


# THE BRAVES HANDBOOK

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*The Braves* Handbook
©2018 Society of Saint Pius X
11485 North Farley Road, Platte City, MO 64079
Email: thebraves@sspx.org | Phone: 816-733-2521

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# THE BRAVES

The *Catholics Cadets of America* (abbreviated CCA) is a SSPX youth movement[1].

Based on the *Catholic's principles of the Scouting* method[2], as reformed by Fathers Sevin[3] and Cornette[4], the *Catholics Cadets of America* intend to offer families a youth movement which would help them achieve the harmonious education of their children, by fostering altogether their spiritual, social, and physical growth.

In the United States, the CCA offers two[5] different programs corresponding to two different age groups of boys:

- Ages 8 to 12: *The Braves*
- Ages 12 to 18: The Cadets

*The Braves* is the name of the program which prepares boys aged 8 to 12 to become *Cadets*. *The Braves* are a youth group attached to the parish, and they take the eight North American Martyrs as Patron Saints.

**1** This movement has been founded by Father de l'Estourbeillon at the request of Father Rostand, Superior of the US District. Father de l'Estourbeillon was a SSPX priest working in Post Falls after ten years spent in Canada. As a former Eagle Sea-Scout himself, and then founder of a similar traditional *Sea Scout* Group in Canada, Fr. de l'Estourbeillon founded the CCA in the United States in 2009.

**2** Baden-Powell (1857-1941) was a British Officer who served in India, Afghanistan and Africa. Using his military training and experience, he founded the first scout group in 1907 in England. He then organized the *Worldwide Scout Movement* which, in 1939, counted more than 3 million scouts.

Writer Ernest Thompson Seton was inspired by one of the British boy scouts (who had saved him) to meet Baden-Powell during a stay in London in 1909; this meeting resulted in his founding the *Boys Scout of America* in 1910 with Daniel Carter Beard.

**3** Fr. Jacques Sevin, Jesuit (1882 – 1951), visited Baden-Powel in England also to learn about this new Scouting movement. He immediately understood the great use which could be made of this system of education, and thus, very soon, he took up this Scouting Method devised by Baden Powell and Catholicized it - that is, purified it - from its naturalistic orientation, giving divine grace its proper place in the formation of the boys. From 1923 to 1933, he organized special summer camps for the leaders. In 1933, he founded a scout religious congregation: the *Institute of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem.*

**4** Canon Cornette was the co-founder, with Father Sevin, of the *Catholic Scout method*. He used to say: *"Better scouts because Catholics and better Catholics because Scouts!"* He dedicated 16 years of his life to the Scout Movement.

**5** The complete Scouting method is normally divided in 3 different programs: the two already mentioned, plus a special one corresponding to the end of adolescence and the passage to adulthood (18 to 25). But this branch of Scouting has not yet been started in the United States. The same three branches also exist for the girls, adapted to the female psychology and temperament.

# A. GOALS

The goals are the very same as those of the *Catholic Scouting method*, adapted to the age of the children though.

They are five in number:

## 1. THE SENSE OF GOD

Throughout all their activities, the children are guided to live in an atmosphere filled with the mysteries of God. This includes participation in the Liturgy, imagining the timeframe of the conversion of the Indians, and the discovery of Creation.

## 2. CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

The Clan, a group of five to eight boys of the same age approximately, is the living space in which the boys learn community life, collaborating towards a common good.

## 3. SERVICE BY CHARITY

The boys are led to serve one's neighbor by charity, discovering the joy to serve as opposed to the satisfaction of being served.

## 4. SKILLS

Through a wide array of activities, the boys are taught by doing. Camping, first aid, topography, observing nature, and expressing oneself by skits and songs, are examples of activities used in the program.

## 5. HEALTH

Outdoors activities, the rules of hygiene, and regular physical exercise help to keep or acquire personal fitness and a balanced condition. Discipline helps to make the body a good servant of the soul for God.

# B. METHODS

## 1. LIVING IN HISTORY

The great epic of the conversion of the Indians by the Missionaries is the foundational story of all the activities and organizational rules of the Group. Nurturing the imagination of the child, this page of Catholic American History is the environment of his life in *The Braves* and an occasion for imitating heroes. This follows the age-old maxim that "nothing is in the intellect which is not first in the senses." And indeed, as a fact we all know how much children need stories to frame their imagination and then spur their will to act accordingly.

## 2. BELONGING TO A CLAN

*The Braves* are divided into smaller groups called Clans. One of the boys is designated the Clan's *Big Brother*. The boy's life within the clan helps him to practice social virtues and leadership.

Besides a meeting every other week, the adult leaders (the *Sachem* and the *Chiefs*) meet with the Clan's *Big Brother* every month to guide him in his leadership and explain a new part of the program during a *Big Brothers' Council*.

