

RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS FOR CATHOLIC SCOUTS AND AHG

Religious emblems are faith formation programs for youth in the programs of the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scout of the USA, American Heritage Girls and Campfire Girls and Boys. Different programs exist that are tailored to the developmental and educational levels of the youth.



Programs for youth in the BSA: Light of Christ (1st and 2nd grade), Parvuli Dei (3rd, 4th and 5th grade), Ad Altare Dei (Scouts who have completed the 6th grade), Pope Pius XII (Scouts and Venturers who are at least 15). There is also the Light is Life emblem for Catholic Jr. High and High School age Scouts in the Eastern Rite.

Programs for youth in the GSUSA, AHG and CF: God is Love (KG and 1st grade), Family of God (ages 7 and 8), I Live My Faith (ages 9 -11), Mary the First Disciple (ages 12-15) and Spirit Alive (high school age youth).

The emblems programs for elementary age youth are facilitated and guided by parents or grandparents and the programs are designed to be done in the family setting. This is not to say that a troop or den can work together on an emblem, but a lot of the material will need to be discussed as specific to one's family and God is explored as seen from a family perspective. No specific training needs to be done by a parent wishing to lead his/her child to earn their religious emblem although your parish staff or clergy could assist you if you have questions.

The emblems programs for Jr. High and High School age youth are designed to be done by a group of youth working together to explore the material and how it relates to what they are experiencing in their youth program. These programs must be led by a trained, certified religious emblems counselor or facilitator. This training can be obtained through the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting. Counselor guides are available to help guide these emblems. A retreat or day of recollection is required as part of these emblems.



Where do I obtain the materials needed to complete a religious emblem programs?

Workbooks for BSA programs are available at your local Scout shop, through the BSA national store (www.scoutstuff.org) or through P.R.A.Y. publishing (www.praypub.org). Workbooks for GSUSA, AHG and CF can be obtained from the National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Campfire. Their online bookstore can be reached through www.NCCGSCF.org. Most workbooks cost \$5.00 - \$12.00.

Now that my child has finished his/her emblems programs what do I do next?

At the back of most of the workbooks is an emblem application form. The workbook needs to be review with the child and a representative of your parish clergy. The application is signed by the parent, the Scout leader and by the parish priest. Once all the signatures have

been obtained stating that the child successfully completed the program, the application form (not the whole workbook) along with the emblem fee (see chart below) is mailed to the Diocese of Peoria Catholic Committee on Scouting. [See address below – Linda Atherton] If you belong to a different diocese, you would send your application and fee to your diocese’s Catholic Committee on Scouting or your Diocesan Chaplain. For further direction consult the National Catholic Committee on Scouting website to find your diocesan contact (www.nccs-bsa.org). The Ad Altare Dei emblem and the Pope Pius XII emblem require the Scout to present himself before a Board of Review. For further information about the Board of Review please consult the counselor manual for the program.

In the diocese of Peoria you can either choose to have your child presented with their emblems at the Cathedral Bishop’s Scout Mass (usually the first or second Sunday in Feb.) or you can have the emblem presented at a meaningful Mass in your home parish. PLEASE indicate which you plan to do with your application. If you elect to have the Bishop present the emblem all you need to do is be present at the Cathedral Mass. The emblem will be presented by the Bishop and after Mass either you or your unit’s representative will need to see Linda Atherton to pick up the recognition card and uniform square knot, or patch and prayer card. If you elect to have the emblem presented at a Mass in your home parish, the emblems, and other items will be mailed to you or if being done in a group, to the group’s designate. You then coordinate with your parish staff for a suitable presentation. In either event, the square knot and recognition card (or patch and prayer card) are presented at a Scout meeting (such as the Blue and Gold dinner or similar group event) and at a parish celebration if the emblem has been presented at the Cathedral.

The earning of a religious emblem can be a significant growth experience for a young person. They will have taken a step in their religious formation and understanding of God. This is a valuable achievement and worth the effort. Please encourage your sons and daughters to use these programs to develop their “Duty to God”. If you have any question contact peoriadccs@gmail.com

		God is Love	\$11.00
Light of Christ	\$13.00	Family of God	\$11.00
Parvuli Dei	\$13.00	I Live My Faith	\$11.00
Ad Altare Dei	\$15.00	Mary, the First Disciple	\$15.00
Pope Pius XII	\$15.00	Spirit Alive	\$15.00

Add \$3.45 for express shipping

Cost includes: religious emblem, uniform square knot and recognition card (BSA) or emblem, patch and prayer card (GSUSA, AHG and CF) as well as shipping costs.

Mail completed signed applications and fees (checks made payable to Peoria DCCS) to:

Linda Atherton, Chair Peoria DCCS
 1105 Galen Dr.
 Champaign, IL 61821

For further information or with questions, feel free to contact:

Linda Atherton Chair, Peoria DCCS
 (217)356-5928
peoriadccs@gmail.com