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**DIocese OF
ROCKFORD**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Diocese of Rockford Discontinues Charter Relationships with BSA

ROCKFORD, IL – For generations the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) have served as an organization that fostered values that were highly compatible with those of our Catholic faith and tradition. The Scouts taught young men and women to be: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent. And often, these values were taught within a Catholic framework in a pack or troop chartered (sponsored/owned) by our Catholic parishes and schools.

As the BSA have been and continue to address bankruptcy court proceedings involving the organization, the Diocese of Rockford has been monitoring these developments locally and nationally. In light of these and other changes, BSA is deciding how best to live out their mission. Taking these and other factors into consideration as well, the Diocese has discontinued its charter relationship with BSA units. All charter agreements have now expired without being renewed.

This decision has not been made hastily or without seeking consultation and compromise. After many months of discussions nationally and locally the Diocese of Rockford and the Blackhawk Area and Three Fires local Councils were unable to reach an agreement on issues regarding the insurance to be provided by the Boy Scouts. Diocesan entities will no longer recharter or sign a facilities use agreement with BSA and local BSA units and the BSA units previously using diocesan facilities will need to seek alternative locations to meet as of February 1, 2023.

Questions on finding a Boy Scout unit through non-diocesan entities can be directed to the Blackhawk Area Council Scout Executive and to the Three Fires Council Scout Executive.

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About Catholic Diocese of Rockford

Established in 1908, the Diocese of Rockford is comprised of 105 parishes in Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, JoDaviess, Kane, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties in Northern Illinois serving a Catholic population of more than 400,000. For more about the Catholic Diocese of Rockford, visit rockforddiocese.org