


First Unitarian Universalist Church Columbus, Ohio 	
Chapter: V. Property and Facilities	Source: Susan Williams, DRE
Title: Scouting Policy	
Approved by: Board of Trustees	Date Approved:
Effective Date:	Date of Last Review:

1. The outreach of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus will include providing weekly or monthly meeting space for scouting organizations whose beliefs are consistent with the principles and purposes of Unitarian Universalism, specifically scouting organizations that are inclusive of all individuals regardless of race, physical abilities, religious beliefs, or gender orientation. Support of scouting groups will be limited to free space and will not include financial sponsorship. Scouting groups requesting space for special events will be charged according to the standard rental practices of the church. Examples of scouting groups include Girl Scouts of America, Boy Scouts of America, Indian Guides, Camp Fire, and Spiral Scouts International.
2. Space will be provided on a first come, first served basis and will be subject to availability at the discretion of the Administrative Assistant, or the church staff member currently responsible for scheduling space. The scout leader will be asked to sign a modified form of the standard rental contract. *See attachment A.*
3. Eligibility will be based on a review of the scouting organization's principles and recent history by an impartial member of the Religious Growth and Education Committee at the request of the Director of Religious Education. The Religious Growth and Education Council will review the report and make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees.
4. Reviews will be kept on file in the church office or on the office computer. Scouting organizations without a positive review on file should submit a request to the Director of Religious Education no later than May to insure that the review process is completed by September. Specifically in the case of the Boy Scouts, the troop in question would need to show evidence of its commitment to inclusion.
5. Each scouting organization will be required to have each child sign a liability release form. If the scouting organization does not have a standard form, the church will supply our own form. See Attachment B.

Building Use Requirements for Scouting Organizations

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday –Friday. **Office is closed Saturdays.** Please arrange with the office for a time to be let into the building outside of office hours, or before 7:00 p.m. during the week and for access on Saturdays. Scout troops are encouraged to have an adult leader who is knowledgeable regarding the layout of the church. **Kitchen use** (if indicated in the agreement form) includes coffee urns, sinks, stoves, ovens, and refrigerator. All items brought in must be removed at the end of your event.

Candles and chalices are permitted at the front of the Worship Center and in Fellowship Hall for worship only.

Your space will be confirmed when your **contract** is received. Your group will be welcome to return to First Church provided the space is left clean, in good order, and you have taken all items with you after your event. **Your scouting group must clean up their space before they leave.** We ask that you return the furniture to its original order after your event. We provide no storage and assume no responsibility for items left behind. Your scout group will be billed for any damage caused during your occupation of your assigned space.

Noise must be kept within acceptable limits at all times so as not to disturb our neighbors, especially after 10 p.m. In the event that a complaint is made to the police or the church, the church will not host your scouting group for two years.

If you need to **cancel** your event, we request a minimum of **24- hour's notice**.

We ask that **parents or guardians supervise children** when they're on church property, so please keep them with you unless your group is providing an adult responsible for childcare, and has made arrangements with us for a separate childcare room.

Please alert your guests to the **"No Smoking"** policy of the church, and encourage your guests to use the ashtrays provided outside. No one 18 years of age or younger may smoke on church property in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code 2151.87.

If any of the stated requirements are not fulfilled your group will not be welcome at First Church for two years.

Publicity for your event must include your organization's telephone number and return address. We will be happy to post information regarding your event on our bulletin board.

Please recycle plastics, glass and aluminum. Recycling bins are located in the kitchen. Place all other trash outside in the dumpster. No alcohol. All items brought into the church must be removed by the contracted departure time.

Liability Release and Emergency Care Authorization

I hereby grant permission for my youth _____ to participate in scouting activities at First Unitarian Universalist Church. I understand that neither First Unitarian Universalist Church, nor its staff and/or volunteers assume any legal liability for his/her welfare, and I hereby release them of such liability.

In the event that an emergency should arise while she/he is participating in any activity sponsored by _____ (name of scouting organization), I hereby grant my permission to the person(s) in charge of the activity to do whatever is deemed necessary for his/her safety and well-being, and I hereby authorize whatever medical care said person(s) or qualified medical personnel may deem necessary, which authorization I hereby grant in advance in writing. I agree to assume all responsibility for any such medical expenses.

This consent shall remain in effect for one church year, unless sooner revoked in writing and delivered to the church. It shall be re-submitted each year that my youth participates in _____ (name of scouting organization) at the First Unitarian Universalist Church.

This consent may be photocopied, with photocopies authorized to be as binding as the original.

Date signed

Signature of parent or legal guardian

Printed name of signatory