

Religious Recognitions for Scouting

What are the Religious Recognitions Programs and who creates them?

The Religious Recognitions Programs (also called religious "emblems" or "awards" programs) are programs created by various religious groups for their children and youth who are also members of national youth agencies (i.e. Boy Scouts of America, Camp Fire Boys and Girls, and Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.). It is important to remember that although BSA, CF and GSUSA may have approved of these programs and even allow the recognition items/awards to be worn on their uniforms, they did not create them. All Religious Recognitions Programs are created by the religious groups themselves, not the youth agencies.

How do I find out which religious groups have created Religious Recognitions Programs?

The "Religious Awards" tabs lists all the different Religious Recognitions Programs. In addition, the national youth agencies provide charts listing all the different religious recognitions programs available to their members (see "[Agency Charts](#)" in the "Resources" tab).

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

The religious recognitions programs should be presented to the children and their families as an optional program for them to complete in their churches or synagogues with their appropriate religious leaders. Religious instruction must always come from the religious institution, not from the troop leader. Parents need to be informed of these programs and told where to get the information for their faith group.

Do boys and girls do the same program?

It depends on the religion. Some religions have created programs that are used by both boys and girls. Other religions have created separate programs for members of each separate youth agency (BSA, CF, GSUSA). See the "Religious Awards" tab or the [Agency Charts](#) in the "Resources" tab to check on a program for a specific religion.

Do the children have to belong to a youth agency?

It depends on the religion. Some religious programs are created specifically for members of a specific youth agency. For example, there is a Jewish Boy Scout program, a Jewish Girl Scout program, and a Jewish Camp Fire Boys and Girls program. Other religious programs are open to all youth of that faith regardless of membership in a youth agency. For example, the God and Country program is open to all Protestant youth (whether or not they belong to BSA, CF, or GSUSA), so that members of Sunday School classes, Vacation Bible Schools, Confirmation classes and other church groups are eligible to earn the God and Country award.

Do the children have to belong to a church or synagogue?

It depends on the religion. Some programs, like the Eastern Orthodox program, require that all recipients are communicant members in their church. Other programs, like the Protestant God and Country Program, do not require official membership in a congregation, but require that a pastor oversee the program and sign the application form. In the case where a family is not religiously oriented, it is best to secure the written permission of the parents or guardians of any child who wishes to participate in a religious recognitions program to make sure that the child is enrolled in the appropriate program. It needs to be understood that when one participates in a religious recognitions program, one must abide by their guidelines and curriculum requirements and wear their particular award.

Why doesn't my church or synagogue know about the Religious Recognitions Programs?

Although the Religious Recognitions Programs are created by the religious bodies at the national level, the local church or synagogue 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 pastor or rabbi.

If the religious growth program for my faith has more than one level (for the different grade levels), may I earn all of these levels?

Yes. Students can earn all levels of their religious growth series. However, students must be in the appropriate grade when they start each level, and they may not go backwards and earn younger programs.

How do I start my child on these programs?

First, order the appropriate materials based on your religion and grade. (The child is required to have a *Student Workbook*. Some religious programs also offer a *Counselor Manual* for the pastor and a *Mentor Workbook* for the parent.) Then meet with your pastor or rabbi and set up a schedule to complete the program.

Where can I obtain the materials?

Check with your local council or service center. Or write directly to the address provided as the contact for your religious group (see "Religious Awards" tab or "[Agency Charts](#)" in the **Resources** tab).

How long does it take to complete a program?

It depends on the program and the grade level of the child. Some programs can be completed within three months. Other programs may take up to a year.

Who may serve as counselor?

It depends on the religious program, but most programs require the pastor to serve as counselor. Some programs may allow the pastor to designate a lay leader or other adult in the church to teach the course.

The God and Country Program has a Mentor program. What is the difference between a counselor and a mentor?

The counselor is the pastor (or someone appointed by the pastor). The counselor serves as an instructor who gives assignments to the young people, and it is the young people who do all the work. Mentors are active learning participants (students) with lessons and projects to complete in their own workbooks just like their children. Both mentors and children work under the supervision of the pastor or counselor.

How do I order the recognition items? Where do I get the award once I finish the program?

Each religious program has its own award. Follow the instructions in your curriculum workbook because the awards come from different places. Most of the awards will not be available locally. Be sure to allow enough time to order your award through the mail. (These awards will not be available in your local council store!)

How is the award presented?

The award should be presented in a religious ceremony in the child's church or synagogue. Some awards come with a sample presentation ceremony to help your pastor plan a meaningful service.

Where is the award worn on the uniform?

- Boy Scouts of America - above the left shirt pocket (pinned over the Universal Religious Square Knot).
- Camp Fire Boys and Girls -
- Girl Scouts of the USA - Either on the badge sash below the membership stars, or on the right side of the uniform level with the membership pin.

What are the Adult Awards? Can adults earn religious recognitions just like the children?

The Adult Recognition Awards are by nomination only (they are not work/study programs like the youth awards). These are honors given to worthy adults for their outstanding service to youth both through their church and one of the national youth agencies. Recipients of these awards are unaware that they are being nominated: an outside party must nominate them to receive an award by submitting the required application, letters of recommendation and resume. For information on specific eligibility requirements, the [Adult Award Brochures](#) (with nomination forms) are listed in the "Resources" tab.

