

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the religious emblems programs?

The religious emblems programs are programs created by the various faith organizations to encourage youth to grow stronger in their faith. The faith organizations—not Scouting America—have created the religious emblems programs themselves.

Scouting America has approved these programs and encourages the recognition to be worn on the official uniform, but each faith organization develops and administers its own religious emblems programs.

I have a unit with children of all different faiths. How can I include the religious emblems programs for my unit?

The religious emblems programs should be presented to youth members and their families as a fortifying program for them to complete through their faith organization. Religious instruction should always come from the faith organization, not from the unit leader. Parents need to be informed of these programs and told where to get the information for their particular faith. Interested in making a presentation on the religious awards? Find additional interreligious support at www.praypub.org.

Do the youth have to belong to a faith organization?

It depends on the faith tradition. Please check the eligibility requirements for your particular religious emblem program.

Why doesn't my faith organization know about the religious emblems programs?

Although the religious bodies at the national level created the religious emblems programs, the local faith organization may not be aware of these programs. It may be helpful to write for more information or even obtain a copy of the curriculum to give to your religious leader.

If the religious emblems program for my faith has more than one level (for the different grade levels), may my child earn all of these recognitions? Yes. Members can earn all levels of their religious emblems program. However, they must be in the appropriate program guidelines when they start and complete each level (they may not earn the emblems of younger age programs). All Scouts are eligible to earn the emblem of their faith including Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers, Sea Scouts, and Explorers.

How is the religious emblem presented?

The religious emblem should be presented in a meaningful ceremony, preferably at the youth member's faith organization. Some emblems come with a presentation ceremony template. Additional recognition at the unit level is encouraged.

How long does it take to complete a religious emblem program?

It depends on the age-appropriate curriculum.

Where is the religious emblem worn on the uniform?

The universal religious square knot is worn over the left shirt pocket of the uniform. Cloth badges and embroidered square knots are representative of the medal award. When a cloth badge is worn, the medal award is not worn.

How do you get started on your religious emblem program?

First, youth members must obtain the specific booklet for their faith tradition. This booklet will contain information on all the lessons and service projects that they will need to complete. Each member needs to have his or her own booklet to document progress. Some faith traditions also provide adult manuals for counselors and mentors. Check with your local council to see if it stocks these booklets in its store, or contact the faith organization directly (addresses and phone numbers are listed in this brochure).

Second, parents must review the specific guidelines for their particular program; age and grade requirements vary from program to program.

Some programs require that the youth be an official "member" of the local faith organization, others may not. Each program determines who may serve as counselor (some require clergy, others allow parents or other family members). Be sure to look at specific eligibility guidelines!

Third, the family should talk to its faith leader and show them the booklet before beginning a religious emblem program. Most religious emblem programs require that they be completed under the auspices of that faith organization, and many require the signature of the local faith leader. Again, check the specific eligibility requirements for your religious emblem program.

Fourth, the member needs to complete the requirements, obtain the proper signatures, and follow the instructions to order the emblem. (These emblems are not available in your local council.) The emblem can be presented at any time of the year and should be presented in a meaningful ceremony, preferably at the member's faith organization.

Who may serve as counselor?

Some programs require clergy or specific individuals to serve as counselors; others allow a parent or other family member. Dependent by faith, additional specific training may be required. All counselors must have either Safeguarding Youth Training or a faith approved youth safety training.

How do I order the recognition items?

Follow the instructions in your recognition guidelines. These emblems are not available in your local council.

What is the adult religious recognition award?

An adult religious recognition award is presented by nomination only. The recognition is presented to worthy adults for their outstanding service to youth both through their faith organization and one of the national youth agencies. Recipients of these awards are unaware that they are being nominated. They are nominated to receive an award by submitting the required application, letters of recommendation, and resume. Please check eligibility requirements for specific awards.

What is the R.E.C.?

Religious Emblems Coordinator (REC) positions exist at the Council, District and Unit levels. The REC's are responsible for educating, motivating, evaluating, and expanding the usage of the religious emblems programs.

Purpose of the R.E.C.:

- Encourage all youth to earn the emblem of their faith
- Promote religious emblems usage like Scouting America promotes other youth advancement
- Establish goals and track the number of religious emblems to be completed every year

Get More Information about the Religious Emblems Coordinator positions at www.praypub.org/rec-info. This is an official Scouting America Position with a registration code and position patch.



Brochure produced by the National Religious Relationships Committee and Guide Book Publishing and is available on www.scouting.org, www.praypub.org, and www.dutytogodbsa.org.

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Duty to God

These Faith Organization Religious Emblems have been recognized by Scouting America. Click on the Faith Organization Name to Visit Its Website for Emblem Requirements & Recognition.

