

# Religious Emblems



Religious Emblems encompass over 30 denominations and faiths including Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Hindu, Islamic and many Protestant denominations. Youth or adult members who earned the award as a youth may wear the silver on purple Religious emblem knot, No. 05007. A device is worn on the knot for each of up to four levels:



✚ First Level: Grades 1-3 – Cub Scout device No. 00926

✚ Second Level: Grades 4-5 – Webelos Scout device No. 00932

✚ Third Level: Grades 6-8 - Boy Scout device No. 00927

✚ Fourth Level: Grades 9-12 - Boy Scouts or Venturing No. 00930

Adults may be presented with the purple on silver knot, No. 05014 adult award.

## How Do We Get Started on These Programs?

1. Youth members must obtain the specific booklet for their religion.
  - Contact your council store or see: <http://www.scouting.org/awards/religious/awards/index.html>
  - Each youth member needs his or her own booklet to document progress.
  - Some religions offer adult manuals for counselors and mentors.
2. Parents must review the program guidelines.
  - Some programs require participants to be official "members" of the religious institution.
  - Age/grade requirements vary from program to program.
  - Each program 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.
3. Families should talk to their religious leaders and show them the booklet before beginning any program.
  - Most programs require that they be completed under the auspices of that religious organization.
  - Many programs require the signature of the local religious leader.
4. The youth member needs to complete the requirements, obtain the proper signatures, and follow the instructions to order the emblem.
  - These emblems are not available from your local council store (follow the instructions in your booklet).
  - The emblem should be presented in a meaningful ceremony, preferably in the member's religious institution.

## Religious Emblems Programs - Frequently Asked Questions

### **What are the religious emblems programs?**

The programs are 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](http://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 Boys and Girls). Please check the specific eligibility requirements for each religious emblems 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). Different devices may be worn on the knot for the different levels earned.

### **How long does it take to complete a program?**

It depends on the program. Some programs may take three or four months, others longer.

### **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 because the emblems come from different places and require submission of different information. These emblems will not be available in your local council. Follow the instructions in your booklet program booklet.

### **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.

For specific information about the various programs, go to: <http://www.scouting.org/awards/religious/awards/index.html>