

“Inspired by the Gospels, scouting is not only a place for authentic human growth, but also a place of strong Christian values and true moral and spiritual growth, as with any authentic way of holiness. The sense of responsibility that permeates Scout education leads to a life of charity and the desire to serve one’s neighbor, in the image of Christ the servant, based on the grace offered by Christ, in a special way through the sacraments of the Eucharist and forgiveness.”

-Pope Benedict XVI

For over 100 years, the Catholic scouting program of Venerable Father Jacques Sevin has developed boys and girls into outstanding Catholic men and women who listen for God’s call and embrace it with their whole selves. Many holy priests (over 80% of all seminarians in France and many of the French FSSP seminarians) and bishops have grown up in this program, as well as a large number of men and women religious and countless strong families, heroically raising many children even in today’s Europe, where large families are even more countercultural than in the United States. Besides its Venerable Founder, two Blessed: Marcel Callo and Christian de Chergé, have been raised to the altars after having been formed by this movement.

The International Union of Guides and Scouts of Europe - Federation of European Scouting (FSE), a Pontifical Right Lay Association of the Catholic Church, was founded in 1956 to preserve and spread this proven Catholic program. The Federation of North American Explorers (FNE), founded in 1999 as the Canadian and American branch of the Scouts of Europe, is a part of this International Union and thus, like the rest of the Union, enjoys the special protection and patronage of the Pope. Popes from Pius XI to Francis, have all praised this movement. Pope St. John Paul II referring to it as “a privileged route for spiritual growth,” one “that favours the total education of the person.”

The FNE’s mission is simple: to make saints. As one of its three core principles states: “As a son of Christendom, an Explorer is proud of his Faith: he labors to establish the reign of Christ in all his life and in the world around him.”

We at OLMC are in a providential place - of the twenty or so locations in the United States where Catholic youth currently have the opportunity to be formed by this amazing program, we not only have nearby Groups in Boulder and Fort Collins, but we have a Group of the FNE right here at our parish!

For more information on how to get your family involved in this unique Catholic movement, email info@olmcexplorers.org

Boys and girls are kept in separate units with leaders of the same sex because boys and girls develop differently and need an all-male or all-female setting to truly learn to know themselves. The four program levels of the FNE are Otters, Timber Wolves, Explorers, and Wayfarers.

Otters (6-8 years old): The Otters bask in the abundant opportunity to laugh, learn, live, and grow in the love of God. The FNE Otter lodge is a safe and joyful place where faith is enhanced, and friendships are grown. Here, self-esteem and confidence are nurtured, thus creating the foundation of unshakeable individual character destined to



last a lifetime.



Timber Wolves (8-12 years old): The young boys or girls at this age are brought into the great adventure of the Jungle Book - they take the role of Mowgli, learning important moral and social lessons under the guise of playing in the jungle with Baloo and Baghera, under the wise and watchful eye of Akela, the leader of the Seonee wolf pack!

Explorers (12-16 years old): At this level, in the "School of the woods," the youth live in camp in small boy- or girl-led groups called Patrols, where they learn how to live in a society. They learn that each must take their place, do their duty, lead, follow, and serve one another if their micro-society is to function well. They learn the social doctrine of the Church, not through lectures or reading, but by living it!



Wayfarers (17 and older): At this level, the young man or woman embarks upon the pilgrimage that will encompass the rest of their lives - the constant movement towards God that defines Catholic life. The Wayfarer, through prayer, contemplation, and service, not only begins to work in the world to build up the reign of Christ, but most importantly, having established the reign of Christ in all his life, he is prepared for God's call and ready to answer it and embrace his vocation.