

UNITY OF MANKIND



DHARMA



METTA



LOVE



SALEPHIS



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ARABAT



AD VALVIRE DEI



Promoting Religious Emblems

GOD AND CHURCH



THE LIGHT SHINES ON IN THE DARK



THE NEW CHURCH



UNITY



THE NEW CHURCH



GOOD SERVANT



Objectives

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- Understand the religious emblems programs
- Become familiar with presentation materials and resources
- Understand your role in promoting religious emblems

Brief History



- The first awards were “Ad Altare Dei”, “Pro Deo Et Patria”, “Ner Tamid”, and “God and Country”.



- Today there are more than 75 emblems approved by BSA representing more than 35 religious groups

What are Religious Emblems Programs?

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- They are programs that are created by national religious organizations
- They provide specific religious instruction

What are Religious Emblems Programs? (cont.)



- They are recognized by BSA



- The medals are approved for wear on the official uniform

Why Promote Religious Emblems?



- “Duty to God” is at the heart of the Scouting movement
- Religious emblems provide a spiritual component to the Scouting program

Why Promote Them? (cont.)

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WORLD COMMUNITY



- Scouting is nonsectarian and promotes religious emblems for ALL faiths

How Do We Get Started?



There are four basic steps:

- Step 1: Youth members must obtain the specific booklet for their religion.
- Step 2: Parents must review the program guidelines.

Four Steps to Get Started:

GOD AND FAMILY



- Step 3: Families should talk to their religious leaders and show them the booklet before beginning any program.

GOD AND COUNTRY



- Step 4: The youth member needs to complete the requirements, obtain the proper signatures, and follow the instructions to order the emblem.

Religious Emblems Square Knot



Youth Award



Adult Award

Religious Emblems Square Knot with 1, 2, and 3 devices



Role of the Leader



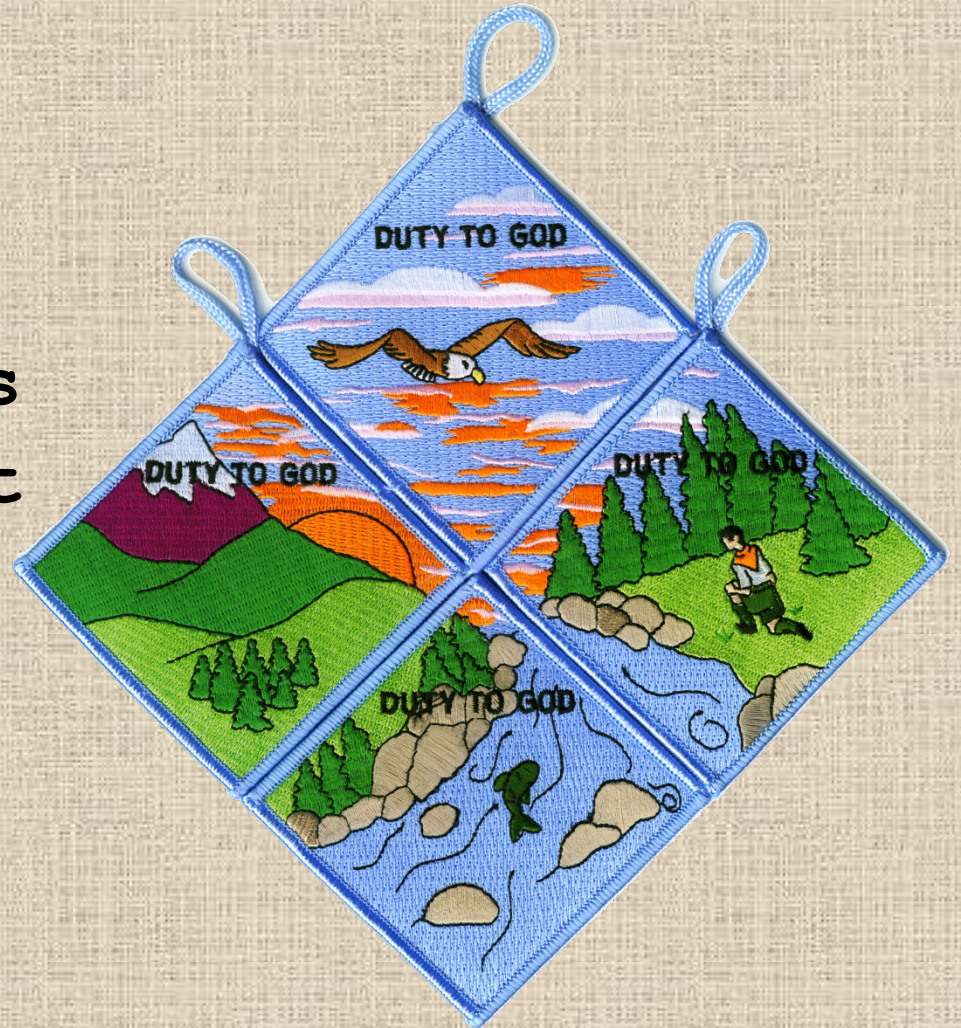
- Provide information, not religious instruction
- Make a presentation on the religious emblems to Scouts and families



