

Religious Awards Presentation Script: A Presentation by American Heritage Girls leaders to Troops and Parents

Considerations for presenting the religious awards to your troop:

- Notify parents and invite them to the meeting
- Possibly ask an older Heritage Girl who has earned her religious award to talk to your troop
- Preview the requirements for the “Love God Puzzle Patch” at www.praypub.org and decide whether you will pre-order these patches for your participants, both girls and adults.

Religious Awards Presentation Script:

1. Start your presentation by focusing on Mark 12:29-31. **“Can anybody tell me the Great Commandment? In Mark 12 Jesus says the greatest commandment is to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Let’s say this verse together: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Can anybody tell me how this verse is connected to the AHG Oath? Allow girls to share their thoughts. We all promise to Love God when we say the Oath. But when you say the Oath, did you realize that you should be loving God with all your heart, and soul, and mind, and strength?”**
2. Discuss different ways that you can love God. **“What are different ways that you can show that you love God?”** Allow time for girls to respond. **Another way to show your love for God is to always seek to grow in God’s love. We need to look for ways to grow in our Christian faith. We need to look for ways to grow in heart, and soul, and mind, and strength.** Then introduce the religious awards. **“One way an American Heritage Girl can keep her promise to love God is to earn the religious award of her faith. The religious awards will challenge your heart and your mind and also your strength. They will require that you read and study the Bible. They will require that you do service projects to help your family, church, and community. The religious awards are very special recognitions. They are not like ordinary patches. They are special pins and medallions. They may be worn on your AHG uniform. You would make me very proud if you earned your religious award. Don’t forget ... earning your religious award is a requirement for the Stars and Stripes Award.”**
3. **Here’s how you get started on these programs.**

First, you must obtain the specific booklet for your denomination. This booklet will contain information on all the lessons and service projects that you will need to complete. Each of you will need your own booklet to document progress. Some religions also offer adult manuals for counselors and mentors. You can check with our council store to see if they stock these booklets, or you can contact the religious organization directly.

Second, parents must review the specific guidelines for their particular program: some programs require that the girl be an official “member” of the local religious institution, other programs may not. Age/grade requirements also vary from program to program. In addition, each program sets its own guidelines as to who may serve as counselor. Some programs require clergy to serve as counselor, others allow parents or other family members to serve as counselor. Parents must check specific eligibility guidelines!

Third, families should talk to their clergy and show them the booklet before beginning any program. Most of the religious recognitions programs require that they be completed under the auspices of that religious organization, and many require the signature of the local religious leader.

Fourth, you need to complete the requirements, obtain the proper signatures, and follow the instructions to order the recognition or pin. (These awards are not available through the American Heritage Girls.)

4. Explain that there are different awards for different denominations. **“There are different religious awards depending on your denomination. We won’t necessarily be working on the same awards. There are awards for girls that are Catholic, Protestant Christian, Eastern Orthodox and members of Churches of Christ.”** Please be aware that some girls will not know what “Protestant” means. Here is a partial listing of the churches that use the Protestant program: AME, Assembly of God, Baptist, Church of God, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Lutheran, Nazarene, Presbyterian, Reformed, United Church of Christ, Methodist, Independent Christian churches, etc.
5. Decide whether you will order the materials for each girl, or whether you will provide the contact information for each family to order their own materials. See page 3 for the contact information.
6. Help the girls get started by setting a target date: **“Let’s set our first goal together as a troop. The important thing is to get started! Can everybody try to get a copy of her booklet and show it to her clergy by _____(date)? I’ll ask each of you to give a “progress report” to the troop at that time.**
7. Explain the special Love God puzzle patch: **“I have a special announcement about a Love God Promotion Patch. This patch is for girls or adults who 1) learn about religious awards, and then 2) make a commitment. Because you are here today at this presentation, you obviously now know about religious awards. The second requirement is making a commitment. How many girls want to make a commitment to earn their religious award? Please stand.**
 - If you ordered patches to distribute to your girls, hand them out now: **“Congratulations on making a commitment to fulfill your promise to love God. Here is your Love God patch that shows you are committed to earning your religious award.”**
 - If you plan on ordering patches for your girls, make an announcement: **“Congratulations. You will be presented with a Love God patch on _____(date). This will be a good reminder to complete your religious award.**
 - If you want participants to order their own patches, distribute the order form and make the following announcement: **“Congratulations. Every person standing is eligible to wear the Love God Promotion patch. Here is an order form so that you can purchase your own patch.”**

Briefly describe the patch: **“The Love God Promotion Patch is a four-segment puzzle patch. You can only earn one segment a year. Every year that you learn about the religious awards or earn an award or help make a presentation about them, you can earn the next segment.”**

8. Continue to encourage your girls by setting goals and keeping track of their progress. Try to include some activities for your troop. Can you plan a joint field trip or service project related to the religious awards programs? Can you visit each other’s church?
9. Religious awards are presented to the girls by clergy, usually in a worship service in the recipient’s congregation. Religious award recipients should also be recognized in an AHG setting, such as an awards ceremony. Plan now to recognize them in a special way.

Please duplicate.

P.R.A.Y. 11123 S. Towne Square, Ste. B, St. Louis, MO 63123
1-800-933-7729 / www.praypub.org

Religious Awards Available to Members of the American Heritage Girls

Catholic

Local diocesan office or
National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry
415 Michigan Ave. NE, Ste. 40
Washington, DC 20017-1518
Attn: Orders Clerk
(202) 636-3825
email: info@nfcym.org
web: www.nccgscf.org or www.nfcym.org



Christian/Protestant/Independent Churches

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11123 S. Towne Square, Ste. B
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1-800-933-7729
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Churches of Christ

Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting
401 Cypress, Ste. 406
Abilene, TX 79601
(325) 370-1679
email: info@goodservant.org
www.goodservant.org



Eastern Orthodox

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