

Faith-Based Initiative: It Takes a Council

1. Scout Executive

- Understand how the Scouting program emphasizes “Duty to God” and know the benefits to working with the religious community
- Incorporate building relationships with the religious community into the annual plan
- Review the Council Strategic Plan
- Identify which goals in the strategic plan are most appropriate to develop objectives dealing with religious relationships
- Assign responsibilities for these objectives to the appropriate groups

2. Membership/Marketing

- Select religious institutions with which to work
- Approach ministerial alliances, ecumenical groups, denominational clergy associations
- Include religious emblems programs in the presentation to the religious institution
- Recruit Religious Emblems Coordinators (R.E.C.) at the Council, District and Unit levels to promote religious emblems
- Distribute “Duty to God” brochures to unit leaders
- Promote religious emblems programs to faith community
- Identify resources in the faith community to conduct religious emblems classes
- Encourage faith community to recognize adult Scouters for their joint service to the Scouting program and the religious institution

3. Program Department

- Promote interfaith events to recruit and retain youth members (Boy Scout Sunday/Sabbath, Ten Commandment hike, weekend retreats)
- Submit articles in newsletter listing names of recipients
- Provide letters or certificates congratulating religious emblems recipients
- Sponsor council-wide recognition ceremony for religious emblems recipients
- Include information on religious emblems in leaders program handbook
- Outdoor program: religious retreats at camp
- Eagle Projects: religious emblems promotions/workshop as Eagle projects

4. Adult Training

- Include workshop on religious emblems programs in council-wide adult training event
- Include information on adult recognitions
- Include information on the Religious Emblems Coordinator positions
- Display the “Duty to God” poster
- Make the “Duty to God” brochure available to volunteers

5. Newsletter / Public Relations

- Include articles on religious emblem recipients in news media
- Publicize Interfaith events (Ten Commandment hikes, interfaith tours, Boy Scout Sunday/Sabbath Celebrations)
- Promote Scouting (Duty to God) and the religious community
- Establish links to P.R.A.Y. web page
- Announce workshops

6. Volunteers

- Serve as Religious Emblems Coordinators to promote religious emblems
- Make presentations about religious emblems at district meetings, round tables, pow wows, pack meetings, etc.
- Set up displays at council workshops, training events, etc.
- Coordinate interfaith events

7. Scout Shop / Resource Center

- Stock religious booklets
- Display the “Duty to God” poster
- Make the “Duty to God” brochure available upon request
- Laminate and mount the “Duty to God” poster and make it available to leaders on loan
- Display sample booklets
- Post the P.R.A.Y. web site for information on religious emblems
- Identify the assets that the various resources help build in youth members

