



RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS PRESENTATION SCRIPT

A Presentation by Unit Leaders to Scouts and their Parents

Resources to support promotion of religious emblems can be found here:

<https://www.praypub.org/bsa> or <https://www.praypub.org/rec-info>

- Duty to God Brochure
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Duty to God Promotion Puzzle Patch
- Parent Hand-Out
- Scout Sabbath and Camp Devotional ideas

- Slide 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.”**
- Slide 2 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.’ All Scouts have a Duty to God. One way that Scouts can show their Duty to God is to earn the religious emblem of their faith and to wear the emblem on their uniform.”**
- Slide 3 Explain what religious emblems are. **“The Religious Emblems programs are developed by the individual faith groups to encourage their members to grow stronger in their faith. The Boy Scouts of America has approved of these programs and allows the emblems to be worn on the official uniform, but the emblems are administered by the various religious groups, not the BSA.”**
- Slide 4 Explain the universal religious square knot. **“When you earn your religious emblem, you also earn the right to wear the universal religious square knot. Cub Scouting incorporates Duty to God adventures, The BSA incorporates Duty to God in the Scout Spirit requirement, and Venturing requires a structured personal reflection on “Adventures of Faith,” but only RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS qualify you to wear the universal religious square knot. This knot will always be on your uniform (it even carries up to the adult uniform).”**
- Slide 5 Explain that most religious emblems programs have more than one level. **“Even though there is only one square knot, most religious programs have more than one level. When you earn more than one religious emblem, you may wear a special device pin on your square knot to show that you have earned your faith’s religious emblem at different levels.”**
- Slide 6 Explain that the Scout leader is not the instructor for the religious emblems. These are enhancement programs. Parents and guardians will decide whether or not their child participates in these programs. **“Your parents and religious leaders will help you earn your religious emblem. This is not a badge we earn together as a unit. We are of different faiths and we belong to different congregations. Scouts will earn the emblem for their own faith. These emblems are opportunities for you and your family to work on something together and for you to get to know your clergy better and to be more involved with your congregation.”**
- Slide 7 Outline the steps to get started on these programs. **“Here’s how you get started on these programs: There are four basic steps:**
- 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 their own booklet to document progress. Some religions offer adult manuals for counselors and mentors.**

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Slide 8 **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.**



Slide 9 **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.**



Slide 10 **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. Scout Sunday/Sabbath in February is a perfect time to recognize recipients.**



Slide 11 Provide information for parents. Distribute handouts or explain that you will send out an email. **“We want to get this information into the hands of our parents. I have some copies of the Duty to God brochure. Or I would be happy to email this information to you. The contact and program information for the faith traditions are included. Please note that most of the Protestant, Independent, and non-denominational churches use the P.R.A.Y. Program which is listed in the grid under “Protestant.” Show the Scouts what the emblem for their faith looks like. Be prepared for some members to be unfamiliar with their religion or denomination or to be inactive in a religious institution. Remind the Scouts and their families that the religious emblems are optional programs.**



Slide 12 Encourage Scouts to talk to their parents and religious leaders about earning a religious emblem for their faith. Help them get started by setting a target date: **“Let’s set our first goal together as a Pack/Troop. I’d like everybody to talk to their parents and clergy about earning a religious emblem. Together decide whether or not you will earn your religious emblem, and if so, get the booklet and talk about setting up a schedule to earn it. At our next meeting on _____ (date), I want to find out how many of you decided to earn your religious emblem. Even though this is a project that you will be doing with your family and clergy, I am interested in your progress and will encourage you to complete it.”**



Slide 13 Optional: Explain the Duty to God Puzzle Patch and/or present the patches.: **“By learning about religious emblems and making a commitment to Duty to God, you are living up to your Scout Oath and can receive the Duty to God Promotion Patch. You assemble your puzzle patch piece by piece by earning your religious emblem and telling others about the religious emblems programs.”**

Slide 14 Conclude your presentation by providing a name/email/phone number for additional information: **“This concludes our presentation. For additional information, please contact: _____**