



## ***A Scout is Reverent: Religious Emblems Program***

University of Scouting  
Central Florida Council  
Boy Scouts of America



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## ***What is Reverence?***



*Reverence to God and reverence for one's neighbor and reverence for oneself as a servant of God, is the basis of every form of religion. The method of expression of reverence to God varies with every sect and denomination. What sect or denomination a boy belongs to depends, as a rule on his parents' wishes. It is they who decide. It is our business to respect their wishes and to second their efforts to inculcate reverence, what ever form of the religion the boy professes.*

Robert Baden-Powell, Aids to Scoutmastership

*On my honor, I promise to do my duty, to God and my country...*

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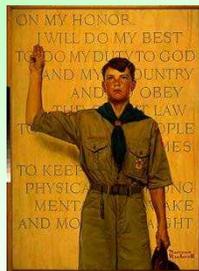
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## ***Agenda***



- Learning Objectives
- The Basics
- Religious Emblems for Youth
- Adult Role and Recognition
- The Role of Religion in Cub Scouting
- Special Opportunities
- Conclusion



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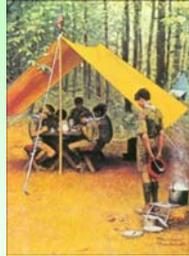
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## Learning Objectives



- Understand the role of religion in Scouting
- Understand the BSA religious emblems program
- Understand how to provide religious opportunities in Scout events



*Religious Awards--A Scout is Reverent. Most faiths offer religious education programs for Scouts and Leaders, with awards presented to those who learn about their faith. We'll help you get started in this exciting program and integrate it into your unit's program!*

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## The Basics



- Statement of Religious Principle**
- The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God and, therefore, recognizes the religious element in the training of the member, but is absolutely non-sectarian in its attitude toward that religious training.
  - The Boy Scouts of America's policy is that the home and the organization or group with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life. Only persons willing to subscribe to this Declaration of Religious Principle and to the Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America shall be entitled to certificates of leadership.
  - *Adult Registration Application B.S.A. No. 28-501K*
- Religious Emblems Program.**
- To encourage members to grow stronger in their faith, religious groups have developed the following religious emblems programs. The Boy Scouts of America has approved of these programs and allows the emblems to be worn on the official uniform. The various religious groups administer the programs. Check with your local council service center or contact the religious organization directly to obtain the curriculum booklets.
  - **For Scouts.** Most religious bodies have specific programs for the different stages of Scouts. The religious body establishes the requirements and Scouting acknowledges the achievement with a religious emblem worn on the Scout Uniform
  - **For Adults.** Religious emblems for adult recognize exceptional service to youth
  - **Wearing the Awards.** Service uniform: knot with appropriate device. Dress: medal

*A Scout is reverent. He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion.*

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## What are religious emblems?



Religious emblems are:

- Created by the national religious groups for their youth
- Recognized by BSA who allows the recognitions to worn on the uniform
- Optional programs for youth members to complete with the help of their families and religious leaders

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## How do I get started?

- ❖ Step 1: Youth members must obtain the specific booklet for their religion
- ❖ Step 2: Parents must review the program guidelines
- ❖ Step 3: Families should talk to their religious leader and show them the booklet before beginning any program
- ❖ Step 4: The youth member needs to complete the requirements, obtain the proper signatures, and follow the instructions to order the emblem



There are scripts, slides, and a video... guess where?

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## Catholic Youth Awards

**Light of Christ.** This emblem is given to Tiger Cubs and Cub Scouts (through Wolf rank) for advancement in spiritual growth and religious knowledge. It is the first of five religious emblems available to Catholic youth involved with Scouting.

**Parvuli Dei.** This is a Christian family emblem to recognize Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts for advancement in religious knowledge and spiritual formation. With the help of parents or guardians, the boy becomes more aware of God's presence in his daily life, especially within his home and community.

**Ad Altare Dei.** The purpose of earning the Ad Altare Dei emblem is to equip the Scout to take his place in the world as a maturing Catholic and a maturing American. With a religious emblems counselor, the boy meets requirements in eight steps covering the sacraments of initiation and the sacraments of maturity.

