- Guide the Scout through the religious emblems program by:
 - Helping the Scouts experience Christ's deep love for them as individuals.
 - Helping the Scout go beyond the surface answers of childhood.
 - Showing them that your caring for them is not dependent on their behavior, but rather because you accept them as Christ accepts each of us.
 - Encourage greater participation of Catholic Scouts in the religious programs of the Church.
 - Promote the Spiritual component of Scouting within the parish and unit. (A Scout is Reverent).
 - Help create an atmosphere with the unit conducive to the development of religious vocations.

Moderator's Role

- A Moderator should have the same attributes as those of a counselor described in the Ad Altare Emblem
- A Moderator needs to be approved according to guidelines established by the (Arch) diocesan/ eparchial Catholic Committee on Scouting.
- Moderators must have current BSA Youth Protection Training, unless the local diocese (Eparchy) requires other specific youth protection training or certification
- Use the Moderator Guide
- Form the group
- Act as Moderator, not group leaders
- Help the candidate focus on essential elements and important issues
 - Provide guidance and assistance to non-Catholic boys in the unit and in the neighboring units, urging them to participate in the religious emblem program of their own church or synagogue.