



# GUIDE TO STARTING A BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY

For the advancement of Christ's Kingdom.

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**VIC**  
**WERRIBEE**



**For the Advancement of Christ's  
Kingdom among Boys and the  
promotion of habits of obedience,  
reverence, discipline, self-respect  
and all that tends towards a true  
Christian manliness.**

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# BENEFITS OF BB

The main aim of The Boys' Brigade is to advance Christ's Kingdom, this comes along with a multitude of benefits for churches who have a BB Company as a ministry.



## Outreach

A BB company aims to have at least 70% of boys from non-church backgrounds.

## Spiritual Discipleship

BB's program is designed to spiritually disciple boys through what can be some of the most tumultuous times for their faith.

## Mentoring

BB often engages older Christians to be officers, as those who have many more decades of life and faith experience are able to mentor our boys.

## Leadership Training

For both boys and officers, BB offers leadership training. Making our boys and leaders more effective both in BB and in their wider service to your church.

## Low Cost

There is no initial fee from BB to start a company.

## World-wide Support

Running BB is not just down to your church, there is a whole world of BB ready to give support and resources to your church to run a company.

# 135 years of experience

This world-wide network of BB has over 135 years of experience in running youth ministry, one of the oldest youth ministries in the world!

## Local Support

One example of this support is from other companies in your area. Working together (eg running combined events) significantly reduces the workload and chance of burnout for our leaders.

## State Events

Another example of this is the events run by the State. When BB combines from across the State we are able to run many more events and leadership courses that would be unfeasible for one church to run on its own.

## Instilling ORDS in boys

One of the ways that BB seeks to advance Christ's Kingdom is through instilling the values of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline and Self-Respect in our boys.

These attributes may be viewed as old fashioned or out of date or unnecessary for today. But if you were employing someone: Would you want them to never listen to anything you said? or to have no respect for God in anything they did? or to have no discipline to get tasks done? or to have no honour or dignity?

The answer for most of us, would be no. These characteristics are important for life and faith as a Christian and were all displayed by Jesus in His earthly ministry.



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# WHAT'S INVOLVED?

Technically, all a church needs to do to start outreaching and disciplining through the Boys' Brigade is officially have a company as one of their ministries, essentially signing on the dotted line.

This means that no matter what resources your church has available, you can start a company!

However, having a ministry with little church involvement is not ideal, and for your BB company to thrive, you may consider some of the following:

- Having a minister or elder occasionally come to do devotions for the boys.
- Having a regular meeting with your BB Captain to stay up to date about how your company is going
- Asking adults in your church if they would consider becoming BB leaders.
- Appointing a chaplain from your church leadership to oversee the company.
- Having an annual church parade where the boys come to church in their uniform and present to the congregation about they do at BB
- Having the Boys' Brigade assist in some of your other ministries, eg Food Hamper packing/deliver or Sunday School.



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# BB CHURCH COLLABORATION

The Boys' Brigade collaborates with your church to advance Christ's Kingdom among the young people of Australia. Here is an outline of how we collaborate:

## BB is Responsible for...

- Maintain open communication with your church
- Providing feedback to assist in improving Children's and Youth welfare
- Including our Children and Youth in decisions about the BB Program
- Oversight of all Battalion, State, National and International BB Activities
- Reviewing your Children & Youth Child Protection Policy
- Reviewing your Children & Youth Insurance & High Risk Activity Management
- Provide insurance for any BB Battalion, State, National or International events



## BB is able to...

- View policies and procedures of your church relating to running BB, and recommend where these policies may need updating to comply with regulations
- Provide you with promotional for your BB program
- Make decisions about whether BB is able to continue at your church

## Your Church is Responsible for...

- Maintain open communication with the Boys' Brigade
- Work with BB to operate your BB program
- Selecting and appointing leaders and helpers (above and below 18 years old)
- Provide insurance and oversight for activities of your BB Company
- Reporting to BB child protection issues or incidents involving emergency services
- Reporting of incidents to Government bodies (as required by law)
- Keep records of BB activities and members and accessible to BB
- Payment of agreed fees to BB

