



Welcome! Our training today is called “**Promoting Religious Emblems**”. My name is _____ [give brief introduction of each trainer]

Objectives

UNITY OF MANKIND



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

GOD AND COUNTRY



We have three objectives for you today.

First, we are going to help you to **“understand the religious emblems programs.”** We’ll give you the “what, why, and how” of religious emblems so that you will know how to promote *Duty to God*

Second, we are going to help you to **“become familiar with presentation materials and resources.”** It’s not enough to know about religious emblems. We want you to know about the materials and free resources that are available to you.

Third, we are going to help you to **“understand your role in promoting religious emblems.”** The unit leader is critical in getting information to youth members and their families. We hope to encourage you to make a presentation on the religious emblems to your unit.

Let’s begin.

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

First, a brief history:

The first awards were the "Ad Altare Dei" emblem for Catholics in 1939, the "Pro Deo Et Patria" emblem for Lutherans in 1943, the "Ner Tamid" emblem for Jews in 1944, and the "God and Country" emblem for Protestants in 1945. These original emblems were created at the Boy Scout level only.

Today there are more than 75 emblems approved by BSA representing more than 35 religious groups. **What exactly are religious emblems?**

What are Religious Emblems Programs?



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

The first and most important thing you need to remember about religious emblems, is that **“they are programs that are created by national religious organizations.”** I repeat, these are programs that are created by national religious organizations, not by the BSA. In other words, each faith creates its own program. The religious organizations create their curriculum, establish the guidelines, and administer their programs. Which brings us to our second point:

The religious emblems programs **“provide specific religious instruction.”** Since the curriculum is designed by the religious organization, these programs are religious education materials to encourage the spiritual development of their young people who are also members of the BSA.

What are Religious Emblems Programs? (cont.)

CHI RHO



LUTHERAN



- They are recognized by BSA
- The medals are approved for wear on the official uniform

Now that you know that these programs are created by the national religious organizations, we're going to continue by saying the religious emblems programs **"are recognized by BSA"** and **"the medals are approved for wear on the official uniform."** This is one way that BSA promotes *Duty to God*. As you can see, the religious emblems are cooperative ventures between the religious organizations and the BSA.

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

"Duty to God is at the heart of the Scouting movement." Every Scout professes a *Duty to God* in the Cub Scout Promise, Boy Scout Oath, and Venturing Oath. Everyone knows that "A Scout is Reverent."

"Religious emblems provide a spiritual component to the Scouting program." Religious emblems promote the same values found in Scouting. They also help develop positive assets in youth members. Religious emblems go hand-in-hand with Scouting, and that's why we promote them.

Why Promote Them? (cont.)



- Scouting is nonsectarian and promotes religious emblems for ALL faiths

One last point about promoting religious emblems: **“Scouting is nonsectarian and promotes religious emblems for ALL faiths.”** Scouting supports no creed and favors no religious faith over another. When promoting religious emblems, it is important to promote the emblems for ALL faiths.

P.R.A.Y. Promo Video: Obtaining a Copy



- Download it or purchase it from www.praypub.org
- Note: the DVD version also contains other promotional resources and handouts from P.R.A.Y.

A video, which is available from PRAY, is an excellent promotional tool to use with your districts and units. How can you get a copy? You can **download it or purchase it from** www.praypub.org.

Please note that the DVD version also contains other promotional resources and handouts from P.R.A.Y. In fact, most of the resources that will be mentioned throughout this workshop are included on this DVD.

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.

Earning these religious emblems is not very difficult. It's true. There are four basic steps to get started. These are the steps that you would share with your Scouts and parents.

Step 1: Youth members must obtain the specific booklet for their religion.

- Use the "Duty to God" brochure to identify the program for your faith
- Check with your council store or contact the religious organization directly.
- Each Scout needs his own booklet to document progress.
- Some religions offer adult manuals for counselors and mentors.

Step 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.

Four Steps to Get Started:

GOD AND COUNTRY



- 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.

Step 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.

Step 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 instructions in your booklet).
- The emblem should be presented in a meaningful ceremony, preferably in the member's religious institution.
- The award can be presented at anytime of the year. Boy Scout Sunday/Sabbath in February is a perfect time to recognize recipients.

