



JANUARY ROUNDTABLE



District 8 Cub Scout Roundtable
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Point of Scout Law: Reverent
Theme: Duty to God

Cindie Williams
Phone: 435-849-6956
cmwilliams62@live.com

Melissa Wallace
Phone 435-495-0283
lifeofsimplesness@yahoo.com

BSA's Duty to God Religious Emblems Program

Offering the Duty to God Adventures as a Pack Program versus Keeping It in the Family

Each Cub Scout pack across the United States is different. We have different leaders, different chartered organizations, and access to different resources. Each family involved in Cub Scouting is unique as well with regards to its faith.

"The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God and, therefore, recognizes the religious element in the training of the member, **but it is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that religious training.** Its policy is that the home, in conjunction with the organization or group with which a member is connected, will give definite attention to religious life."

—BSA Declaration of Religious Principle (boldface added for emphasis)

The Cub Scout Duty to God adventures help the Scout become more aware of his Duty to God and what it means to be reverent. Families are encouraged to help their Scout complete the Duty to God adventure for his rank and sign off on its completion. However, not all families have the time or the ability to do this. A portion of the requirements may also be completed in den meetings if desired.

How can packs provide Duty to God adventures in a way that respects different religions and faiths?

Depending on their rank, in completing their Duty to God adventures, boys will participate in:

- Worship experiences
- Service projects
- Visits to religious sites or monuments where people might show reverence
- Learning about the faith beliefs of their family
- Opportunities to study people in history who have shown great faith in God

Are interfaith activities included in the Cub Scouting Duty to God adventures?

They are included, and a Scout's participation in them is primarily up to the boy and his family. For example, one of the Tiger requirements in the My Family's Duty to God adventure calls for a boy to participate in a worship experience or activity with his family. He could meet that requirement at his family's place of worship or by attending an interfaith service.

The Webelos Scout, Duty to God and You adventure, requirement 2a, asks the Scout to help plan, support, and participate in a service of worship or reflection. This requirement can be fulfilled at the Scout's own faith organization, as a family reflection, or as an interfaith service.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in the Cub Scout Handbooks

Tiger—My Family's Duty to God

- Complete: 1. With your adult partner, find out what duty to God means to your family. and 2 of these 3:
 2. Find out what makes each member of your family special.
 3. With your family, make a project that shows your family's beliefs about God.
 4. Participate in a worship experience or activity with your family. What was the activity? When was it?

Wolf—Duty to God Footsteps

- Complete Requirement 1 or 2 plus and at least two others.
 1. Discuss with your parent, guardian, den leader, or other caring adult what it means to do your duty to God. Tell how you do your duty to God in your daily life.
 2. Earn the religious emblem of your faith that is appropriate for your age, if you have not already done so. What emblem did you earn? When did you receive it?
 3. Offer a prayer, meditation, or reflection with your family, den or pack. What did you say? When did you do this?
 4. Read a story about people or groups of people who came to America to enjoy religious freedom. What story did you read? What group was the story about?
 5. Learn and sing a song that could be sung in reverence before or after meals or one that gives encouragement, reminds you of how to show reverence, or demonstrates your duty to God. What song did you learn? When did you sing it?
 6. Visit a religious monument or site where people might show reverence. Where did you visit?
 7. Create a visual display of your visit with your den or your family, and show how it made you feel reverent or helped you better understand your duty to God.

Bear—Fellowship and Duty to God

- Do either requirement 1 OR requirement 2.
 1. Earn the religious emblem of your faith. What emblem did you earn? When did you go earn it?
 2. Complete 2a and at least two of requirements 2b–2d.
 - a. Working with a parent or guardian, spiritual advisor, or religious leader, provide service to help a place of worship or spiritual community, school, community organization, or chartered organization that puts into practice your ideals of duty to God and strengthens your fellowship with others. What group did you serve? What did you do?
 - b. Identify a person whose faith and duty to God you admire, Who did you identify? and discuss this person with your family.
 - c. Make a list of things you can do to practice your duty to God as you are taught in your home or place of worship or spiritual community. Select two of the items, and practice them for two weeks.
 - d. Attend a religious service, den or pack meeting worship service, or time of family reflection and discussion about your family's beliefs. When did you do this?

