SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

With the start of the Cub Scout Adventure Program, the requirements for awards that say things like, "Complete Wolf Achievement 7," need to be revised to send you to the new Adventures. We have highlighted these changes here over the last few months.

To get a complete summary of all the changes to incorporate the Adventure Program, you can go to <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/programupdates.aspx>.

**Or**  go to <http://usscouts.org/advancementTOC.asp#cub>
and get the changes for a specific award.

**Religious Emblems**

*[www.USScouts.org](http://www.USScouts.org)*

  

**"A Scout is Reverent."** All Scouts show this by being faithful in their duty to God. Some go further and give special service. This can qualify them for a religious emblem. Such an emblem is not a Scouting award. It is conferred on a Scout by his religious leader. Each faith has its own requirements for earning the emblem for members of its Faith. Listed at <http://usscouts.org/advance/cubscout/religious.asp#Chart> on the [www.USScouts.org](http://www.USScouts.org) website are the TIGER CUB, CUB SCOUT, AND WEBELOS SCOUT emblems and where to find out about them. Before writing or visiting your local council service center, check with your religious leader. (Unless indicated otherwise below, awards listed may be earned by both Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts, but not by Tiger Cubs)

These groups (and others) also offer religious emblems for older youth. For information on the awards available to Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, and/or Explorers, [Click here](http://usscouts.org/advance/boyscout/religious.asp).

Most of the awards consist of bar pins, ribbons, and pendants, and are worn on the uniform above the left pocket on formal occasions. In addition, the Religious Emblem Square knot, shown at the top of this page, may be worn on the uniform over the left pocket by youth or adults who earned any of the religious awards.

One or more miniature devices are affixed to the knot to indicate which level(s) of the award was earned. The youth religious emblem knot may be worn on the uniform by itself or with one or more devices to indicate the program phase(s) where the award was earned. A Scout that earns a sequence of religious emblems wears one youth religious emblem knot and up to four devices, as described below.

* The **CUB SCOUT** device for the first level (God & Me, Maccabee, etc.) earned as a Tiger Cub or Cub Scout;
* **WEBELOS** device for the second level (God & Family, Parvuli Dei, Aleph, etc.) earned as a Cub Scout or Webelos Scout;
* **BOY SCOUT** device for the first level (God & Church, Ad Altare Dei, Ner Tamid, etc.) earned as a Boy Scout;
* **VENTURING** device for the second level emblem (God & Life, Pope Pius XII, Etz Chaim, etc.) earned as an older Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Sea Scout, or Venturer. ***Note*** *that Webelos Scout and Venturing devices are used to designate the second level emblems, even if the youth isn't a Webelos Scout or Venturer when the religious emblem was earned.*

For more information on the Youth Religious Emblem square knot patch, go to (<http://usscouts.org/awards/religyouth.asp>)

For information on the devices which are attached to the knot, go to <http://usscouts.org/awards/devices.asp>.

**FAQs about Religious Emblems**

[*www.scouting.org*](http://www.scouting.org)

**What are the religious emblems programs?**The religious emblems programs are programs created by the various religious groups to encourage youth to grow stronger in their faith. The religious groups—not the Boy Scouts of America—have created the religious emblems programs themselves. The Boy Scouts of America has approved of these programs and allows the recognition to be worn on the official uniform, but each religious organization develops and administers its own program.

**I have a unit with children of all different faiths. How can I include the religious emblems programs for my unit?**The religious emblems programs should be presented to youth members and their families as an optional program for them to complete through their religious organization. Religious instruction should always come from the religious organization, not from the unit leader. Parents need to be informed of these programs and told where to get the information for their particular faith. Interested in making a presentation on the religious awards? Find sample scripts at www.praypub.org.

**Do boys and girls participate in 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 programs for members of separate youth agencies (i.e., Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., and Camp Fire). Please check the specific eligibility requirements for each religious emblems program.

**Do the youth have to belong to a religious institution?**It depends on the religion. Please check the eligibility requirements for your particular religious program.

**Why doesn't my religious institution know about the religious emblems programs?**Although the religious bodies at the national level created the religious emblems programs, the local religious institution 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 religious leader.

**If the religious emblems program for my faith has more than one level (for the different grade levels), may my child earn all of these recognitions?**Yes. Members can earn all levels of their religious emblems program. However, they must be in the appropriate program guidelines when they start and complete each level (they may not go backward and earn younger programs).

**How is the emblem presented?**The emblem should be presented in a meaningful ceremony, preferably in the youth member's religious institution. Some emblems come with a sample presentation ceremony.

