



# Protection of Children and Young People

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Dear Parents and Adult Volunteers for Youth Leadership Organizations:

Thank you for choosing the American Heritage, Girl or Boy Scout Troop at our local parish/school for the leadership training that your child receives from Boy Scouts of America! The Catholic Church is proud to sponsor these groups as they provide a faith-based, moral and ethical experience for your son or daughter.

The Catholic Church in the United States makes the safety of your child its priority. All children should be able to grow, learn and thrive in God's love.

In order to meet this priority, the Church relies on the adults in our midst. In 2002, *The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* was promulgated. This document gives us the foundation for establishing Safe Environments.

Among other things, *The Charter* calls for the following requirements:

- Any adult, age 18 or over, who volunteers in our locations, must
  - Complete the Safe Environment Training for that location
    - Leadership positions must complete monthly ongoing training (bulletins)
  - Complete the National Criminal Background Check used by that location
  - Read and acknowledge understanding of the Code of Conduct for that location

In the Diocese of Savannah, *VIRTUS Protecting God's Children for Adults* is the established training program.

If you will be volunteering with the troop or joining the troop in events away from the location, you will need to complete the requirements before doing so.

To register for VIRTUS training, go to [www.diosav.org](http://www.diosav.org) then click the "How Do I" drop-down menu to find the link for registering for VIRTUS.

The adults in our midst are the eyes and ears that help us keep children safe today. Thank you for all that you do to help us, and to help your child reach their potential!

Caroline Ebberwein  
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