Religious Emblems Square Knot



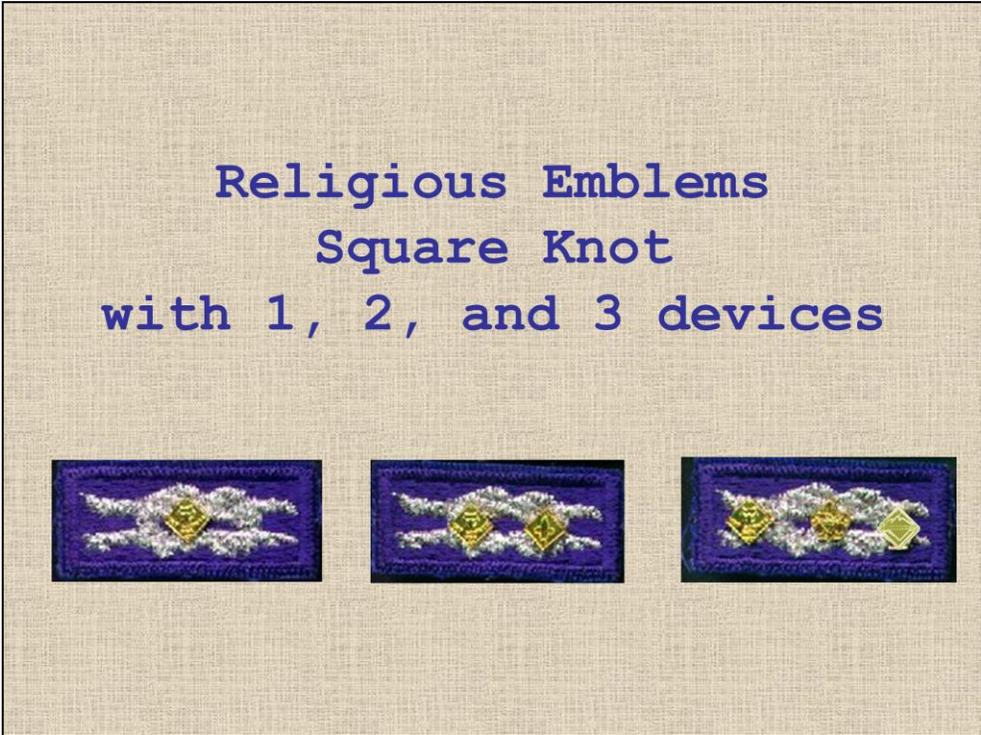
Youth Award



Adult Award

When a young person earns a religious emblem, they have earned the right to wear the universal religious square knot. This is a silver knot on a purple background. This knot will always be on their uniform (it even carries up to the adult uniform). An adult who receives an adult award wears the square knot with the purple knot on the silver background.

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



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. Even though a Scout can only wear one square knot on the uniform, there are “devices” that are pinned in the square knot to show that awards were earned at different levels.

Role of the Leader



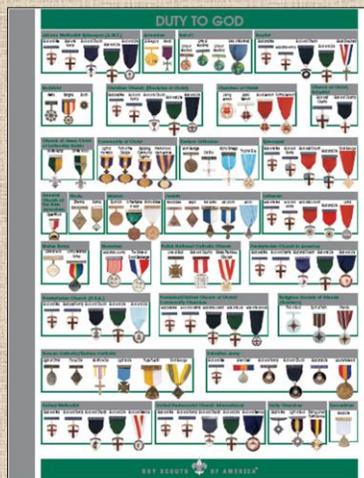
- Provide information, not religious instruction
- Make a presentation on the religious emblems to Scouts and families



We want to spend just a minute talking about your role as a leader. Some leaders avoid anything to do with religion for fear of offending somebody. But it doesn't have to be that way. The first thing is to realize that the role of the leader is to **provide information, not religious instruction**. Your role as a leader is to simply inform your Scouts and parents that these programs exist. You provide the information; the instruction should come from the home and the religious leaders. And that is why we encourage you to **make a presentation on the religious emblems to Scouts and families**.

Presentation Resources

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



The Duty to God brochure – the cover of this brochure is in full color and includes all the different emblems recognized by BSA. Show your Scouts what the medals look like. The medals themselves are a strong incentive to Scouts.