Webelos—Duty to God and You

- Do either requirement 1 or requirement 2.
 1. Earn the religious emblem of your faith for Webelos Scouts, if you have not already. What emblem did you earn?
 2. Complete at least three of requirements 2a-2d:
 - a. Help plan, support, or actively participate in a service of worship or reflection. When was this done? Show reverence during the service.
 - b. Review with your family or den members what you have learned about your duty to God.
 - c. Discuss with your family, family's faith leader, or other trusted adult how planning and participating in a service of worship or reflection helps you live your duty to God. Who did you discuss this with?
 - d. List one thing that will bring you closer to doing your duty to God, and practice it for one month. Write down what you will do each day to remind you. What did you choose? What will remind you?

When did you do this? From: _____ To: _____

Arrow of Light—Duty to God in Action

- Do either requirement 1 OR requirement 2:
 1. Earn the religious emblem of your faith for Webelos Scouts, if you have not already done so.
 2. Do requirement 2a and any two from requirements 2b-2e:
 - a. With your parent, guardian, or religious or spiritual leader, discuss and make a plan to do two things you think will help you better do your duty to God. Do these things for a month.
Start Date: _____ End Date: _____
 - b. Discuss with your family how the Scout Oath and Scout Law relate to your beliefs about duty to God.
 - c. For at least a month, pray or reverently meditate each day as taught by your family or faith community.
Start Date: _____ End Date: _____
 - d. Read at least two accounts of people in history who have done their duty to God. (This can include family members and ancestors.) List their names and how they showed their duty to God.
 - e. Under the direction of your parent, guardian, or religious or spiritual leader, do an act of service for someone in your family, neighborhood, or community. What was the act of service? Who did you serve? Talk about your service with your family and your Webelos den leader. Tell your family, den, or den leader how it related to doing your duty to God.

Could your pack hold an interfaith service to help the Scouts earn these requirements—perhaps on pack camping outings? Do units in your pack participate together in a Scout Sunday worship service? These are ways to show support for the Duty to God adventures at the pack level.

Ask yourself, “How can I as a leader evaluate a Scout for his Duty to God adventure, especially if he and I have different beliefs?” Consider asking the Scout how his family or faith group defines duty to God and how he is living up to that definition. Let the Scout speak and share. **Remember that the focus is on the Scout’s understanding of his duty to God, not the leader’s concept of what it should be.**

The Duty to God Program and the Religious Emblems

(Have copies of the Duty to God brochure, No. 512-879, for distribution during this part of the session.)

“A Scout is Reverent.” All Scouts show this by being faithful in their duty to God. Some Scouts go further and give special service. This faithfulness and service can help them to qualify them for a religious emblem in the Duty to God program. To encourage members to grow stronger in their faith, religious groups have developed the religious emblems programs. The Boy Scouts of America has approved of these programs and allows the emblems to be worn on the official uniform. The various religious groups administer the programs.

Do Scouts have to earn the religious emblem for their faith?

The answer is no. Not every youth is a member of a faith group, and not all faith groups offer religious emblems. Earning one is not a requirement. The BSA’s Duty to God program is introduced in the Duty to God adventure pages in the Tiger and Wolf handbooks. Earning the religious emblem of one’s faith is an optional requirement in the Duty to God adventures for Bear and Webelos Scouts.

The Emblems

A majority of religious groups support the religious emblems for the Cub Scouting program. The youth religious emblems are conferred on a Scout by his religious leader after the Scout has completed the curriculum for the award. More information can be found at www.scouting.org/scoutsources/Awards/ReligiousAwards.aspx or in the Duty to God brochure.

Most of the religious emblems for Cub Scouts consist of a bar pin and pendant, and are worn on the uniform above the left pocket on formal occasions. The 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. You may be wondering if youth must belong to a religious institution to earn that institution's award. It depends on the religion. Please check the eligibility requirements for a specific religious program. Religious Emblem Recognition Square Knot The religious emblem square knot may be worn on the uniform over the left pocket by youth who have completed the requirements for their religious emblem awards. Only one knot is awarded. However, one or more miniature devices are affixed to the knot to indicate which level(s) of the award the youth has completed: Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venturer. Scouts can earn all levels of their religious emblems program.