**Light Is Life.** This recognition is designed for Boy Scouts of the Eastern-Rite Catholic Churches. The content is based on the "God With Us" series of the Eastern Christian Formation Program to prepare the Scout to be an active member of his faith community, as well as his civic community. With the help of an emblems counselor, catechist, or priest, the Scout meets requirements in five steps covering the Holy Mysteries and Eastern Christian spirituality. The Light Is Life respects the cultural and ritual differences among the various rites.

**Pope Pius XII.** Scouts of high-school age and young men and women who are Venturers are eligible for this award. The requirements cover five units: We as Christians, Today's Vocation, Awareness of Responsibility to Self and Society, Citizenship—Home and Community, and Our Response to Faith.




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## Jewish Youth Awards

• **Maccabee** emblem is intended to involve the families of boys in first through third grades as partners in the experiences related to the award. To earn the Maccabee, a Cub Scout must complete requirements in six categories: Jewish personalities, holidays, vocabulary, symbols and objects, community helpers, and heroes.

• **Alaph** emblem is earned through a home-centered set of activities for Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts (third through fifth grades), centering on the Torah, prayer, holidays, American-Jewish heritage, the synagogue, and Eretz Yisrael.

• **Ner Tamid** emblem provides an opportunity for Boy Scouts to enhance their knowledge of Judaism through advanced activities that strengthen the youth's relationship with his rabbi. Central to the Ner Tamid are service projects for the synagogue or other chartered organizations that are organized and completed by the Scout.

• **Etz Chaim** (Tree of Life) Award is designed for Boy Scouts in high school, ages 14 to 18, and registered Venturers, ages 14 to 20. The purpose of the award is to encourage young adults to explore adult Jewish roles in the context of family, community, and Jewish people. The requirements can be completed in six months and require a counselor.



*Scout Sabbath offers an opportunity for worshippers to honor Scouts and Scouters, as well as to learn more themselves about the value of Scouting as a youth program chartered to a Jewish organization. It gives a rabbi a framework to address Scouts directly, in addition to speaking about Scouting to the congregation*

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## Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



- Cub Scout: Faith in God
- Webelos Scout: Faith in God
- Boy Scout and Varsity Scout: [On My Honor](#)
- Venturer, Older Boy Scout, Varsity Scout: [On My Honor](#)
- Adult Recognition: [On My Honor](#)



LDS Relationships  
36 South State Street  
Suite 1175  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111-1401  
801-530-0004

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## Protestant Youth Awards



- Awards are available to boys and girls involved in the following programs: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, and Sunday School programs.
  - **God and Me:** For Tiger Cubs and Cub Scouts, grades one through three
  - **God and Family:** For fourth- and fifth-grade Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts
  - **God and Church:** For sixth- to eighth-grade Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts
  - **God and Life:** For older Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and female and male Venturers




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## Adult Roles



### Adult Mentor Program

#### Adult Counselor

- Usually a minister, priest, or rabbi
- Some programs may allow the pastor to designate a lay leader or other adult in the church to teach the course
- The counselor serves as an instructor who gives assignments to the young people, and it is the young people who do all the work.

*A Gentle Caution: You may have to purchase and review the materials and then explain the pastor, priest, or rabbi's role to them.*

- An optional program for parents.
- Parents must work under the supervision of the pastor or counselor as "student"
- Complete the Adult Mentor Packet. Helps them focus on role as mentor.
- Meet with their counselor to review their work and to discuss the issues raised
- Work with their children to complete God and Country Student Workbook
- Meet with their counselor after completing each section in workbook
- Order the recognition items from P.R.A.Y. With forms signed by pastor.
- Upon completion of program, plan a recognition ceremony in the church to celebrate your accomplishments.




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## What are adult awards?



- Adult recognitions are by nomination only.
- Adult awards usually require a minimum number of years of service.

