

April 23, 2015

Dear Catholic Scouters,

As we gather for our annual Bishop's Dinner for Scouters and Clergy, I wanted to take a minute to frame our mission as Catholic Scout Leaders. The National Catholic Counsel for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls cites, "all programs are designed to support and complement the catechetical efforts of Catholic parishes and schools."

<http://www.nccgscf.org/programs/>

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting -BSA states, "Scouting is an effective way to help Catholic youth to do their duty to God and to their country. Scouting builds character and teaches devotion to God in an environment that provides wholesome fun under the guidance of strong adult role models." <http://www.nccs-bsa.org>

The real question is, how do you see Catholic Scouting? Catholic scouting for girls and boys provides a safe forum to explore their faith and their world. It is designed to build leaders and self-starters who are not afraid to try new things.

Catholic scouting is youth ministry! It promotes service and a sense of duty to others within a framework of providing age appropriate life experiences.

I hope you will find this little handout helpful in facilitating your scouts' religious emblems program. I have included other Catholic based scouting activities the can be used for den or pack meetings.

Many Blessings!

Yours in Catholic Scouting,

Nancy Reading

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Diocese of SLC Chair for Catholic Scouting 2015

Religious Emblems and Scout Saturday

Scout Saturday is held annually in January or February at the Cathedral of the Madeline. The Bishop usually hands each scout their emblem and shakes their hand. Since his schedule is very demanding the date is set early and is often on a different Saturday each year. Please check the web links below in September to find out the date of Scout Saturday for the following year and the date when applications are due.

Each booklet has an application for the emblem. At the completion of the booklet the religious emblems coordinator for your Pack or Troop should schedule a group interview with one of the clergy at your parish. This can also be done individually also, in the event your parish does not host a scouting program. Doing the interview as a group is easier on the parish clergy when a large number of boys are involved. The clergy are required to sign off on the emblems.

There is a hard cost to the Diocese for each pin and parent pin. The recipient or the troop/pack is will need to pay up front for the emblem to be ordered. To date the out of pocket cost has been \$15.00. If you plan to pay by check make it out to; "The SL Diocese". Check the websites each fall to make certain the price has not changed.

The applications and checks must be mailed to the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 27 C Street SLC, UT. 84103, by December 15th of each year to ensure emblem availability. You can email the current diocesan chairperson nlr@xmission.com or the Current Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Samantha.Almanza@dioslc.org for questions or problems.

<http://www.dioslc.org/ministries/youth/youth/boy-scouts-girl-scouts>

Religious Emblems for Cub Scouts

The workbooks for these can be purchased at the Scout Stores or online at the websites.

Light of Christ – This emblem is designed for 6-7 year old cub scouts usually Wolves/second grade. This program helps the boys develop a personal relationship with Jesus and parallels preparations for First Holy Communion.

Parvouli Dei – This emblem is designed for 8-10 year old cub scouts. It seems this is best accomplished by starting as the summer between Wolves and Bears or Bears and first year Webelos. It is a bit more work and the summer months are conducive to more free time to accomplish this.

Religious Emblems for Boy Scouts

These programs are designed to be done over 8 + months and require a trained catechist lead the group. The Boy Scout must receive a signature of approval by meeting with his Parish Priest prior to starting these courses. A full board of review is convened to determine awarding of these emblems once the course is completed.

Ad Alteri Dei – This emblem is designed for 13-14 years old Boy Scouts, this program dives into the seven Sacraments while helping young boys dive into the life, work, and mission of the church.

Pope Pius XII - This Emblem is designed for Venturing Crew Members and Boy Scouts 15 years old and older. This program covers life choices in a young man's life and helps him more fully participate in the faith community.

Catholic Activity Patches for Scouts

There are Five Separate Series of Religious Activities available to all Catholic Scouts from the National Catholic Counsel on Scouting. The five activities each promote a full series of patches. They include : 1) The Rosary Series, 2) The Marian Series, and 3) The Footsteps of American Saints. **New for 2015** are The Footsteps of Modern Saints and The Faith Series.

The International Activities include; 1) The International Awareness and 2) Blessed Are Merciful - Keep The Lamp Burning Activities. These are offered through the International Counsel on Scouting (ICCS)

Note - All of these activities may be used by other groups, such as; families, schools, or any Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venturer, Girl Scout, American Heritage Girl, or Campfire USA.

Religious Emblems for Girl Scouts

The Family of God – This is the official recognition program of the Roman Catholic Church for children in grades 2-3. This program closely parallels the child's preparation to receive their First holy Communion. The program helps children discover the presence of God in their daily lives as members of their family and parish.

I Live My Faith - This program is designed to help Girl Scouts in grades 4-6, appreciate more deeply the place that God and religion occupy in their daily lives. The program focuses on the themes of: Belief, Sacraments, Catholic Christian Living, and Prayer.

Mary the First Disciple - The Marian Medal program invites young girls to "proclaim the greatness of the Lord." This is accomplished by actively involving the participants in an understanding of Mary as a model of openness and spirituality—a woman of the church.. The program is specifically designed for girls in grades 7-10.

Spirit Alive – Girls in Senior High are invited to work on this religious emblem. It focuses on discovering how the Holy Spirit moves through their lives. The goal is for them to discover how the Holy Spirit calls them to greater participation in the church's ministry.

Catholic Activities for Girl Scouts – Catholic Faith Patches

The Women in Scripture series is designed for girls in grades 1-12 to foster catholic identity, encourage them to learn about their faith, encourage service, and to help the girls grow in holiness. Girls are invited to get an in depth glimpse into the lives of Mary, Ruth, Naomi, Miriam, Ruth and Sarah to name a few. Please go to the link below to learn more.

<http://www.catholicreligiousrecognitions.org/cathidpp/index.htm>

Please check the website for updates and information on adult religious emblems.

Thank You for your support! Information on Adult religious Emblems will follow to the web site soon!