The cloth, silver knot on purple, No. 05007, may be worn by **youth** or by an adult member who earned the knot as a youth, above left pocket.



The cloth, purple on silver, No. 05014, may be worn by **adult** members presented with the recognition, above the left pocket.



Adults may wear both knots if they satisfy qualifying criteria. (See the Guide to Awards and Insignia, No. 33066.)
Note: When a cloth badge is worn, the medal award is not worn.

Further information on the Duty to God program and the religious emblems is available at these websites:

- www.scouting.org/Awards/ReligiousAwards.aspx
- <http://bsaseabase.org/home/awards/religiousawards/faq.aspx>

Other links

- BSA Duty to God Flyer: www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-879_WB.pdf
- Overview of Duty to God: <http://scoutingmagazine.org/2015/02/new-requirements-explore-duty-to-god>
- Guide to Awards and Insignia: www.scouting.org/Media/InsigniaGuide.aspx
- P.R.A.Y. Publishing: www.praypub.org
- National Catholic Committee on Scouting: www.nccs-bsa.org
- National Jewish Committee on Scouting: www.jewishscouting.org
- National Islamic Committee on Scouting: <http://islamiccouncilonscouting.com>

Additional Information for Cubmasters and Den Leaders

Cub Scout Interest Topic: Duty to God

Being reverent helps a Scout connect with his family, his community, and his world. The terms reverent and Duty to God ask a boy to reflect on his own belief and what it means to have inner strength and confidence based on his trust in God. With their family guiding them, Cub Scouts will grow in their faith. The boys will learn through den and pack activities to understand and respect people whose faith is different from their own.

Interest Topic Game: Faith Bingo

Faith Bingo

Instructions: Give each person a bingo playing board (see sample in resources-last page of handout). Participants are to go around and meet people. After learning someone's name, they ask that person to sign a box that matches what he or she has done. Each person can only sign one box. This is not a speed contest. Participants should take time for personal introductions before signing so they can start getting to know each other.

Duty to God Prayers

The Founder's Prayer

Written by Baden-Powell

Father of us all, we meet before Thee here today, numerous in the lands we come from and in the races we represent, but one in our Brotherhood under Thy Divine Fatherhood. We come before Thee with hearts grateful and gladdened by the many blessings Thou hast granted us and thankful that our Movement has prospered as acceptable in Thy sight. In return we would lay on Thine Altar, as our humble thank-offering, such sacrifice as we can make of self in service to others. We ask that during our communion here together we may, under Thy Divine Inspiration, gain a widened outlook, a clearer vision of all that lies open before us and of our opportunity. Thus we may then go forth with strengthened faith to carry on our mission of heightening the ideals and powers of manhood, and of helping through closer understanding to bring about Thy happier Rule of Peace and Goodwill upon Earth.

Philmont Grace

For food, for raiment

For life, for opportunity

For friendship and fellowship

We thank thee, O Lord.

Tips for Pack Activities

- Provide a way to offer a cross-cultural interfaith hike.

- One suggestion is to have the hikers visit five different houses of worship to hear a brief talk about that faith. An introduction to the Religious Awards Programs may also help participants gain a greater understanding of other faiths.

- At each stop, the Cub Scouts meet for a few minutes with a member of the clergy, or a youth minister or Scout leader who belongs to that tradition, to discuss the basic theological tenets of their religion as well as the architectural and historical aspects of their house of worship.

- Gather the Cub Scouts after the hike for a snack or an interfaith activity or game.

- Develop a packwide program where Cub Scouts can work on earning religious emblems.

- Create a position for a parent or leader to assist the pack with its Duty to God program. This would work well for a unit that has affiliation to a specific religious institution—

for example, a unit that is chartered by a Presbyterian church and all members of the unit practice the Presbyterian faith.

Closing: Camp Prayer

God, we thank you for this beautiful weekend. The smiling faces we see and the laughter we hear echoing through the trees fill our hearts with gladness and remind us that, in this fast-paced world of ours, there are times when we all need to pause and refresh ourselves in nature's calm and beauty.