Faith Organizations are listed alphabetically. Many of the Protestant faith groups offer youth emblems through P.R.A.Y. These are summarized at the bottom of page one. Emblems or awards offered in addition to the P.R.A.Y. emblems for a specific Protestant faith group are listed alphabetically.



Programs of Religious Activities for Youth (P.R.A.Y.)

Jesus and Me Grades K-1, God and Me Grades 2-3, God and Family Grades 4-6, God and Church Grades 6-8, God and Life Grades 9-12, Building Faith in Youth Adults

Protestant God and Service Award Adults

The God and Service Award is the Adult Recognition For:

- African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.)
- African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
- Episcopal
- Lutheran
- National Association of Anglican Scouters
- Nazarene
- Presbyterian Church in America
- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Protestant and Independent Christian Churches
- United Church of Christ
- United Methodist Church
- United Pentecostal Church International

The Universal Religious Square Knot

For all members, the Universal Religious Knot, a silver square knot on purple cloth may be worn by both youth and adult members who were recognized with their religious emblem as a youth, regardless of when it was earned.

An adult religious recognition award is presented by nomination only. This award is presented to worthy adults for their outstanding service to youth both through their religious institution and Scouting America.

For adults, the Universal Religious knot is the reverse: a purple square knot on gray cloth.

This brochure is your source for information and includes web links to the faith partners of Scouting America.

Religious Emblems

These Faith Organization Religious Emblems have been recognized by Scouting America. Click on the Faith Organization Name to Visit Its Website for Emblem Requirements & Recognition.

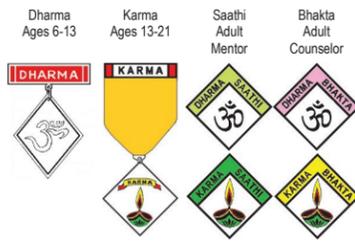
Friends, Religious Society of (Quakers)



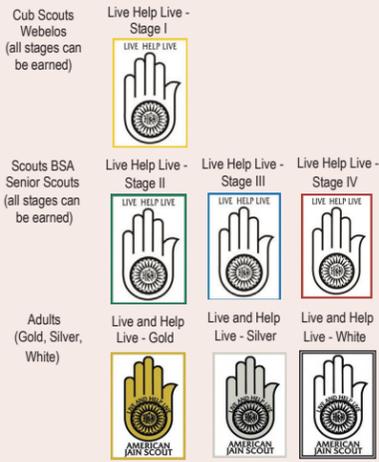
General Church of the New Jerusalem



Hindu



Jain



Islamic



Jewish



Meher Baba



Moravian



Polish National Catholic Church



Presbyterian P.C.U.S.A., P.C.A.



Sikh



Unitarian Universalist



United Methodist Church



Unity Worldwide Ministries



Vanguard International Scouting Association (Latter-Day Saints)



Zoroastrian



The Salvation Army



Venturing TRUST Award



Religious Emblems Programs

Available to Members of Scouting America

A Scout is Reverent. They are reverent toward God.

They are faithful in their religious duties and respect the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion.

To encourage members to grow stronger in their faith, faith groups have developed the following religious emblems programs. Scouting America has approved these programs and allows the recognition to be worn on the official uniform. The associated Faith Groups administer the programs. Check with your local council service center or contact the religious committee to obtain the curriculum information.

For additional information about religious emblems and materials, please contact your faith organization or click on the Faith Organization name.

Some faiths have materials available from your local council service center or from the Scouting America National Distribution Center toll-free at 800-323-0732, or www.scoutshop.org as well as at the contact information listed below.

The Venturing TRUST Award is part of the Venturing awards program. This youth award is not part of the Scouting America religious emblems programs. For additional information, refer to the TRUST Award Handbook, available from your local council service centers or the Scouting America National Distribution Center.

How Do We Get Started on These Programs?

1. Youth members or their parents obtain the specific information for their religious emblems.
2. Parents review the program guidelines.
3. Families talk with their faith leaders or emblem counselors and share the requirements before beginning the program.
4. The youth member completes the requirements. The family then obtains the proper signatures and orders the emblem.

Interested in making a presentation on the religious emblems?

Promotional resources (including a DVD and scripts) are available from Scouting America (www.scouting.org/awards/religious-awards/) and P.R.A.Y. (www.praypub.org).

Faiths Supported through P.R.A.Y.