## 3. OBEDIENCE

Obedience is the foundation of any true education. The boys learn to submit to the *Sachem*, the Tribe's *Chiefs*, as well as the Clan's *Big Brothers* and the rules of *The Braves* as the first and necessary steps to learn and become better.

## 4. USING ADVANCEMENT

Recognition is a great encouragement for boys. In *The Braves*, the *Parable of the Talents* is the foundation of the *Promotion* scale. Whether personally or as a Clan, this promotion is made visible by ranks, badges and awards that the boys wear on their uniform.

## 5. WEARING THE UNIFORM

*The Braves*' uniforms serve a dual purpose, they demonstrate **(1)** membership in the group (everyone is dressed alike) and **(2)**

individual achievement (boys wear the badges they've earned). Wearing the uniform to meetings and activities also encourages a neat appearance, a sense of belonging, and good behavior.

### 6. LIVING IDEALS

*The Braves*' values are embedded in the *Brave's Promise*, the Law of *The Braves*, the *Brave's Motto*, the *Brave's Sign* and *Salute*. The practice of these actions establish and strengthen the program's values in the boys and the leaders who guide them.

### 7. PARTICIPATING IN THE ACTIVITIES

The program offers a wide array of activities including games, projects, skits, songs, outdoor activities, trips, summer camps, and service projects. Besides being fun, these activities offer opportunities for growth, achievement, and family involvement. A commitment to the year-round program is essential to the stability and success of the individual progress.

### 8. INVOLVING FAMILY, SCHOOL, AND PARISH

*The Braves*' program aims to help boys grow in harmony with their daily lives. Projects and events extend past their normal outdoor surroundings to their life within their families, school, and parish. The Group does not intend to substitute for any of these institutions, but to cooperate, with them, to draw the best from each boy.

For this to be successful, the boys must attend all the activities.

Every three or four months, a meeting with the parents and the Chiefs helps the union in the common goal of educating the children.

## C. PROGRESSION TRAIL ★ PROJECTS ★ AWARDS

On the *Progression Trail*, a Brave progresses from rank to rank, learning new skills as he goes. Each of the ranks and awards in *The Braves* has its own requirements. As he progresses through the ranks, the requirements get more challenging, to match the skills and abilities he has already acquired.

As a team, the *Clan* is also asked to complete projects.

The Brave's progression also depends on the his behavior at home or in school.

The Promise as well as the progression through the Eagle Ranks take place during solemn ceremonies in the presence of the boys' families. They are always occasions of joyful celebration for the whole group.

## 1. PROGRESSION TRAIL

### Papoose

After two or three meetings, the boy is accepted as a Novice. He can wear the neckerchief.

### Novice

The first three to six months, the boy is named a Novice. He becomes familiar with the rules and customs of *The Braves*, and manifests his good will by learning and complying with these rules and customs.

### Brave

The boy becomes a Brave after making his *Promise*. He can salute and wear the promise badge on his uniform.

### Bronze Eagle

Following the requirements and completion of the *Clan Project*, the Brave can work towards acquiring the *Bronze Eagle* badge. The Brave is required to run elective projects which demand the practice of virtue and skill. Attending the *Braves' Summer Camp* is one of these requirements.

Once the Brave is advanced to *Bronze Eagle*, he is awarded the *Bronze Eagle* badge which he will wear on his uniform's left breast (see Section G).

### Silver Eagle

Similarly and more challenging is the *Silver Eagle* badge. *Silver Eagle* status cannot be achieved without having attended two Braves' Summer Camps.

**Gold Eagle**

Finally, the Brave can apply to become *Gold Eagle*. By receiving his *Gold Eagle* badge, the Brave should be ready to enter the *Cadets* group.

### 2. PROJECTS

Elective projects are available to be chosen by the boy according to his interest or they are decided with the Sachems as a particular challenge for a personal improvement. These are proportionate to the age and the natural gifts of the boys. These elective projects, when completed, are acknowledged by receipt of a special pin. The pins are worn on the uniform's left sleeve (see Section G).

Clan projects require team work and the participation of each member of the Clan. Such projects are designed to reinforce the spirit of friendship, the practice of the community virtues, and good leadership.

### 3. AWARDS

Special personal awards will be given to those who demonstrate outstanding behavior, virtue or noteworthy skill.

## D. PROMISE ★ LAW ★ MOTTO ★ SIGN ★ SALUTE

### 1. THE BRAVES' PROMISE

I, (name) promise to do my best for God, my parents and my country, to help my neighbor every day and to obey the Law of the Braves.

### 2. THE LAW OF THE BRAVES

The Brave is always obedient.

The Brave is always honest.

The Brave is always of good will The Brave puts others first.

