

Duty to God and the Religious Emblems Programs

Duty to God is at the heart of the Scouting movement. "Duty to God" is part of the Cub Scout Promise, the Boy Scout Oath, and the Venturing Oath. The religious emblems programs provide a spiritual component to the Scouting program. They promote many of the same values found in Scouting. Because of this, BSA recognizes these programs as one of many ways Scouts can demonstrate their Duty to God.

The first and most important thing to remember about religious emblems programs is that they are programs created by national religious organizations - not by the BSA. Each faith creates its own curriculum and administers its own program.

The second thing is that the religious emblems programs provide specific religious instruction. The materials are designed to encourage the spiritual development of their young people who may or may not also be members of the BSA.

One important point - Scouting is nonsectarian and promotes religious emblems for ALL religions. It does not favor one religious faith over another. It is important to remember to promote the emblems for ALL faiths. There are over 35 religious groups included in the recognized programs.

These programs are recognized by the BSA which means that the medals are approved for wear on the official uniform. When a Scout earns a religious emblem, he has earned the right to wear the universal religious square knot. For youth - it is a silver knot on a purple background. This knot will always be on the Scouting uniform (it even carries up to the adult uniform). For adults who are nominated to receive a religious award - it is a purple knot on the silver background.

Most religious emblems programs have more than one level. Young people are encouraged to continue with the religious emblems programs and earn awards at each level. A Scout can wear only one square knot, but devices are pinned in the square knot to show that awards were earned at different levels.

Please refer to the praypub.org website for more information on the religious emblems programs. This website is rich with resources such as

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presentations for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venture Scouts, templates for letters, etc. Make sure to select the entries specifically for the BSA.