Operation Renaissance of a Scout is Reverent

**Project**

*Promote the Religious Emblems Program of the Boy Scouts of America in GSLAC Black Gold District by actively supporting partnerships between Scouts and their individual religious leaders. Cost per Scout, workbooks and awards included, is $25 to $30.*

**Reason**

*The Religious Emblems Program is a positive experience for Scouts, families, ministers, and churches (especially charter organizations). In these unprecedented times our Scouts can benefit from focusing on the twelfth point of the Scout Law, a Scout is reverent and it’s the perfect Ministry at home while we are socially distanced. Additionally, the Religious Emblems Program is an excellent partnership between the Boy Scouts of America and the church and community in the formation of future citizens.*

**Resources**

*All workbooks, requirements, and awards are readily available on-line at P.R.A.Y. (praypub.org) in St. Louis, Missouri. Scouts only need to find a local counselor to guide them through the course curriculum and sign-off upon completion.*

**Rationale**

*Most Scouts in Black Gold District attend general Christian denominations which follow the P.R.A.Y. sequence of Jesus and Me (Kindergarten to First Grade – Lion/Tiger/Bobcat), God and Me (Second and Third Grade – Wolf/Bear), God and Family (Fourth to Sixth Grade – Webelos / Arrow of Light), God and Church (Sixth to Eighth Grade – Scout to First Class), and God and Life (High School – Star to Eagle). In the spirit of scaffolding Scout skills from tell to show to do the religious emblem programs do the same. Cub Scouts spend more time telling and showing; whereas Scouts BSA spend more time showing and doing.*

*Additionally, there is an adult recognition program called God and Service available upon nomination. Likewise, the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of Belleville maintains regular religious emblems programs for Catholic Scouts. Finally, the Boy Scouts of America maintains religious emblem programs for Scouts of any faith background and has materials available.*

**Goal**

*20 Scouts in Black Gold District (from the nine counties and numerous packs and troops) are awarded a religious emblems square knot and medal on Scout Sunday.*

**Timeline**

*Present the religious emblems program at August roundtable and provide materials for leaders (in-person and electronic). Promote religious emblems programs in August and September at pack / troop level and district social media. Have interested Scouts make commitment to program in September and order workbooks. Scouts work independently with parents and religious leader October to December. Complete the requirements and application by January and order awards. Present square knot and medal on Scout Sunday in February at the home church of Scouts who earned the religious emblems awards.*

**Ordering Information**

*Address:*

P.R.A.Y.
11123 S. Towne Sq. Ste. B
St. Louis, MO  63123
United States of America

*Phone:*

**Toll Free:** 1-800-933-7729
**Main:** 314-845-3318
**Fax:** 314-845-0038

*Email:*

info@praypub.org

*Website:*

<https://www.praypub.org/>

*On-Line Store:*

<https://store.praypub.org/>

*Price List:*

<https://store.praypub.org/Content/Images/uploaded/Pray%20Pricelist.pdf>

**Questions, Concerns, or Remarks For District Level Support**

Chaplain David M. Mills, Black Gold District Religious Emblems Chair

801 Oakland Avenue

Mt. Vernon, Illinois 62864

618-599-4683

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Checklist For Success

**August**

* *Receive annual briefing on Boy Scout of America religious emblems programs at Black Gold District Roundtable.*
* *Print and distribute promotional flyers, program letter, and Scout agreements.*
* *Plug religious emblems programs at a couple of Scout meetings and on social media presence with parents and Scouts.*

**September**

* *Continue to plug religious emblems programs at a couple of Scout meetings and on social media presence with parents and Scouts.*
* *Set firm deadline for return of Scout agreements to participate in religious emblems programs in late September.*
* *Complete roster for program supervision.*
* *Enroll and order student and counselor workbooks for Scouts in religious emblems programs from P.R.A.Y.*

**October – November – December**

* *Do a five-minute check-in and check-out of Scouts in the religious emblems programs at a couple Scout meetings per month.*
* *Send a five-minute check-in and check-out e-mail to religious emblems counselors a couple times a month.*
* *Be encouraging of Scouts and counselors as the push through tell, show, and do to program completion.*
* *Remind Scouts and counselors of second week of January deadline for completion.*