### 3. THE BRAVES' MOTTO

I do my best – Always my best.

### 4. THE BRAVES' SIGN AND SALUTE

*The Braves*' sign is made with the right arm held close by the shoulder, with the fingers held straight, palm out. The other hand is straight along the leg.

It is an Indian sign for welcoming the friends. It is a privilege for those only who have made their Promise.

The hand is raised as a reminder of the *Braves' Promise* they have made. The Brave must be ready to give a hand. The open palm also indicates that the Brave is ready to obey his superiors.

*The Braves*' Sign should be given when pronouncing the *Braves' Promise* or repeating the *Law of the Braves*.

It is also used to salute others in ceremonies and when the flag is raised.

## E. ACTIVITIES ★ SKILLS

Throughout the year, *Meetings*, *Community Service* and *Summer Camp* provide opportunities for the formation of the boys and the development of skills.

Exceptional trips (such as pilgrimages or other outings) may occur to mark particular events.

The whole formation finds its peak point in the *Summer Camp*, which gives the best opportunity for the boys to practice what they have been taught during the year. Most of the activities are performed by means of games, and skills are demonstrated to the boys by doing and practicing things with them.

### 1. ACTIVITIES MEETING

This is the main way to interact with the boys, to lead and encourage them in their formation. Meetings occur twice a month, on Saturday, at a designated place (the Kansas City group meets at the Regina Coeli House), from 1:00 to 4:00pm.

Once a month time is given to correct and counsel to the *Big Brothers* by the *Big Brothers' Council*.

### Community Service

Sometimes, the meeting will occur elsewhere if the boys are invited to help a community, or during an event. Such service projects may include cleaning of a place, volunteer work or visiting a nursing home.

### Summer Camp

The *Summer Camp* is the conclusion of a year-long program, and it is also a test for the boys. *The Braves' Summer Camp* is 6 to 8 days long and it is only open to the members of the group or to the boys who intend to enter it.

The boys live as a family with their Clan. They set up their tent, dig a fire pit, put up an Oratory, a meeting place, and surround their Village with a palisade. The meals, which are prepared by the Chiefs, are taken in common.

The first days are dedicated to the setting up of the tent and building of the village before a contest and solemn blessing.

Other activities include the *Cooking Contest*, the *Olympics*, a hike or pilgrimage, the *Big Game*, the *Night Game* and one community service.

During the Camp, the boys prepare entertainment for the benefactors of the camp according to the Camp theme, and they perform during a campfire. The Camp concluded with a solemn Award Ceremony.

## 2. SKILLS CAMPING

Camping skills include: setting up the fire, building the Camp's installations and its protections, cooking (diet, menu, shopping, cooking and preserving, presentation and manners) and the use of basic tools

### First Aid

Situation analysis, basic wound and injury care.

### Nature Discovery

Stars and clouds, plants and trees, animals (tracks, trapping, fur, hunting).

**Navigation**

Map, compass, cross country hiking.

**Communication**

Different ways to send a message; reports.

**Arts**

Songs, mimes and skits. The use of costumes are taught as basic ways of expression. Some projects include the use of clay, beads, wood and leather.

## F. UNIFORMS AND CEREMONIES

Wearing the uniform reinforces the identity of the boy as a member of a community. It helps him also to practice poverty, encourages him to advance and reminds him of the importance of good behavior, especially in public.

Ceremonies impress upon the boy's imagination a better understanding of the importance of what he is doing or saying.

### 1. UNIFORM

There are two kinds of Uniforms: Dress Uniform and Campaign Uniform.

The boy is always required to wear his uniform in an impeccable way. The uniform, paid for by the parents, belongs to the boy. However, it may not be worn outside of group activities without express permission. Neither can any part of the uniform be used with any non-uniform dress for casual or any non-scheduled activity. Sufficient numbers of shirts, pants, etc. must be ordered to ensure the uniform is in good shape.

### 2. CEREMONIES

**Line-up**

Lining-up is very useful in order to take the roll-call, and is also used to give general information or corrections.

**Raising of the flag**

The boys are taught to raise, fold and salute the flag.

**Promise and Award ceremonies**

During a special line-up the boys are called to make their promise. This ceremony takes place in the presence of their parents who give their authorization, and of the chaplain who blesses the boy before he pronounces his promise.

An *Award Ceremony* takes place also during a special line-up where the boys to be awarded receive their badges or pins and wear them with their uniform.

## 6. DRESS UNIFORM CODES

The boy is always required to wear his uniform in an impeccable way.

It may not be worn outside of group activities without express permission. Neither can any part of the uniform be used with any non-uniform dress for casual or any non-scheduled activity.

### 1. GARRISON CAP

The Garrison cap is a soft cloth cap without a visor, worn as part of the summer Dress Uniform.