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## Adult Recognition



### Adult Religious Award Criteria

- ◆ Leadership in the Church
- ◆ Youth Ministry through the Church
- ◆ Leadership in the Youth Agency
- ◆ Training: List adult training programs of the youth agency completed by the nominee
- ◆ Service to Youth through the Youth Agency
- ◆ Promotion of Youth Agency Units
- ◆ Outstanding Contributions



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## Wearing the Awards



- For formal occasions, wear the medal pin on the left pocket
- For other occasions, wear the religious emblem square knot with appropriate devices
- Miniature device worn with the youth religious emblem square knot indicates emblem(s) earned as a youth:
  - Wear Cub Scout device, No. 00926, (C) first-level emblem (God and Me, Maccabee) earned as a Tiger Cub or Cub Scout
  - Webelos Scout device, No. 00932, (K) for second-level emblem (God and Family, Parvuli Dei, Faith in God, Light of the World, Aleph, etc.) earned as a Webelos Scout;
  - Boy Scout Device, No. 00927, (D) emblem earned as a Boy Scout
  - Explorer device, No. 00930, (G) emblem earned as an Explorer or older Boy Scout or Varsity Scout
- Only one knot is worn, but any combination of devices may be worn on the same knot



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## God in the Unit

- Scout Oath or Promise
- Openings and Closings
- Recognitions
- Campfires
- Graces
- Inspirational Songs
- The Scout Religious Service
- Service Projects



What about a "Ten Commandments" Hike?

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## Resources

<http://www.scouting.org/awards/religious/index.html>

**Bro. Scott Alexander Fleming**  
Council Chaplain  
(Baptist)

**P.R.A.Y.**  
8520 Mackenzie Road  
St. Louis, MO 63123  
(800) 933-7729  
<http://www.praypub.org/>  
**LDS:** Church Distribution Center,  
1999 West 1700 South,  
Salt Lake City UT 84104, 800-537-5923  
**Islam:** National Islamic Committee on Scouting,  
PO Box 51931, Indianapolis IN 46251-0931  
**Jewish:** National Jewish Committee on  
Scouting,  
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane  
PO Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079  
<http://www.jewishscouting.org>



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## Duty to God Promotion Patch

- **Purpose:** To learn about and promote religious emblems
- **Requirements:**
  - Attend or make a presentation on religious emblems
  - and make a commitment to Duty to God
- **Eligibility:** Both youth and adults of all faiths
- **For more information:**
  - Patch Requirements Handout /
  - Order Form
  - Duty to God Resources DVD
  - Frequently Asked Questions
  - News Release
  - Price Discounts
  - Commemorative Patch - Special Limited Edition
  - Donate to this Program
  - <http://www.praypub.org/>



*Make a commitment to Duty to God: Making a commitment to Duty to God can mean talking to your clergy about earning your religious emblem, presenting information to your congregation, helping younger Scouts learn about religious emblems, etc.*

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## Discussion (Quiz)



- ✓ What are the Religious Recognition Programs and who creates them?
- ✓ How do I find out which religious groups have created Religious Recognition Programs?
- ✓ I have a troop with children of all different faiths. How can I include the religious recognition programs for my troop?
- ✓ Do the children have to belong to a church or synagogue?
- ✓ Why doesn't my church or synagogue know about the Religious Recognition Programs?
- ✓ If the religious growth program for my faith has more than one level (for the different grade levels), may I earn all of these levels?
- ✓ How do I start my child on these programs?
- ✓ How long does it take?
- ✓ Where should the award be presented?
- ✓ Where can I obtain the materials?

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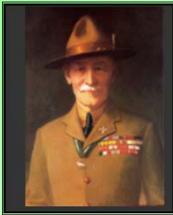
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## Baden Powell Thoughts



*I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life. Happiness does not come from being rich, nor merely being successful in your career, nor by self-indulgence...*

*But the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try and leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best. "Be Prepared" in this way, to live happy and to die happy - stick to your Scout Promise always - even after you have ceased to be a boy - and God help you to do it.*

Your friend,

*Baden Powell*

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Thank you for promoting religious emblems!

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## Contact Us



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E-mail: [scott@scottafleming.net](mailto:scott@scottafleming.net)

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