Duty to God Promotion Patch

Requirements:

- Attend a presentation on religious emblems
- Make a commitment to *Duty to God*



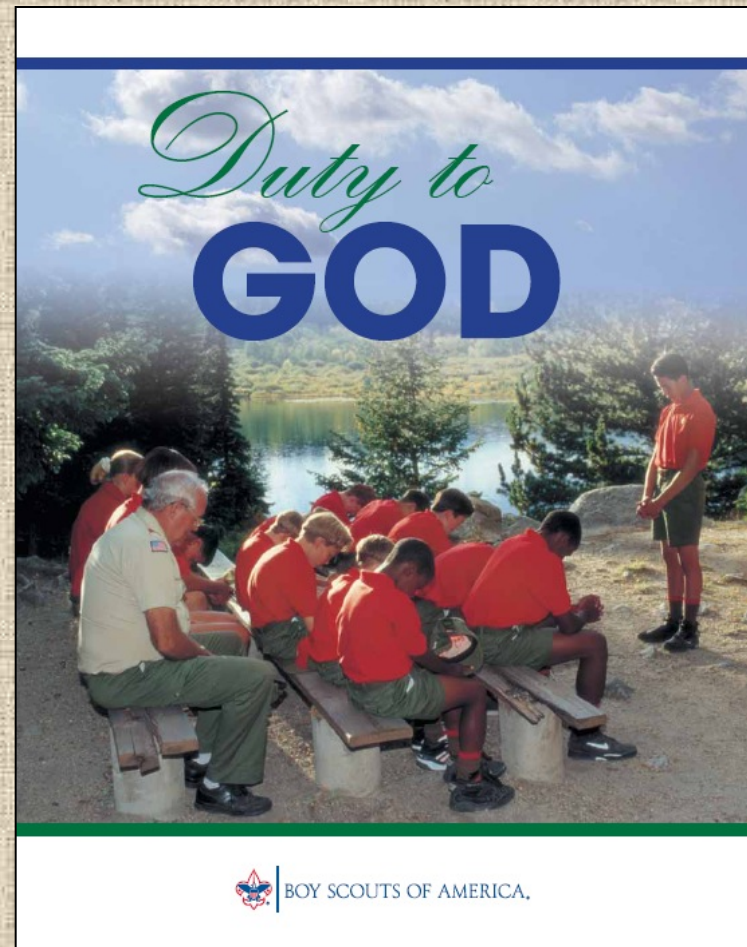
Duty to God Promotion Patch

- Four-segment puzzle patch
- Only one segment available per year
- Available at www.praypub.org
- May be preordered for distribution at presentation



Presentation Resources

- *Duty to God* brochure
- Includes chart listing all emblems & FAQ
- Printable form available at www.praypub.org



Presentation Resources

- ***“Dear Parent”***
Handout

Dear Parent ...