**January**

* *Give Scouts and counselors a two-week New Year’s Day reminder and encouragement to complete program and applications by deadline.*
* *Order award medals from P.R.A.Y.*
* *Order youth religious emblems square knots from Scout Shop.*
* *Determine Scout Sunday weekend in February and notice up parents and community media.*

**February**

* *Print religious emblems award script, review, plan, and rehearse.*
* *Determine schedule for awards ceremony on Scout Sunday (at one central church service or at the home church of Scouts is to be determined at a Pack/Troop level) and promote to parents on social media and community media.*
* *Distribute medals and square knots to religious emblem coordinators.*
* *Embody the Scouting Spirit and proudly emcee presentation of the religious emblems awards on Scout Sunday. (Scout Leader hands square knot to father and Religious Leader hands medal to mother for presentation and pinning of awards on Scouts before a Church congregation.*
* *Take time for a quality photo of Scouts, leaders, and parents on altar, post on social media; and forward to religious emblems chair for posting on district page.*

Religious Emblems Award Script

**Orientation On Altar Facing Congregation**

Scout Leader at Center

Scout(s) Being Recognized at Center

Parents to Left Religious Leader to Right

**Greetings**

“Good morning (insert full name of Church)”

**Name**

**“**I am (insert your name).”

**Affiliation**

“(Insert your Scouting title) from (insert your Scouting pack or troop with number) in the Black Gold District of the Greater St. Louis Area Council with the Boy Scouts of America).

**Purpose**

At this time, on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America National Religious Relationships Committee, I hereby convene this Court of Honor for the purpose of awarding a religious emblem to (insert name of Scout) on Scout Sunday.

A Scout is reverent. They reverent toward God. They faithful in his/her religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion.

To encourage Scouts 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 in partnership with the Boy Scouts of America.

The Scout before you today has spent the past four months practicing his or her faith with his family and church in a tell, show, and do fashion. This morning we honor and recognize their commitment to Scouting and their faith.

**Award**

(Insert rank and name of Scout) the son/daughter of (insert parents names), with the guidance of their religious emblems coordinator (insert name of coordinator and full name of church) has earned (insert the name of the award).

Read the following brief description of the specific award the Scout(s) earned:

* **Jesus and Me:** For grades K-1, the Jesus and Me curriculum introduces Jesus as the Son of God in familiar terms so that young children can see Jesus in their own day-to-day experiences as a storyteller, teacher, friend, and healer.
* **God and Me:** For grades 1-3, the God and Me curriculum is designed to help children become best friends with Jesus and tell their story of “God and Me” together.
* **God and Family:** For grades 4-6, God and Family is our "pizza" program. Children will compare the different parts of the family to the different layers of a pizza as they discover God's plan for strong families.
* **God and Church:** For grades 6-8, the God and Church program will be a journey to meet Jesus, worship God, and witness and minister for Christ.
* **God and Life:**  For grades 9-12, the God and Life program is based on the life of the Apostle Paul as recorded in Acts 9:1-31.

**Award Presentation**

On behalf of (insert Troop or Pack with number) who is chartered by (insert full name of charter organization) I have a purple and silver square knot, to be permanently worn on the BSA field uniform of (insert name of Scout). I ask that his/her father accept this and present it on behalf of our Troop/Pack.

-start applause by clapping and pause until it stops-

On behalf of Boy Scouts of America National Religious Relationship Committee I have a medallion to be worn at Class A ceremonies by (insert name of Scout). I ask that his/her religious emblems coordinator accept this and present it to his/her mother for pinning.

-start applause by clapping and pause until it stops-

(With smartphone or camera ready) Would a member of congregation to take a ceremonial photograph while all parties are on the altar?

-pause until all photos are taken, family and friends, too-

**Closing**

Ladies and gentlemen thank you for a few minutes of your time, talent, and treasure on Scouting Sunday. I declare this Court of Honor for the purpose of presenting a religious emblem to (insert name of Scout) closed. Please join me with me in recognizing the faith growth of this outstanding member of the Boy Scouts of America.