The cap is properly worn on the head with the front point centered squarely between the eyebrows. The cap should be worn at the lowest point just an inch (two fingers) above the brow line. The side edge of the cap must be above the ears on a straight line.

Wear the cap outdoors only - and at all times - unless instructed otherwise by a Chief. The cap must be removed upon entering a building and stowed by placing it under the belt on the left side of the uniform.

### Adornment on Garrison Cap

The Garrison Cap is blue with the CCA Badge on the left side. The stars, as signs of authority, are worn on the right side of the cap. The plain cap with blue trim is worn by the boys; the cap with blue and gold braid or only gold braid is worn by the Chiefs according to their rank.

### CCA Badge

The CCA badge is the mark of belonging to the Catholic Cadets of America.



The CCA badge is sewn directly on the Garrison cap, on the left side towards the front. Center the badge 1 inch from the front fold, ½ inch from the bottom edge of the cap and ½ inch from the top of the lower fold.

### Stars

The Sachem wears two gold stars, his Assistants wear one.



In the Clan, the Oldest Brother wears a gold star on his cap; the second brother wears a brass star.

The star is fixed on the left side, 2 inches from the front and 2 ½ inches up from the bottom of the cap.

## 2. STOCKING CAP

The Braves' stocking cap can be worn in place of the Garrison Cap for cold weather activities.

## 3. POLO SHIRT



The Dress Uniform shirt is a short sleeve light blue Polo shirt. The first button is the only one that may remain unbuttoned.

It must be worn over a white, round neck tee-shirt. The shirt is always tucked inside the pants.

### Insignia for the shirt

The badges, patches and Project Ribbon are worn on the sleeves of the shirt.

They are always fixed with a simple stitch.

### Front

The Eagle pin is worn on the left breast, two inches across from the second button of the shirt.

Special awards are also worn on the chest.



### Right sleeve

The Brave's badge is centered 1 inch below the top seam of the shoulder. It is worn only by the Braves after the Promise.

The American Flag is centered just above the sleeve ribbing. It is worn by all the boys, Papooses included.

### Left sleeve




*The Braves* patch is centered 1 inch below the top seam of the shoulder The "Osage" patch is centered just above the sleeve ribbing. Both patches are worn by all the boys, Papooses included.

### Project Ribbon

The Projects Ribbon is put just under "*The Braves*" patch.

On this ribbon are fixed the Project Pins as the boy wins them. Only three pins can be fixed on a ribbon. When an Eagle is won, the ribbon is removed with its Pins. A new ribbon is attached which will receive the new pins, to be won by the boy.

# H. FEES AND PRICES

## 1. MONTHLY FEE

In order to cover the costs of materials and events, there is a monthly fee for each Brave. The second price here is the annual total.

- 1 Brave ..... $20.00 ($240 year)
- 2 Braves ..... $38.00 ($456 year)
- 3 Braves ..... $51.00 ($612 year)
- 4 or more Braves ..... $60.00 ($720 year)

## 2. UNIFORM KITS

When a boy first joins, he needs to start with both a Dress Uniform Kit and a Campaign Uniform Kit (if you don't have a hand-me-down, then these must be purchased). These starter kits can be purchased at a special price.

- Dress Uniform Kit..... $65.00
  Includes: Polo Shirt, Pants, Belt & Buckle, White Gloves, Garrison Cap, Winter Cap (does not include Boots)
- Campaign Uniform Kit ..... $33.00
  Includes: Garrison Cap with CCA badge, Polo Shirt with Patches, Pants, Belt & Buckle, White Gloves, Neckerchief (does not include Boots)

## 3. INDIVIDUAL PRICING

Over time, if pieces of the uniform are worn out, outgrown or lost, they have to be replaced. These are the prices for individual pieces:

**Patches & Neckerchief**

- *The Braves* Patch..... $2.00
- Osage Patch ..... $2.00
- American Flag Badge..... $5.00
- CCA Badge (Small) ..... $3.00
- CCA Badge (Large) ..... $3.50
- Project Pins* ..... $4.00

- Ribbon* ..... $2.00
- Braves Badge* ..... $2.50
- Neckerchief ..... $12.00
- Neckerchief Slide ..... $10.00

### Dress Uniform

- Polo Shirt ..... $8.00
- Pants (Blue) ..... $25.00
- Belt ..... $4.75
- Belt Buckle ..... $3.50
- White Gloves ..... $5.25
- Garrison Cap ..... $9.75
- Winter Cap ..... $2.00

### Campaign Uniform

- Campaign Cap ..... $10.00
- Campaign T-Shirt ..... $10.00
- Campaign Pants (Camo) ..... $15.00
- Swimming Trunks ..... $10.00



* The first one is awarded; this is the cost for a replacement.

