

PACK 31
DUTY TO GOD
PARENT HANDOUT

Dear Parent,

Today we talked about **Duty to God** and encouraged our Scouts to earn their religious emblems. You, as the parent or guardian, will decide whether or not your child will participate in these programs. Here is the information we covered together:

- Each Scout is eligible to earn the religious emblem for his specific faith.
- Parents and religious leaders are the teachers, not the unit leader.
- Most religious emblems programs have more than one level. A Scout who has earned a religious emblem as a younger Scout, may progress to the next level and earn another emblem.

There are four steps to get started on these programs:

1. Scouts 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 the Scout Shop to see if it stocks these booklets in its store, or contact the religious organization directly. Addresses and phone numbers are listed in the **Duty to God Brochure** you received.
2. Parents must review the specific guidelines for their particular program: age/grade requirements vary from program to program; some programs require that the scout be an official “member” of the local religious institution, others may not; and 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 scout 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 anytime of the year and should be presented in a meaningful ceremony in the member’s religious institution. Talk to your religious leader about presenting the award.

We would be very proud if our Scouts earned their religious emblems, but be aware that this is an entirely optional program, and we are not pressuring anyone to participate. Please talk with your child about these programs. If you are both interested, please contact me and I will help you get what you need to get started. Even though this is a project that will be done outside of Scouts with your family and your clergy, we are interested in your child’s progress and want to encourage him as much as possible. Feel free to e-mail if you have any questions.

Thank you!
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