



Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

*“REVERENT. A SCOUT IS REVERENT TOWARD GOD.
A SCOUT IS FAITHFUL IN HIS / HER RELIGIOUS
DUTIES.
HE / SHE RESPECTS THE BELIEFS OF OTHERS.”*

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Religious Emblems and the BSA



Individual faith groups:

- developed their faith specific Religious Emblem
- want to encourage their members to grow stronger in their faith.

The BSA:

- approved of these programs
- allows the emblems to be worn on the official uniform

The religious emblems are administered by the various religious groups, not the BSA.

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Universal Religious Square Knot



Earning YOUR faith's **religious emblem** = right to wear the universal square knot.

Nothing else earns the right.

This knot carries forward from Cub Scout uniform to Scouts BSA uniform AND Scouts BSA uniform to Adult uniform!

Too often people think the following earn the purple knot; they do NOT earn the KNOT:

- Completing a Cub Scout “Duty to God” adventure
- Completing the “Scout Spirit” requirement at each rank of Scouts BSA
- Completing Venturing’s structured personal reflection in “Adventures of Faith”

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Universal Religious Square Knot



Many faith's have multiple religious emblem awards to be earned.

Awards are geared towards a youth's
age range or rank.

Youth who earn multiple awards:

add a special gold device to their religious square knot to show they have earned multiple awards

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Religious Emblems and the BSA



Purpose of the Religious Emblem Coordinator

Promote Duty to God and Religious Emblems at:

- Council
- District
- Unit

Be a cheerleader for “A Scout is Reverent” toward God!

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Religious Emblems and the BSA



Job Description of the Religious Emblem Coordinator:

Appointed by the unit committee chair and serves on the unit committee

Role on committee: Look at what the unit does through the Lens of “A Scout is Reverent”

Acquaints all youth with the religious emblems program and emblems available for their faith

Provides Scout families and clergy with an orientation to the religious emblems program and encourages their involvement *(at two unit mtgs)*

Urges all youth to earn the religious emblem(s) of their faith

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Religious Emblems and the BSA



Job Description of the Religious Emblem Coordinator (cont.):

Disseminates information about any district or council religious emblems activities, retreats, camps, or classes *(use unit web site in a different color? Purple?)*

Promotes religious emblems usage the way the BSA promotes other youth advancement *(assist with Scout Sunday and / or Scout Sabbath or Scout Jummah at your place of worship and the chartered organization, if religious)*

Coordinates establishment of goals and tracks the number of emblems earned each year *(consider adding boys' names to unit web site as recognition)*

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Getting started at the unit level

Step 1:

Consider using P.R.A.Y.'s Duty to God Puzzle Patch for your unit

Earning a puzzle patch (one per year) is done in two parts:

1. Attend or make a presentation on religious emblems (do this at the time you introduce the Duty to God patch)
2. Make a commitment to Duty to God.



Duty to God Puzzle Patch eligibility: Both youth and adults of all faiths

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Getting started at the unit level



Step 1 (cont.):

Ways to fulfill your “commitment to God”:

Talk to your clergy about earning your religious emblem and commit to earning it (*)

Help younger Scouts learn about religious emblems

Present information to your congregation about a Scout is Reverent (*)

- Ex. Be involved in promoting a Scout Sunday / Sabbath/ Jummah at your place of worship

Discuss with your church leader a way for youth to express their Duty to God (*)

- Ex. In the Catholic faith it may be to attend a weekday mass, pray the rosary, attend a stations of the cross, earn the Rosary patch, etc.

Duty to God Puzzle Patch eligibility: Both youth and adults of all faiths

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Getting started at the unit level



Step 2:

Have youth and parent sign Commitment to Duty to God

(handout)

**My Commitment to Duty to God
A Scout is Reverent**

Helping youth and their families complete Duty to God requirements and embark on the Religious Emblem program.



Check one:

_____ I have attended a Religious Emblem presentation on _____ (date) to _____ (unit).

_____ I have led or assisted with a Religious Emblem presentation on _____ (date) to _____ (unit).

AND

Check one:

_____ I have talked with my faith leader and let him / her know I want to work on my religious emblem _____ (name of award).

_____ I have helped a younger Scout with his religious emblem. Scout name: _____.

Award name: _____.

_____ I have participated in an activity at my place of worship to demonstrate my commitment to Duty to God. The activity was: _____.

Scout name: _____

Scout signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent approval: _____ Date: _____

Congratulations! You have earned a Duty to God puzzle patch.

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Getting started at the unit level



Step 3:

Use the “Duty to God” brochure to identify the program for each youth’s faith.

Youth members must obtain the specific booklet for their religion.

Check with your council store

Or

Contact the religious organization directly.

Each Scout needs his own booklet to document progress.

Some religions offer adult manuals for counselors and mentors.

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Getting started at the unit level



Step 3 (cont.):

Use the “Duty to God” brochure to identify the program for each youth’s faith.

Many of the Protestant, independent, and non-denominational churches use the P.R.A.Y. program listed under “Protestant.”

Some youth may not know their faith.

Some youth may not be practicing their faith.

This is an opportunity for families to explore faith.

Remind families that the Religious Emblem program is **OPTIONAL.**

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Getting started at the unit level



Step 4:

Advise parents to review the program guidelines for their youth.

Some programs require participants to be official “members” of the religious institution.

Age/grade requirements vary from program to program.

Each program sets its own guidelines as to who may serve as counselor.

- **Some require a clergy member**
- **Some allow parents or other family members**

Some require advance training for the adult mentor.

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Getting started at the unit level



Step 5:

Before beginning, families should talk to their religious leader and show him/her the booklet.

