



Soaring Eagle District Religious Emblems Newsletter

My name is Judy Lizarraga and I am your District Religious Emblems Coordinator (DREC). As fall Scouting begins and rallies are going on I'd like to reach out to Unit Leaders and Unit Religious Emblems Coordinators (UREC). If your unit doesn't have a UREC, it's now a unit committee position to be filled for recharter. It's a rewarding position to hold that doesn't require too much of your time. If there are no candidates, a committee member can be point of contact in your unit for me as well as interested youth/parents in your unit. Please reply to judy@comcast.net if/when your unit has a UREC contact so I may have their contact information.

[For position information: http://soaringeagledistrict.net/religious_emblems/index.html](http://soaringeagledistrict.net/religious_emblems/index.html)

My role as DREC is to promote and facilitate information to units on religious emblems. Our Scouts' oath clearly states first and foremost a Duty to God. One way that Scouts can show their Duty to God is to earn the religious emblem of their individual faith and to wear the emblem on their uniform. When Scouts earn their emblem they also are awarded the Religious Knot, they can proudly wear this special knot their entire Scouting career, even, as an adult leader.

Duty to God is not "the religious side of Scouting" but rather the foundation in which the program is built upon. As Scouting founder, Lord Baden-Powell, said,

"There is no religious "side" of the movement. The whole of it is based on religion, that is, on the realization and service of God. Let us, therefore, in training our Scouts, keep the higher aims in the forefront, not let ourselves get too absorbed in the steps.

Don't let the technical outweigh the moral. Field efficiency, back woodsmanship, camping, hiking, Good Turns, jamboree comradeship are all means, not the end.

The end is CHARACTER with a purpose."

Public School units DID YOU KNOW:

No denomination or religious belief is being promoted or taught when mentioning BSA's religious emblems to your unit. Your unit is simply being informed about BSA's religious emblems program and its availability for any Scout wishing to earn their faith's emblem! Units/leaders do not instruct, mentor or lead Scouts through their religious emblems workbooks. It is done entirely at home with the Scout's family and/or religious organization they are affiliated with.

Religious Emblems is a simple process that it is parent-driven!

Step 1: Youth members must obtain the specific booklet for their religion using the "Duty to God" brochure to identify the program for the interested Scout's faith. Some faiths have various programs depending on age/grade.

Step 2: Parents must review the program guidelines requirements as they vary from program to program. Some programs require clergy to serve as counselors; other programs allow parents or other family members to serve as counselors.

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 and may require signature.

Step 4: The youth member needs to complete the requirements, obtain the proper Signatures if needed, and follow the instructions to order the emblem. Religious Knots are available at local scout shop and might be covered through a unit's Advancements program.

There are videos and resources available explaining Religious Emblems and the position of Religious Emblems Coordinator!

What is a Religious Emblems Coordinator?

Religious Emblems Coordinator Video

This video explains the hows and whys of this position. If your unit does not have a Religious Emblems Coordinator, this video will explain the position and be valuable tool to recruit the right person in your unit to fill this committee position seat.

What are Religious Emblems all about?

[Religious Emblems Video Presentation](#)

Religious Emblems program video to present to units and/or districts.

Religious Emblems and Workbook Information

[BSA Duty to God, 512-879](#)

2014 Edition of BSA Duty to God covering the religious emblems Scouts can earn for their faith as well as the workbook that would need to be ordered.

[Religious Emblems Awards](#)

This online resource lists all Religious Emblems Programs available to members of the Boy Scouts of America. You will also find images of the medals available and religious organizations that you may contact for information and ordering.

Handouts

- Scouting Magazine Blog - "[R.E.C.'s can help you retain Scouts](#)" - October 2013
- Print the summary handout - [Religious Emblems Coordinator Summary Handout](#) (PDF)
- Read the latest R.E.C. update - [Summer 2012 Update](#) (PDF)
- Read the newsletter - [Boy Scout Bulletin - Special R.E.C. Edition](#) (PDF)
- [Council Religious Emblems Coordinator Job Description](#) (PDF)
- [District Religious Emblems Coordinator Job Description](#) (PDF)
- [Unit Religious Emblems Coordinator](#)
- [Working with the local Religious Emblems committees](#) (PDF)
- ["Click and Go" Resource Sheet for REC's](#) (PDF)
- ["Scantastic" Resource for Duty to God and Religious Emblems](#) (PDF)
- [Sample recruiting advice for REC Position](#) (PDF)

Webinars

[Coordinating Council / District / Unit REC's](#)
[Working with Other REC's at the Unit, District and Council Levels](#)
[So You're A Unit REC! Now What?](#)
[Unit REC – Where Do We Start; What Do We Do](#)

Cont.

Religious Knots

Both Scouts and Adults can earn BSA's Religious Knot

Youth Knot

Silver knot on purple background, for wear above left uniform pocket, purple border for youth and adults who earned a religious emblem while a youth member



Adult Knot

Purple knot on silver background, for adults, worn above left uniform pocket; adults may wear both knots if they have satisfied the criteria for their denomination. This award is earned as recognition for adult members for some denominations.

Devices

Devices are available to denote the program for which the awards was earned.

Supporting Religious Organizations Chartering Units

Leads on where to go helps Scouts and families

Scouts in your units are from all walks of life and of various faiths. When seeking to earn their religious emblem, the Scout may need to have a religious leader or layperson of their faith to meet with them, sign off the Scout's completion of their workbook and/or mentor them through. The following religious organizations within our district support and charter BSA units:

Baptist

- Jersey Village Baptist Church
- The Met Baptist Church

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

- Please contact Bob Weenig, member of our district religious emblems team representing LDS stakes and info at bob@weenig.com.

Roman Catholic

- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Community
- Prince of Peace Catholic Community
- St. Maximillian Catholic Community – Deacon Dennis Hayes has committed to assisting Scouts' religious emblems efforts. Please email Dennis.Hayes@lukoil-overseas.com or call/text 713-876-2590.

United Methodist

- Fairbanks United Methodist
- Foundry United Methodist
- John Wesley United Methodist
- St. Timothy United Methodist

If you are interested in joining our district religious emblems team and represent your faith or are a member of a church that is interested in offering their support of Scouts of their faith wanting to earn their religious emblem, please contact me at [Judy Lizarraga, judylizarraga@comcast.net](mailto:judylizarraga@comcast.net).

Yours in Duty to God and the love of Scouting,

Judy Lizarraga
Soaring Eagle District Religious Emblems Coordinator