

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Scouting & Ohio Schools Under Senate Bill 19

A plain-language guide for school administrators, educators, and families on what Ohio's new law means and how Scouting partners with schools.

LEGISLATION

Senate Bill 19
136th General
Assembly

SPONSOR

Sen. Andrew O.
Brenner
(R-Delaware)

SIGNED

June 2026
Gov. Mike DeWine

EFFECTIVE

September 23, 2026

Questions & Answers

1

What did the legislature pass?

The Ohio General Assembly passed Senate Bill 19, a law that allows patriotic organizations like Scouting America to partner with Ohio's public and charter schools and share information about their programs with students. Scouting America in Ohio is grateful to the Ohio legislature, Governor DeWine, bill sponsor State Senator Andrew Brenner, and the advocates who made this opportunity possible.

2

What exactly does Senate Bill 19 require?

Under Senate Bill 19, Ohio public and charter schools are required to give patriotic youth organizations — those chartered under Title 36 of the United States Code, a group that includes Scouting America, the Girl Scouts, 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and the Civil Air Patrol — at least one opportunity each school year to share information about their programs directly with students. Schools retain full control over the time, place, manner, and length of that opportunity so it does not disrupt instructional time. In practice, the law ensures that every eligible student has a consistent, reliable chance to learn about the leadership, service, and character-building opportunities these organizations offer.

3

What does this mean for Scouting in Ohio?

It means Scouting can partner with schools to make sure more young people learn what Scouting offers — youth leadership training, a strong connection to school curriculum, and preparation for the workforce of tomorrow. More students will discover that Scouting is available to them, helping ensure no young person misses out simply because they never heard about it.

4**How does Scouting connect to what schools are already doing?**

Scouting reinforces classroom learning. Through more than 135 merit badge and skill areas — in STEM, communication, civics, financial literacy, and career fields — Scouting gives students hands-on ways to apply what they learn in school, build leadership, and explore careers. That connection is exactly why this partnership benefits students, schools, and Ohio's future workforce.

5**How will schools and Scouting work together?**

Schools remain in control. Under the law, outreach is limited to one opportunity per school year, and each school district decides the timing so it does not disrupt core instructional time. The Scouting America council serving your area will coordinate respectfully with school administrators and follow their lead on the time, place, and manner.

6**Does Scouting want input from school leaders?**

Absolutely. We want to learn from Ohio's superintendents, principals, and school leaders about their district's goals — and to explore how Scouting can help make those goals a reality, whether through leadership development, career readiness, or service learning. This is a partnership, and listening comes first.

7**Does this change what Scouting is or how it operates?**

No. Scouting America's programs, values, and safety standards remain exactly the same. What changes is access — the ability to partner with schools and reach more students with information about how to get involved.

8**Which organizations are covered?**

Senate Bill 19 applies to patriotic youth organizations chartered under Title 36 of the United States Code — a group that includes Scouting America, the Girl Scouts, 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and the Civil Air Patrol.

9**Are there requirements Scouting must meet?**

Yes. Scouting America holds itself to the highest standards of youth safety. Every adult who interacts with students completes Scouting America's Youth Protection training and background screening — a standard that applies in every setting, including schools.

10**Does this cost schools anything?**

No. Partnership is designed to be at no cost to schools. In fact, through programs like ScoutReach, Scouting is delivered at little to no cost to youth in underserved communities.

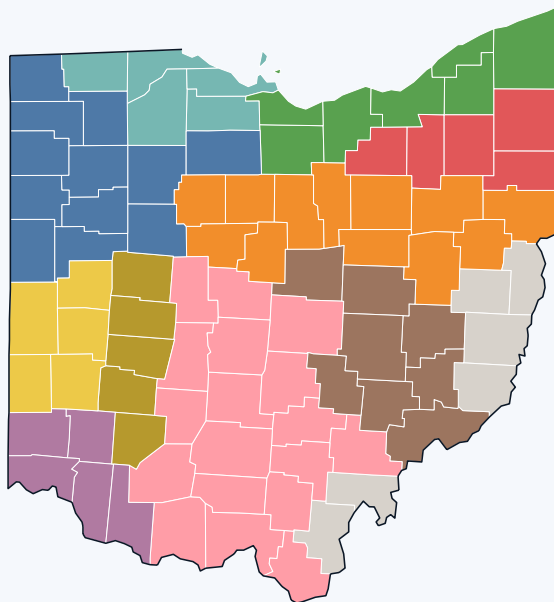
11**How can a family get their child involved?**

Families can learn more and find a local pack, troop, or crew by contacting the Scouting America council that serves their community. Use the council directory on the next page to get started.

12**Who can I contact with questions?**

For questions about Scouting in your community, reach out to the Scouting America council serving your area using the council directory. For media or statewide partnership inquiries, contact the statewide team.

Council Service Areas



Ohio's 88 counties, shaded by the council that serves them.

Ten Scouting America councils serve Ohio. Find your county's color on the map, then reach the matching council below to get involved or coordinate a school partnership.

 **Black Swamp Area Council**
blackswampbsa.org

 **Buckeye Council**
buckeyecouncil.org

 **Dan Beard Council**
danbeard.org

 **Erie Shores Council**
ereshorescouncil.org

 **Great Trail Council**
gtcscouting.org

 **Lake Erie Council**
lecscouting.org

 **Miami Valley Council**
miamivalleyscouting.org

 **Muskingum Valley Council**
muskingumvalleycouncil.com

 **Simon Kenton Council**
skscouts.org

 **Tecumseh Council**
tecumsehscouting.org

Ready to connect with your local council?

Visit the statewide site for the full interactive council map and contact directory, or reach out to the statewide partnership team for media and district-level inquiries. **Scouting America in Ohio — preparing tomorrow's leaders.**