**How long does it take to complete a program?**It depends on the program. Some programs may take three or four months, others longer.

**Where is the emblem worn on the uniform?**The universal religious square knot is worn over the left shirt pocket of the Scout uniform. The medallion is pinned over the square knot for full uniform occasions.

**How do we get started on these programs?**

1. Youth members must obtain the specific booklet for their religion. This booklet will contain information on all the lessons and service projects that they will need to complete. Each member needs to have his or her own booklet to document progress. Some religions also provide adult manuals for counselors and mentors. Check with your local council to see if it stocks these booklets in its store, or contact the religious organization directly (addresses and phone numbers are provided at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/ReligiousAwards/~/link.aspx?_id=9D5FA10AEB254061A248D13D459424FE&_z=z>).
2. Parents must review the specific guidelines for their particular program; age/grade requirements vary from program to program. Some programs require that the youth be an official "member" of the local religious institution, others may not. Each program determines who may serve as counselor (some require clergy, others allow parents or other family members). Be sure to look at specific eligibility guidelines!
3. Families should talk to their religious leaders and show them the booklet before beginning any program. Most of the religious emblems programs require that they be completed under the auspices of that religious organization, and many require the signature of the local religious leader. Again, check the specific eligibility requirements for your religious program.
4. The member needs to complete the requirements, obtain the proper signatures, and follow the instructions to order the emblem/award. (These emblems are not available in your local council.) The emblem can be presented at any time of the year and should be presented in a meaningful ceremony, preferably in the member's religious institution.

**Who may serve as counselor?**It depends on the program. Some programs require clergy to serve as counselor, others allow a parent or family member. Please check the specific guidelines for your religious program.

**How do I order the recognition items?**Each religious program has its own emblem. Follow the instructions in your recognition guidelines. These emblems will not be available in your local council!

**What is the adult religious recognition program?**An adult religious recognition award is presented by nomination only. The recognition is presented to worthy adults for their outstanding service to youth both through their religious institution and one of the national youth agencies. Recipients of these awards are unaware that they are being nominated. They are nominated to receive an award by submitting the required application, letters of recommendation, and resume. Please check eligibility requirements for specific awards.

**Which religious emblem square knot should I wear?**

Cloth, silver knot on purple, No. 05007, may be worn by youth or adult members who earned the knot as a youth, above left pocket.

 

Cloth, purple on silver, No. 05014, may be worn by adult members presented with the adult recognition of a faith, above the left pocket. Adults may wear both knots if they satisfy qualifying criteria. (See the *Insignia Guide,* No. 33066D.)

***NOTE: - Since the programs are similar or the same (as in the case of the PRAY Awards) for girls and boys in Boy Scouting, 4H, Girl Scouting, Campfire, etc., a female Venturer or Adult Leader who earned her religious award as a youth may wear the purple square knot on her uniform even though it was not earned as a member of the BSA. (My Philmont staffer daughter Dr. Darby does this!!)***

***Per Mike Walton of*** [***www.USScouts.org***](http://www.USScouts.org)***, this applies to BOTH MALES AND FEMALES, youth and adult.  If you earned a youth religious emblem as a youth member, whether or not it was earned or received as a BSA member does not matter. The youth religious emblem square knot represents ANY AWARD which youth members earned or received -- period.***

***So yes, a Girl Scout, 4Her, or Royal Ranger/Missionette who earned a youth religious emblem in one of those programs and then either becomes an adult or youth member of the BSA (to include Venturing/Sea Scouting) may wear that emblem on their BSA field uniform; and informally wear the square knot insignia without device on the uniform shirt.***

The 2015 printing of the ***"Guide to Awards and Insignia,"*** states in the Special regulations section (page 9), "The Boy Scouts of America recognizes the religious emblems programs that belong to each faith group. Anyone (youth or adult) who, as a member of another youth agency (e.g., Girl Scouts of the USA, Camp Fire USA, a Sunday school class, etc.), has earned the religious emblem of their faith is eligible to wear the approved religious emblem on their respective uniform. Individuals would also be eligible to wear the religious square knot, without any device."

**Adult Religious Recognitions**

*Baloo's Archives*

 

****

**What is the adult religious recognition program?**
An adult religious recognition award is presented by nomination only. The recognition is presented to worthy adults for their outstanding service to youth both through their religious institution and one of the national youth agencies. Recipients of these awards are sometimes unaware that they are being nominated. They are nominated to receive an award by submitting the required application, letters of recommendation, and resume. Please check eligibility requirements for specific awards. Self and spousal nominations are usually not allowed.

