



# STANDING CONFERENCE OF THE CANONICAL ORTHODOX BISHOPS IN THE AMERICAS

*Then our sons in their youth will be  
like well-nurtured plants, and our  
daughters will be like pillars carved  
to adorn a palace. (Psalm 144:12)*

**Scout Sunday**  
*February 7, 2010*

The Hierarchs of the Standing Conference  
of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas

To the Most Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics and Devout Faithful  
of the Holy Orthodox Churches in the Americas.

Dearly Beloved in Christ Jesus:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

In 1955, the hierarchs leading the various Orthodox Christian Churches in our land came together to recognize and endorse the work of the Boy Scouts of America. This encounter prefigured the promising possibilities for witnessing our unity in Jesus Christ in this land and culture when we live and work in unity. Then and now, we believe that the Scout affirmation and Law are significant aids to our parishes and families in raising young men and women who “do their duty to God.” The methods of the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts USA, and the Camp Fire Boys and Girls programs are tremendous tools and we continue to fully endorse the work of these valued institutions.

We encourage each of our parishes to actively support the celebration of “Scout Sunday” on Sunday, February 7, 2010. We recognize our Orthodox Scouts every February but this year’s celebration is a particular joy to us as the Boy Scouts of America celebrates 100 years of vital service to the youth of our nation. We are grateful for the efforts of the first SCOBA endorsed agency, the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting [EOCS], that has prepared materials for our parishes to assist in their celebration, available at [www.eocs.org](http://www.eocs.org). We also call on the reverend pastors and faithful of our parishes to support and recognize their youth engaged in neighborhood units. Integrating a young person’s Scouting experience in the fullness of Church life and the Church’s youth ministry programs is a powerful witness to our conviction that *Christ is all and in all* (Colossians 3:11).

We prayerfully look forward to commemorating Scout Sunday with you on February 7. We ask you to work with the EOCS ([www.eocs.org](http://www.eocs.org)) or with your Church's Scouting representative to make this day a success for our youth ministry.

With paternal blessings and love in Christ,



†**Archbishop DEMETRIOS**  
**Chairman**  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America



†**Metropolitan PHILIP**  
**Vice Chairman**  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
Of North America



†**Metropolitan CHRISTOPHER**  
**Secretary**  
Serbian Orthodox Church in North  
And South America



†**Metropolitan NICHOLAS of Amisos**  
**Treasurer**  
American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox  
Diocese in the USA



†**Archbishop NICOLAE**  
Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese  
In the Americas



†**Metropolitan JOSEPH**  
Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church



†**Metropolitan JONAH**  
Orthodox Church in America



†**Metropolitan CONSTANTINE**  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA



†**Archpriest Alexander Abramov**  
Representation of the Moscow Patriarchate  
In the USA



†**Bishop ILIA of Philomelion**  
Albanian Orthodox Diocese of America