Religious Recognitions for Girls and Adults in Girl Scouting

Brownie Junior Cadette Senior Adult

Baha'I Baha'I Committee on Scouting Baha'I National Center, Wilmette, IL 60091 (847) 869-9039	Unity of Mankind	Unity of Mankind	Unity of Mankind	Unity of Mankind	
Baptist P.R.A.Y. 8520 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO 63123-3413 800-933-7729 / www.praypub.org	Grades 1-3 God and Me	Grades 4-5 God and Family	Grades 6-8 God and Church	Grades 9-12 God and Life	Good Shepherd; Adult Mentor Programs
Buddhist Buddhist National Committee on Scouting 701 E. Thrift Ave, Kingsland, GA 31548-8213 (912) 729-6323 / e-mail: bcascout@eagnet.com	Ages 6-8 Padma Award	Ages 9-10 Padma Award	Ages 12-14 Padma Award	Ages 15-17 Padma Award	
Christian Science P.R.A.Y. 8520 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO 63123-3413 800-933-7729 / www.praypub.org		Ages 9-10 Christian Science God and Country	Ages 11-14 Christian Science God and Country		
Churches of Christ Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting, ACU Station, Box 27618, Abilene, TX 79699-7618 (915) 674-3739	Joyful Servant Award	Joyful Servant Award	Good Servant Award	Good Servant Award	Faithful Servant Award
Eastern Orthodox P.R.A.Y. 8520 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO 63123-3413 800-933-7729 / www.praypub.org	Ages 6-9 St. George Award	Ages 9-10 Chi-Rho	Ages 11-14 Alpha Omega	Ages 15-17 Alpha Omega	Prophet Elias
Episcopal P.R.A.Y. 8520 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO 63123-3413 800-933-7729 / www.praypub.org	Grades 1-3 God and Me	Grades 4-5 God and Family	Grades 6-8 God and Church	Grades 9-12 God and Life	St. George; Adult Mentor Programs
Hindu North American Hindu Association 411 Park Ave, Suite 202, San Jose, CA 95110 (408) 993-0397	Ages 6-8 Grades 1-3 Dharma Award	Ages 8-11 Grades 3-6 Dharma Award			
Islamic Islamic Committee on Girl Scouting 31 Marian St, Stamford, CT 06907 (203) 359-3593	Ages 5-9 Bismillah Award	Ages 9-11 In the Name of Allah Award	Ages 12-15 Quratula'in Award	Ages 15-17 Muslimeen Award	
Jewish National Jewish Girl Scout Committee 33 Central Dr, Bronxville, NY 10708-4306 (914) 738-3986 or (718) 252-6072	Ages 6-9 Lehavah Award	Ages 9-11 Bat Or Award	Ages 11-14 Menorah Award	Ages 15-17 Or Emunah Award	Ora Award
Lutheran P.R.A.Y. 8520 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO 63123-3413 800-933-7729 / www.praypub.org	Grades 1-3 God and Me	Grades 4-5 God and Family	Grades 6-8 God and Church	Grades 9-12 Lutheran Living Faith	Lamb Award; Servant of Youth Award; Adult Mentor Programs

(Mormon) Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Salt Lake District Center, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 76 N Main St, Salt Lake City, UT 84150 (801) 240-2141		Ages 10-11 Gospel in Action Award	Ages 12-13 Young Woman of Truth	Ages 14-15 Young Woman of Promise Ages 16-17 Young Woman of Faith; Young Womanhood Recognition	
Polish National Catholic Church National Committee on Scouting Polish National Catholic Church 115 Heather Hill Dr, Buffalo, NY 14224	Love of God Award	God and Community Award	God and Community Award	God and Community Award	Bishop Thaddeus F. Zielinski Award
<u>Protestant* and Independent Christian Churches</u> P.R.A.Y. 8520 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO 63123-3413 800-933-7729 / www.praypub.org	Grades 1-3 God and Me	Grades 4-5 God and Family	Grades 6-8 God and Church	Grades 9-12 God and Life	God and Service; Adult Mentor Programs
<u>(Quakers) Society of Friends</u> P.R.A.Y. 8520 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO 63123-3413 800-933-7729 / www.praypub.org	Grades 2-3 That of God	Grades 4-5 That of God	Grades 6-9 Spirit of Truth	Grades 10-12 Spirit of Truth	Friends Emblem
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Youth Ministries Office, The Auditorium PO Box 1059, Independence, MO 64051 (816) 833-1364	Age 8 Light of the World	Ages 9-10 Light of the World Age 11 Liahona	Ages 12-14 Liahona	Ages 15-17 Exploring My Life and World	World Community International Youth Service Award
Roman Catholic Church National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry 3700-A Oakview Terr NE, Washington, DC 20017 Attn: Orders Clerk (202) 636-3825	Ages 7-9 Family of God	Ages 9-11 I Live My Faith	Ages 12-14 Marian Medal	Ages 12-14 Marian Medal Ages 15-17 Spirit Alive	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal and St. Anne Medal
Unitarian Universalist Unitarian Universalist 25 Beacon St, Boston, MA 02108 (617) 742-2100		Ages 9-11 Religion in Life	Ages 12-14 Religion in Life	Ages 15-17 Religion in Life	
Unity Church Association of Unity Churches PO Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063 (816)524-7414	Ages 6-8 God in Me	Ages 9-11 God in Me	Ages 11-13 Light of God		Distinguished Youth Service Award Miniature Pin

* The following is a partial listing of some of the denominations that would use the religious recognitions listed for Protestant and Independent Christian Churches: African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Assembly of God, Baptist, Church of God, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Episcopal, Nazarene, Presbyterian, Reformed, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist churches. If you have questions about which religious recognition program your church should use, please call P.R.A.Y. at 1-800-933-7729.