

## ***A Scout is Reverent...***

All Scouts show this by being faithful in their duty to God. Some will go further and give special effort to express their faith. This can qualify them for a religious emblem. *Such an emblem is not a Scouting award*; it is an affirmation conferred on a Scout by his religious leader or institution.

There are many different religious emblem programs that are specific to denomination. See the list below for programs approved by the Boy Scouts of America. Each faith has its own requirements for earning its emblem. Listed below are the TIGER CUB, CUB SCOUT, AND WEBELOS SCOUT emblems and the first steps for implementing them. Before contacting your local council service center, consult with your religious institution's staff to insure that they are willing to participate in implementing the program as a mentor or counselor.

### **How to get started on Recognitions/Emblems:**

1. Obtain the specific booklet or information regarding the program for your religion. The program booklet contains the lessons and service projects that the child needs to complete. Participating scouts will need their own booklets to document progress. Some religions also offer adult manuals for counselors and mentors. The council scout store may stock these booklets; or they are available from various online resources. These resources will also help you to find out how to contact the religious organization directly.
2. Parents must review the specific guidelines for their particular program. Some programs require that the youth be an official "member" of the local religious institution, other programs may not. Age/grade requirements also vary from program to program. In addition, each faith group sets its own guidelines as to who may serve as counselor. Some programs require clergy to serve as counselors; other programs allow parents or other family members to serve as counselors. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to check the specific guidelines for their particular program.
3. Families should talk to their religious leaders and show them the booklet before beginning a program. Many of the religious recognition programs require that they be completed under the auspices of that religious organization, and many require the signature from the local religious leader.
4. The student scout needs to complete the program requirements, obtain the proper signatures, and follow the instructions to order the recognition/emblem (recognitions are not available in local council stores). The recognition should be presented in a meaningful ceremony, preferably in the youth's religious institution, or at a Pack night ceremony, and can be presented at any time of the year. Remember: Boy Scout Sabbath is in February (Scout Sunday). This can be the perfect times to recognize recipients of the religious recognitions.
5. Your pack Religious Emblem Coordinator, or Cubmaster, can help guide you through any of these steps. Upon completion of the religious emblem program the scout will receive the Religious Knot from the pack to wear on his uniform. This knot is worn above the left pocket, and can be worn on any uniform for the duration of their scouting career. The pack does not provide the denomination's specific award or medal; this can be obtained from online resources.
6. Scouts (dens) working together in groups for the religious emblem may require the appropriate 2-deep leadership requirements. Consult you pack/ den leadership, if this is the case for your program, before beginning the program schedule.

## Endorsed Religious Emblem Programs:

- African Methodist Episcopal Church
- African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- Armenian Church of America (Eastern Diocese)
- Baha'i
- Baptist
- Buddhist
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
- Church of Christ, Scientist (Christian Scientist)
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon)
- Churches of Christ
- Community of Christ  
*(formerly the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)*
- Eastern Catholic
- Eastern Orthodox
- Episcopal
- General Church of the New Jerusalem (The New Church)
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jewish
- Lutheran
- Meher Baba
- Polish National Catholic
- Presbyterian Church in America
- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Protestant and Independent Christian Churches  
*(Available to any Christian denomination)*
- Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- Roman Catholic
- The Salvation Army
- Unitarian-Universalist -  
*(Currently not authorized for wear/display on the BSA uniform)*
- United Church of Christ
- United Methodist
- United Pentecostal Church International
- Unity Churches