

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