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 will 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 young person 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. Youth members 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 offer adult manuals for counselors and mentors. Check with your local Council 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* #05-879E).

Here is the information that your child found on the program for his faith:

Name of program: _____

Address, phone, or email _____

2. Parents must review the specific guidelines for their particular program: age/grade requirements vary from program to program; some programs require that the youth 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 young person 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, preferably in the member's religious institution.

We would be very proud if our Scouts earned their religious emblems. Please talk with your child about these programs. We would like to know by _____ (date) who is going to participate in the religious emblems programs. Even though this is a project that will be done 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 call if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Presentation Resources

- *Separate scripts for presentations to Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers*

Religious Emblems Presentation Script: A Presentation by Unit Leaders to Cub Scouts and their Parents

Considerations for presenting the religious emblems to your unit:

- Make the presentation at a meeting when parents will be present
- Provide information on all religious emblems (do not assume that your youth members will be of the same faith)
- Explain that the Scouting program encourages "Duty to God"
- Emphasize that young people will earn the religious emblem for their particular faith
- Ask older Scouts who have earned their religious emblems to talk to your unit
- Preview the requirements for the "Duty to God Promotion Patch" at www.praypub.org and decide whether you will pre-order these patches for your participants, both youth and adults.

Resources

- PowerPoint Presentation "Religious Emblems Presentation to Cub Scouts" – Available at www.praypub.org
- Video "Promoting Duty to God (Religious Emblems)" No. 05-863 – Available from your council library; may be viewed on the P.R.A.Y. web site at www.praypub.org
- Duty to God brochure (No. 05-879E) – Available from your local council (your council may order these brochures from BSA National Religious Relationships); also available in printable form at www.praypub.org
- "Dear Parent" Handout – Available at www.praypub.org
- Post the address to the P.R.A.Y. web site (for information on religious emblems): www.praypub.org
- Square knot and "devices" for display (optional)
- Display medals and sample booklets (optional)
- "Resources for Promoting Duty to God" DVD – This DVD contains all the above resources (including the video) and is available for sale on the P.R.A.Y. web site at www.praypub.org

Religious Emblems Presentation Script

1. Welcome your group: "Welcome to our presentation on religious emblems. We're going to tell you all about religious emblems, but more importantly, we're going to challenge you to earn the religious emblem of your faith."
2. Ask all Cub Scouts to stand. Then say, "Parents, please listen very carefully to what your child is about to say. Cub Scouts, please join together in saying the Cub Scout Promise: *I promise to do my best, To do my duty to God and my country, To help other people, and To obey the Law of the pack.* Thank you. Please be seated."
3. Explain how the religious emblems are connected to the scouting program and how important they are. Hold up the "Duty to God" brochure for everybody to see. Then say, "The title of this brochure is 'Duty to God.' You just heard your child say these very words, and it was a promise to do his Duty to God. One way that Cub Scouts can show their Duty to God is to earn the religious emblem of their faith and to wear the emblem on their uniform. The video you are about to see will talk about the importance of the religious emblems."
4. Show video, "Promoting Duty to God (Religious Emblems)." After watching the video continue by saying, "Religious emblems are very special. When your Cub Scout wears his religious emblem on his uniform, it tells who he is and what he believes. It shows his duty to God. We would be very proud if our Cub Scouts earned their religious emblems."

Adult Recognitions



- Adult recognitions are by nomination only
- A minimum number of years of service is required



Adult Recognitions

(cont.)



Required documents:

- Completed application form
- Résumé of candidate's qualifications
- Letters of recommendation

Adult Recognitions (cont.)



- Each adult recognition is different. Please check specific eligibility requirements for a particular award.



Questions?



- Any questions on the materials covered?
- Any questions on making a presentation?



For More Information:



- Visit P.R.A.Y.'s Website at www.praypub.org
- Call P.R.A.Y. at 1-800-933-7729

Final Thoughts



- You, as the unit leader, are the key person in getting information about the religious emblems programs to your youth members and families.



- You now have the knowledge and resources to make a presentation.

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Thank you for
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