Most programs require that the program is completed under the auspices of that religious organization.

Many programs require the signature of the local religious leader to begin.

Many programs require the signature of the local religious leader upon completion.

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Getting started at the unit level



Step 6:

Completing the religious emblem booklet

The youth member needs to:

- complete the requirements
- obtain the proper signatures

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Getting started at the unit level



Step 7:

Obtaining the religious emblem award

Follow the instructions to order the emblem (in your booklet).

These emblems are not available from your local council store.

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Getting started at the unit level



Step 8:

Presenting the religious emblem to the youth

The award can be presented at anytime of the year.

The emblem should be presented in a meaningful ceremony, preferably in the member's religious institution.

The Catholic Committee on Scouting in Orange County presents their awards at a mass on the last Saturday of January each year.

Scout Sunday/Sabbath/Jumma in February is a perfect time to recognize recipients.

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Getting started at the unit level



Step 9:

Set a date for returning “My Commitment to Duty to God”

At our next meeting on _____ (date), I want to find out how many of you decided to earn your religious emblem. Even though this is a project that you will be doing with your family and clergy, I am interested in your progress and will encourage you to complete it.”

My Commitment to Duty to God A Scout is Reverent

Helping youth and their families complete Duty to God requirements and embark on the Religious Emblem program.



Check one:

_____ I have attended a Religious Emblem presentation on _____ (date) to _____ (unit).

_____ I have led or assisted with a Religious Emblem presentation on _____ (date) to _____ (unit).

AND

Check one:

_____ I have talked with my faith leader and let him / her know I want to work on my religious emblem _____ (name of award).

_____ I have helped a younger Scout with his religious emblem. Scout name: _____.

Award name: _____.

_____ I have participated in an activity at my place of worship to demonstrate my commitment to Duty to God. The activity was: _____.

Scout name: _____

Scout signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent approval: _____ Date: _____

Congratulations! You have earned a Duty to God puzzle patch.

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Getting started at the unit level

Step 10:

Order P.R.A.Y.'s Duty to God Puzzle Patch for your unit

Have puzzle patches available to award when youth:
Return their commitment form

OR

Show they have begun their religious emblem award
booklet



Encourage the collection of all 4 patches! 1 per year. "Temporary" patches.

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Additional awards

Individual faith groups may have **additional awards** available to youth (boys and girls) and adults:

Catholic faith has:

- Rosary Patch program
- International Awareness patch
- Footprints of American Saints
- Marian Series
- Blessed are the Merciful (100 years of Catholic Scouting in USA – ended July 2017)

See: <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/>



You are welcome to dig deeper into offerings by your specific faith.

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Resources at OCBSA

We would like to have representatives of different faiths.

Buddhist:

- Metta Award (Cub Scouts): Oliver Nguyen
oliveryen@verizon.net, [\(714\) 406-8712](tel:(714)406-8712)
- Sangha Award (Boy Scout and Venturing): Tung Nguyen,
tung.nguyen92867@yahoo.com, [\(714\) 813-6488](tel:(714)813-6488)

Catholic:

Bernie Kilcoyne (Chair) at berniepk@earthlink.net
Tony Totah (Religious Emblems) at
emblems@OCCatholicScouting.org
Hunter Piper (Catholic RE training) at Lippoe@aol.com.

Church of Latter Day Saints: Josh Dart at
jd@joshdart.com

Episcopal: Will Crist at Willcrist@Willcrist.com

Lutheran: Lou Schmidt at Lschmidt@pacbell.net

Al Remyn at AlRemyn@aol.com

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Resources at OCBSA

We would like to have a representative of each district.

OCBSA: Marty Cutrone at MartyC@ocbsa.org or 714-915-1284

Council Rep: Linda Shepard at Linda92shep@gmail.com or 949-456-0740

District Reps:

NORTH

Canyons: *Jay Nash at jaygnash@gmail.com

Valencia: Vacant

SANTA ANA:

***District Advancement Chair**

District Reps

WEST

Golden West: Jeff Giacomi at jeffgiacomi@gmail.com

Pacifica: Dani DeGrood at pacificaocre@gmail.com

SOUTH

El Camino Real: *Elizabeth Morgan at advancement@ecrbsa.com

Rancho San Joaquin: *Frank Hernandez at frank601@cox.net

Saddleback: *David Klein kleinds@gmail.com

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program Resources

P.R.A.Y.: 1-800-933-7729 / www.praypub.org

Order Duty to God puzzle patches at:

(We will try to get these into the Scout Shops; we will keep you posted.)

Duty to God Brochure: <http://www.praypub.org/recognitions/boyscout.htm>

PowerPoint Presentation: <http://www.praypub.org/promoting/ReligiousEmblemsPresentation.ppt>

Duty to God Promotion Puzzle Patch: <http://www.praypub.org/dutytogod.htm>

OCBSA Web site:

New web pages as resource for Duty to God / Religious Emblem (via Advancement link)
Currently web site has no logical path / visibility; you must “search” for information. Result, only people with knowledge and desire will ever find it.

Duty to God and the Religious Emblem Program

Break-out Topics (groups of 3-4, by faith, if possible)

Discuss one of these three:

You are chartered by a church or faith-based organization, but have not had a Scout Sunday or Scout Sabbath. Plan one.

You have celebrated Scout Sunday / Scout Sabbath and share best practices.

Your unit has no church affiliation, how can you incent youth to represent Scouts on Scout Sabbath or Scout Sunday at their own place of worship?

All with a faith-based chartered organization discuss:

You want to reach out to the leader at your chartered organization to look for synergy and a closer relationship to promote “A Scout is Reverent”.