P.R.A.Y., 7827 Town Square Ave., #104, O'Fallon, MO 63368
 telephone 314-845-3318
 email: info@praypub.org; website: www.praypub.org

African Methodist Episcopal Church

website: <https://amescouts.org/>

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Anglican Church in North America
 website: <https://www.praypub.org/Data/Sites/1/media/resource-library/award-applications/saintgeorgecrossanglican2020.pdf>

Baptist

website: www.baptistscouters.org

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

website: <https://www.discipleshomeissions.org>

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Church of Christ, Scientist (Christian Scientist)

website: www.christianscience.com/youth

Community of Christ

Community of Christ, 1001 W. Walnut St., Independence, MO 64055;
 816-833-1000; website: <https://cofchrist.org/world-community/>

Eastern Orthodox

website: www.ecocs.org

Episcopal

website: www.brothersandrew.net/scouting

Lutheran

website: www.nlas.org/fag

Nazarene

Non-Denominational Christian

Presbyterian Church in America

website: www.presbyterianscouters.org

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

website: www.presbyterianscouters.org

Protestant and Independent Christian Churches

United Church of Christ

website: www.ucc.org/scouting_working_group/

United Methodist Church

website: www.methodistscouters.org

United Pentecostal Church International

Anglican Catholic Church

Anglican Parishes Association, 706-546-6910
 800 Timothy Road, Athens, GA 30606

Armenian Apostolic Church of America (Western Prelacy)

6252 Honolulu Ave., Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 91214; 818-248-7737

Armenian Church of America (Eastern Diocese)

Department of Youth and Education, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, 630 Second Ave., New York, NY 10016; 212-686-0710

Baha'i

Baha'i Committee on Scouting, Baha'i National Center, Education and Schools Office, 1233 Central St., Evanston, IL 60211-1611; 847-733-3492;
 email: schools@usbnc.org;
 website: www.bahai.us/university-of-mankind-scouting-award-program

Buddhist

National Buddhist Committee on Scouting, 1710 Octavia St., San Francisco, CA 94109-4341; email: bcscoutinginfo@gmail.com; website: www.bcscouting.org

Catholic, Roman & Eastern

National Catholic Committee on Scouting, P.O. Box 949, Rociada, NM 87742;
 214-714-6950; website: www.catholicscouting.com

Churches of Christ

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

Friends, Religious Society of (Quakers)

email: clerk.quakerscouting@yahoo.com
 website: <https://quakerscouting.org/youth-programs/the-american-program/>

General Church of the New Jerusalem (The New Church)

Chairman, Boy Scout Relations Committee, General Church of the New Jerusalem, P.O. Box 277, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009; 215-938-2542;
 fax: 215-938-2617

Hindu

North American Hindu Association, 847 East Angela St., Pleasanton, CA 94566-7568; 925-846-3811; email: info@naha.us; website: www.naha.us

Islamic

National Islamic Committee on Scouting; 862-384-1635;
 email: info@islamicsscouting.net; website: www.islamicsscouting.net

Jain

JAINA: Federation of Jain Associations in North America, Jaina HQ: 722 S. Main St., Milpitas, CA 95035; 510-730-0204; email: scouting@jaina.org;
 website: www.jaina.org

Jewish

National Jewish Committee on Scouting, P.O. Box 4052, Alexandria, VA 22303; email: chairman@jewishscouting.org; website: www.jewishscouting.org

Meher Baba

Meher Spiritual Center; 10200 N. Kings Hwy., Myrtle Beach, SC 29572;
 843-272-5777; website: <https://www.mehercenter.org/>

Moravian

The Moravian Church, Drawer Y, Winston-Salem, NC 27108; 336-722-8126

Polish National Catholic Church

Mr. Richard Daum, 11 Everette Place, Wayne, NJ 07470; 973-694-9457;
 email: rodaum@verizon.net

The Salvation Army

P.O. Box 269, Alexandria, VA 22313; Eastern Territory, 914-620-7427; Central Territory, 847-294-2112; Southern Territory 404-728-1363;
 Western Territory, 310-544-6434
 website: www.nhcced.com/programs/scoutsbsa.html

Sikh

American Sikh Council, P.O. Box 932, Voorhees, NJ 08043; 607-269-7454; fax 856-235-6717; email: contact@americansikhcouncil.org or sikhscoutsusa@gmail.com
 website: gardenstatescouting.org/sikhs-and-scouting/

Unitarian Universalist

website: www.uua.org/children/scouting

Unity Worldwide Ministries

P.O. Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063; 816-524-7414; email: kid@unity.org;
 website: www.unity.org/emblem

Vanguard International Scouting Association

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

website: www.vanguardscouting.org

Zoroastrian

The Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York, c/o Ms. Temilyn Mehta, National Coordinator, The Good Life Program, 12 Rockwell Circle, Marlboro, NJ 07746; 732-972-6527; email: tghad@hotmail.com

Planning a Scouting Event?

Scouting America has created the Calendar of Religious Observances to assist Scouts and Scouters in learning about other faiths' observances and to help avoid scheduling conflicts with our 42 religious partners. Avoid scheduling on major observances by viewing the calendars at the website below.

