

Chapter 2—The Chartered Organization Concept

Since the beginning of the movement, the Boy Scouts of America has offered its unique program of character building, citizenship training, and personal fitness to the youth of our nation on a cooperative basis. Our chartered organizations are the religious, educational, civic, business, military, and labor organizations of America. They use the Scouting program to enrich the lives of children and young adults.

The chartered organization concept, when properly carried out, can extend Scouting to every young person in the nation who wants to join. Churches, schools, and other organizations in every community have men and women available for leadership as well as meeting facilities in which the Scouting program can be extended to those who wish to belong.

Through local councils, volunteer and professional help is available and dedicated to providing chartered organizations with the training, skills, and organization needed to put the program into action.

The key person on Scouting's side of the relationship is the commissioner, while the key person in the chartered organization is the chartered organization representative. These two work together to guide and support unit leaders. *Selecting, training, supporting, and encouraging unit leaders are the most important responsibilities of both the commissioner and the chartered organization representative.*

An example of the cooperative concept in action is the case of selecting a new Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Coach, or Advisor for a unit. The chartered organization representative and unit committee personnel meet with council representatives, usually the unit commissioner and a professional staff member. Together they discuss the steps to be taken to provide the unit with a new leader and the type of person needed. Together they make any contacts necessary for recruiting and enlisting the best possible person for the position.