## Your Church is able to...

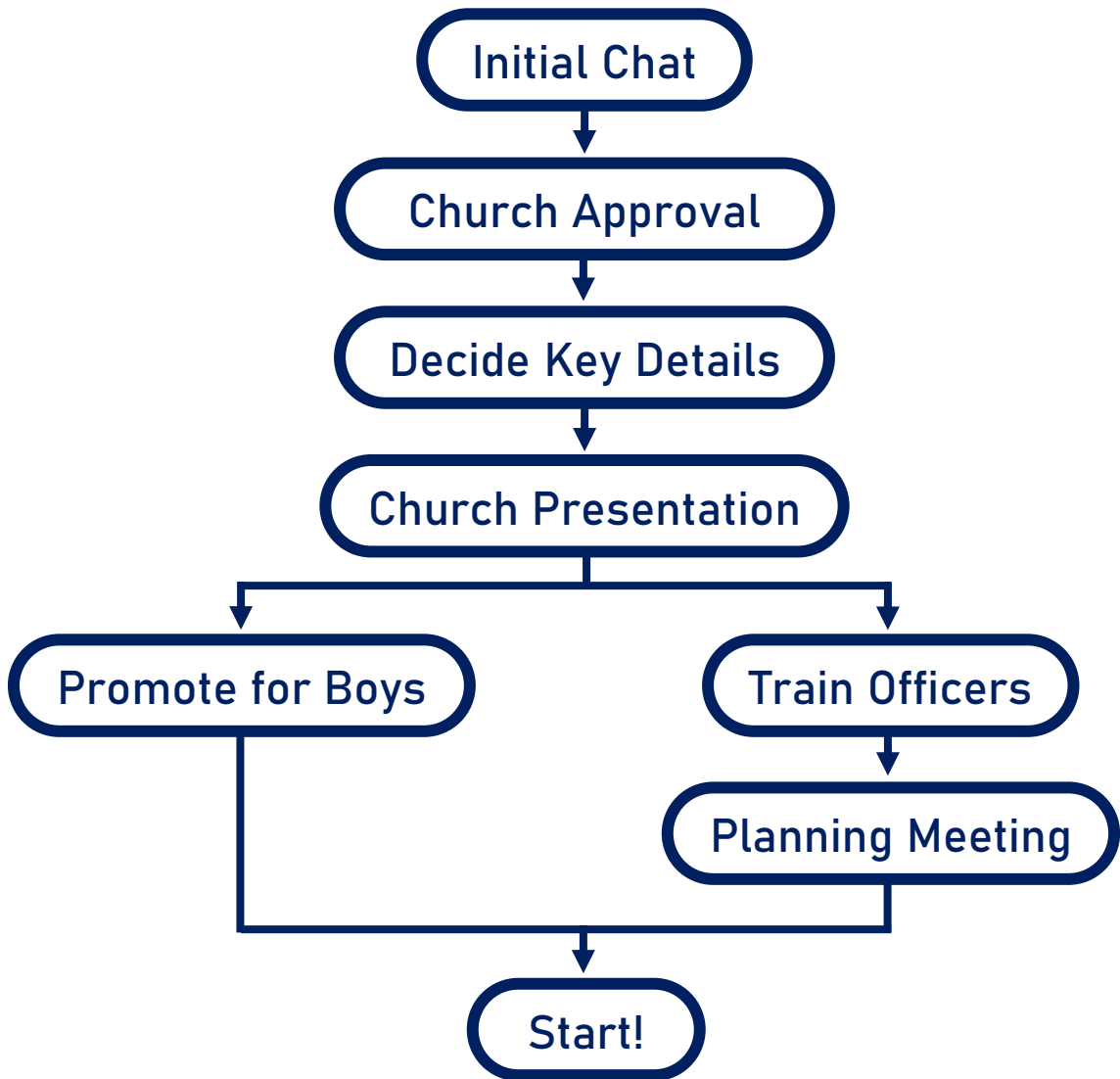
- Appoint and direct all leaders in the company
- Control all Religious Education
- Own all company finances and equipment
- Stop operating the BB program

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# STEPS

Every company starting journey is different but BB is equipped to adapt the process to work with your church. There are more information on the steps on the following pages.



The process for starting a company may look different for each church so it is recommended that you continue to meet with a BB officer to advise you through this process.

## Initial Chat

Have an initial conversation with a BB leader about what BB is, why it exists, how it works and how it can benefit your church.

## Church Approval

Seek approval from your church body. This could involve talking to elders, parish councils, boards etc. When speaking to them you may want to invite a BB Leader to come and answer any questions they may have about BB.

## Decide Key Details

Once your church has approved the starting of a BB company. The registration forms can be signed and you can decide key details such as:

- What night will your program meet?
- Where will your program meet?
- What arm of the church will the company be under? (eg, childrens, youth, outreach)
- What ages will your program operate?

## Church Presentation

The next step is to do a presentation in your church, you can invite someone from BB to speak. After you have briefly explained what BB is you can invite any interests Boys, parents, leaders or others to an information session after church where you can give more specific details and answer any questions they may have. This should give you an idea of how supportive the congregation is of the BB company and who potential officers could be.







## Promote for Boys

The promotion for Boys to join your company should continue all the way through to starting the company, or until you have an appropriate number of Boys to start the program.

## Train Officers

Officer training is conducted by BB and consists of the following process:

- 1 Day of Induction Training (Including Safe Environments training)
- 3 to 4 weeks of visiting an existing company
- 1 Day of Officer Training

As a part of this stage you will need to appoint

## Planning Meeting

Before starting the company all officers should gather together and plan out the annual program (weekly activities, events etc.). This should also include a 'program walkthrough' where you go through your building and familiarise the officers with where each activity will happen and where things are kept.

## Start!

It is time to start! It is advised that for the first few weeks of your company operating that you invite an experienced BB leader to come along and assist if needed.

Throughout the whole process of starting a company it is also important to pray for the leaders and families who will be a part of your company.

Lord, we thank you for the opportunity You have given us to start a BB company. May You take and use our efforts for the advancement of Your Kingdom. Grant us wisdom as we make decisions and raise up good leaders to disciple the young men whom You send into our company that we will have the privilege of serving. Amen!

# KEY CONTACTS

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