Essentially every denomination that has Youth Awards has at least one Adult Award. The award on the left is **the** [**Lutheran Lamb Award**](https://www.praypub.org/pdf_docs/lamb2014.PDF). Presented to acknowledge at least 10 years of distinguished service of a Lutheran adult in fostering the spiritual growth of youth through church and civic youth serving agency programs and to increase the use and quality of the civic agency programs in Lutheran congregations as a part of their ministries with youth. (Commissioner Dave has been presented this honor). The recipient may wear the Adult Religious Emblem Square Knot. The Lutherans also have the [**Servant of Youth**](https://www.praypub.org/pdf_docs/youth2014.pdf) Award to acknowledge distinguished volunteer service by adults in ministry to young people through one or more civic youth agency programs. This award may be presented to a non-Lutheran SM of a troop chartered to a Lutheran Church. (or vice versa – a Lutheran Scoutmaster of a troop at a Baptist (or other) Church)

The award on the right is the [**Churches of Christ Faithful Servant award**.](http://goodservant.org/wp/request-curricula/faithful-servant-information/) There is a minimum ten year tenure requirement for nomination. The recipient may wear the Adult Religious Emblem Square Knot.

For complete listings of Adult Religious Recognitions for BSA Leaders go to National’s site at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/ReligiousAwards.aspx>

or US Scouts site at <http://www.usscouts.org/awards/religadult.asp>

Many of these awards are coordinated by P.R.A.Y. Check their website for info, too [www.praypub.org](http://www.praypub.org/)

Only one Adult Religious Award square knot is worn regardless of how many awards have been received. It is possible, for example, to receive two or three levels of awards in some faiths or to receive awards from more than one faith.

***So, if you know someone who is deserving of receiving the Adult Award from his faith – check it out and begin the nomination process.***

**Confused??**

***Need help to figure out these awards??***

**Here is with whom you can talk –**

**Religious Emblems Coordinators**

They support the Duty to God (religious Emblems) Program, Promote Growth, & Retention in Units





**Purpose:**There are three purposes for having Religious Emblems Coordinators at the council, district, and unit levels:

* Encourage all youth to earn the emblem of their faith
* Promote religious emblems usage the way the BSA promotes other youth advancement
* Establish goals and track the number of religious emblems earned each year

**Why?**Baden-Powell stated, "Religion seems a very simple thing: First, love and serve God. Second, love and serve your neighbor." (*Scouting for Boys*, 1908) Here are three reasons to have Religious Emblems Coordinators:

* Reinforce BSA values through religious emblems
* Improve relationships with religious chartered organizations
* Establish relationships with potential religious chartered organizations

**Responsibilities -**

**Unit Religious Emblems Coordinator**

* After appointment by the unit committee chair, serves on the unit committee
* 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
* Urges all youth to earn the religious emblem(s) of their faith
* Disseminates information about any district or council religious emblems activities, retreats, camps, or classes
* Promotes religious emblems usage the way the BSA promotes other youth advancement
* Serves as the unit's liaison to the district religious emblems coordinator

**District Religious Emblems Coordinator**

* After appointment by the district program chair, attends district meetings and with district program chair, sets district goals for religious emblems.
* Encourages every unit to appoint a unit religious emblems coordinator
* Disseminates information to units through charter renewal packets, roundtables, and camporees
* Helps unit religious emblems coordinators recruit presenters to make presentations on religious emblems, including clergy of chartered organizations, unit leaders who promote religious emblems, chaplains, etc.

**Council Religious Emblems Coordinator**

After appointment by the council vice president of program, works with the Religious Relationships Committee. The religious emblems coordinator focuses specifically on raising awareness of religious emblems and increasing usage. The Religious Relationships Committee works directly with the faith community to recruit chaplains, coordinate the council calendar with religious holidays, sponsor religious emblems retreats, identify religious representatives from the various faith groups, and strengthen ties with local congregations and chartered organizations.

Disseminates information to district religious emblems coordinators.

Provides information for dissemination at Trainings (e.g. Colleges of Commissioner Science, Universities of Scouting, New leader trainings) and summer camp (resident and day) programs. Provides information for dissemination to Professional staff and volunteers.

Learns through the Religious Relationships Committee which faith committees are sponsoring religious emblems retreats and which congregations are offering religious emblems classes.

**To learn more:**Go to National's Web Page at <http://www.scouting.org/Home/Commissioners/newsletter/spotlight/10_2013_religious.aspx> and "read all about it."

Then, go to Roundtable and find out who your District Religious Emblems Coordinator is and call them up for help.