The inside has a chart or grid listing the religious organizations and their programs. It provides contact information including web sites and email addresses.

The back page has Frequently Asked Questions.

This brochure is essential to your presentation. You will need it as a reference tool. If possible, you may want to get copies to distribute at your presentation. Your council can order this brochure from the Relationships Division. The order number is **5-879**. A **printable form is also available on line 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 learned 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 emblem programs have more than one level. A young person who has earned a religious emblem at a previous Scout troop program is 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 reasons 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 consultants and mentors. Check with your local Council to see if it exists. These booklets are in its store, or contact the religious organization directly. Addresses and phone numbers are listed in the Duty to God Booklet (454-0192).

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. Applicable 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 a consultant (some require clergy, others are 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 emblem 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 enter the emblem book. (These emblems are not available in your local Council.) The emblem can be presented at anytime in 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 if _____ would like to begin to participate in the religious emblem programs. Even though this is a project that will be done with your family and your troop, we are interested in your child's progress and want to encourage him or her as much as possible. Feel free to call if you have any questions.

Thank you!

This is a handout. Your Scouts can take it home to their parents. It provides a short summary of how to get started on the programs. It also provides space for Scouts to copy the contact information for their specific religious program.

Presentation Resources

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

Religious Emblems Presentation Script
A Presentation for 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 emblems for their particular faith
- Ask older Scouts who have earned their religious emblems to talk to your unit
- Prepare the requirements for the Duty to God Presentation Packet at www.prpscout.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.prpscout.org
- Video "Promoting Duty to God (Religious Emblems)" No. 05-885 - Available from your council library, may be viewed on the P.S.A.Y. web site at www.prpscout.org
- Duty to God brochure (No. 05-878) - Available from your local council (your council may order these brochures from BSA National Religious Relationships); also available in printable form at www.prpscout.org
- "Duty to God" Brochure - Available at www.prpscout.org
- Print the address to the P.S.A.Y. web site for information on religious emblems: www.prpscout.org
- Square Inset and "Devices" for display (optional)
- Display emblems and sample booklets (optional)
- "Resources for Promoting Duty to God" DVD - This DVD contains all the above resources (including the script) and is available for sale on the P.S.A.Y. web site at www.prpscout.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 emblems of your faith."
2. Ask all Cub Scouts to stand. Then say, "Parents, please behave very carefully to what your child is about to say. Cub Scouts believe that together in earning 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 emblems of their faith and to wear the emblems on their uniforms. 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 to say, "Religious emblems are very special. When your Cub Scout wears his religious emblem on his uniform, it is 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."

You'll want to have a sample script when you make a presentation to your unit. **Separate scripts are available for presentations to Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers.** These scripts use interfaith language and promote the religious emblems of all faiths. They are very helpful. In fact, a copy is in your resource folder.

Adult Recognitions



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



A training on religious emblems isn't complete without mentioning the adult awards. The adult recognitions are different from the youth awards.

Adult recognitions are by nomination only. Adult recognitions are not work/study programs like the youth awards. They are by nomination only.

A minimum number of years of service is required. Recipients must have served both their Boy Scout Council and their local congregation.

Adult Recognitions

(cont.)



Required documents:

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

The adult nominations require several documents:

Completed application form (most of these application/nomination forms are available online)

Resume of candidate's qualifications

Letters of recommendation (from the Boy Scout Council and the religious institution)

Adult Recognitions (cont.)



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

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

Why aren't the adult awards all the same? Can anybody tell me why? [Your participants should answer that the religious emblems are created by the national religious organizations, not by BSA, and that is why the requirements and guidelines will differ from program to program.]

Questions?



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



We have ____ minutes for questions. **Any questions on the material covered? Any questions on making a presentation?**

[Note: If you run out of time, or if someone asks a detailed question about a specific situation that doesn't necessarily apply to the group, offer to stay after the workshop and answer their questions.]

For More Information:



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

[Note: If you are comfortable giving out your phone number and/or email address, this would be the time to do so.]

Visit P.R.A.Y.'s web site at www.praypub.org. Or 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.

I want to thank you for coming today. I want to leave you with two final thoughts:

1. As the unit leader, YOU are the key person in getting information about these programs to your youth members and families.
2. You now have the knowledge and resources to make a presentation.

I hope you do so!

