

Embracing God and Country as Ministry

1. Church Board

- Understand how the youth agency programs can be a part of youth ministry
- Articulate the benefits to working with youth agencies
- Incorporate building relationships with the local councils into the church plan
- Assign responsibilities for these objectives to the appropriate groups

2. Pastors

- Encourage committees and departments to include scouting programs in their planning
- Help teach God and Country classes and conduct the final review session
- Use scouting groups to make the church more visible in the community

3. Christian Education

- Offer “God and Country” classes to all children and youth (not just Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts)
- Encourage adults to participate in the God and Country mentor program
- Display God and Country service projects (use bulletin boards, table top displays, banners, etc.)
- Help plan devotions and worship services for camping and other events
- Help scouts understand and fulfill their “duty to God”
- Help young people connect the values they learn in scouting with the Bible lessons they learn in Sunday School

4. Worship Committee

- Plan special worship services for Boy Scout and Girl Scout Sundays
- Recognize God and Country recipients and present them with their awards during worship services

5. Men’s and Women’s Fellowship Groups

- Help sponsor a Boy Scout or Girl Scout Troop
- Help sponsor young people who want to earn a God and Country award
- Provide service opportunities for troops
- Partner with a troop on a specific project

6. Building Committee

- Help coordinate scouting events and the church calendar
- List the services available to troops (meeting room, storage, etc.)
- List the responsibilities of the troop and what facilities require special permission

7. Outreach

- Invite scouts and their families to church events and worship services
- Connect the troop to the church as much as possible (make the church visible at all troop events)
- Invite members of the community to join the scout troop
- Volunteer to help with interfaith events for the local council (Ten Commandment Hikes, interfaith tours, Scout Sunday Celebrations, etc.)
- Publicize God and Country classes and open them up to youth (and other scouts) in the community

8. Membership

- Identify adults to work with troops
- Encourage adults to share their talents with troops and to be resources for specific badges, career information, role models
- Invite scouting groups to special events
- Ask scouting groups to help with special events

9. Youth Group

- Invite members from the scouting troop to a special youth group event
- Bring the two groups together to work on God and Country
- Attend religious retreats and youth events together

10. Newsletter

- Publish names of God and Country recipients
- Publicize Interfaith events (Ten Commandment hikes, interfaith tours, Boy Scout Sunday/Sabbath Celebrations)
- Promote Scouting (Duty to God)
- Announce workshops and opportunities for adult leaders