Faith-Based Initiative: It Takes a Council

1. Executive Director
   - Understand how Girl Scouting emphasizes spiritual growth and know the benefits to working with the religious community
   - Incorporate building relationships with the religious community into Plan of Work
   - Review the Council Corporate 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 awards programs in the presentation to the religious institution
   - Recruit volunteers to make presentations on religious awards
   - Distribute “To Serve God” brochure to troop leaders
   - Promote religious awards programs to faith community
   - Identify resources in the faith community to conduct religious award classes
   - Encourage faith community to recognize adult Girl Scout leaders for their joint service to Girl Scouting and the religious institution

3. Adult Training
   - Include workshop on religious awards programs in council-wide adult training event
   - Include information on adult recognitions
   - Display the “To Serve God” poster
   - Make the “To Serve God” brochure available to volunteers

4. Council Store
   - Stock religious booklets
   - Hang the “To Serve God” poster in store
   - Make “To Serve God” brochures available

5. Program Department
   - Promote interfaith events to recruit and retain girls (Girl Scout Sunday/Sabbath, 10 commandment hike, weekend retreats)
   - Submit articles in newsletter listing recipients names
   - Provide letters or certificates congratulating religious award recipients
   - Sponsor council wide recognition ceremony for religious award recipients
   - Include information on religious awards in leaders program handbook
   - Outdoor program: religious retreats at camp
   - Older Girl Program: religious awards promotions/workshop as gold award projects

6. Public Relations
   - Include articles on religious award recipients in news media
   - Publicize Interfaith events (10 commandment hikes, interfaith tours, Girl Scout Sunday Celebrations)
   - Promote Girl Scouting and the religious community (how Girl Scouting values spiritual growth)
   - Establish links to P.R.A.Y. web page

7. Newsletter
   - Include names of religious award recipients
   - Publicize interfaith events
   - Announce workshops

8. Volunteers
   - Make presentations about religious awards at district, neighborhood or service unit meetings
   - Set up displays at council workshops, training events, etc.
   - Coordinate interfaith events

9. Resource Center
   - Display the “To Serve God” poster
   - Make the “To Serve God” brochure available upon request
   - Laminate and mount the “To Serve 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 awards
   - Identify the assets that the various resources help build in girls

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