Episcopal congregations have used the Scouting program in conjunction with other phases of their youth ministry for many years. The Rev. John F. Mitchell, an Episcopal minister from England, organized the first Boy Scout troop in the United States. It was started in May 1909 in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church under the Boy Scouts of England.

Since those earliest beginnings, the Scouting program has served as a catalyst for strengthening relationships among youth, family, community, and congregations in the Episcopal Church. Today, more than 42,000 youth members are served in more than 1,300 Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout teams, Sea Scouting ships, and Venturing crews chartered to Episcopal congregations. Scouting is one of the largest and most important outreach ministries at King of Peace.

The Scouting units at King of Peace Episcopal Church are numbered for Proverbs 22:6, “Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.”

Comparison of the Scout Law as interpreted by John Wayne, and the 12 points found in scripture.

A Scout is ...

Trustworthy,
Loyal,
Helpful,
Friendly

Courteous,
Kind,
Obedient,
Cheerful,
Thrifty,
Brave,
Clean,
Reverent
TRUSTWORTHY: John Wayne said, “The badge of honesty. Having it lets you look at any man in the eye. Lacking it, he won't look back. Keep this one at the top of your list.”

Psalm 145:13, “The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.”

LOYAL: John Wayne said, “The very word is life itself; for without loyalty we have no love of person or country.”

1 Chronicles 29:18, “Lord, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you.”

HELPFUL: John Wayne said, “Part sharing, part caring. By helping each other, we help ourselves; not to mention mankind. Be always full of help -- the dying man's last words.”

Acts 20:20, “You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.”

FRIENDLY: John Wayne said, “Brotherhood is part of that word. You can take it in a lot of directions - and do - but make sure and start with brotherhood.”

Proverbs 18:24, “One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

COURTEOUS: John Wayne said, “Allow each person his human dignity; which means a lot more than saying, "Yes, ma'am" and "Thank you, sir." It reflects an attitude that later in life you wish you had honored more... earlier in life. Save yourself that problem. Do it now.”

1 Peter 3:8, [Suffering for Doing Good] “Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.”

KIND: John Wayne said, “This one word would stop wars and erase hatreds. But it's like your bicycle, it's just no good unless you get out and use it.”
Ephesians 4:32, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

OBEDIENT: John Wayne said, “Starts at home. Practice it in your family. Enlarge it in your friends. Share it with humanity.”

Philippians 2:8, “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!”

CHEERFUL: John Wayne said, “Anyone can put on a happy face when the going is good. The secret is to wear it as a mask for your problems. It might surprise you how many others do the same thing.”

Proverbs 17:22, “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.”

THRIFTY: John Wayne said, “Means a lot more than putting pennies away; and it is the opposite of cheap. Common sense covers it just about as well as anything.”

Matthew 13:44, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

BRAVE: John Wayne said, “You don't have to fight to be brave. Millions of good, fine, decent folks show more bravery than heavyweight champs just by getting out of bed every morning, going out to do a good day's work, and living the best life they know how against the law of odds. Keep the word handy every day of your life.”

Psalm 27:14, “Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

CLEAN: John Wayne said, “Soap and water helps a lot on the outside. But it is the inside that counts, and don't ever forget it.”

Psalm 51:10, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.”
REVERENT: John Wayne said, “Believe in anything that you want to believe in, but keep God at the top of it. With Him, life can be a beautiful experience. Without Him, you are just biding time.”

Hebrews 5:7, “In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.”

The Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Out-of-doors is the primary method of scouting to develop character. The Bible is full of proto-Boy Scouts and love of the outdoors. All nature praises God and displays his majesty.

Psalm 145:5, “On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.”

David was a ruddy and beautiful child who stayed in the fields and protected his flocks from lions and bears. This preparation allowed him to defeat Goliath and made him the greatest King of Israel.

Elijah spent time in the wilderness and lived in a cave. Some people thought John the Baptizer was Elijah because he lived a similar lifestyle and was brave in the face of corrupt men of power.

Jesus was born outdoors. He went into the wilderness for forty days before he started his ministry full time. He hiked all over Israel and cooked meals over a campfire.

The founder of Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell said, “The open-air is the real objective of Scouting and the key to its success.”

The Scouting mission of the church is to reach out to those within the community, receive them as they are, relate them to God, nurture and equip them, and send them back into the community in order to make the community a more loving and just place in which to live.