

**“A Scout is
Reverent”
By: Tom Berzok**



Religious Awards in Scouting



Available For All Faiths:

As a scout you are expected to be reverent and one of the many ways to exemplify, or show it, is by earning the Religious Emblem created for your faith. There are many emblems that basically cover all faiths, but in the slim chance it doesn't, you could be the first scout to try and work with the committee of scouting to possibly create one for your faith, and potentially become part of scouting history.

As said earlier, each faith has its own award/emblem. And most of these emblems have multiple levels to them. These levels start from Cub Scout, to Webelos Scout, to Boy Scout, to Varsity/Venturer/ Older Boy Scouts. Each level has certain requirements you must fulfill. For example, for the Roman Catholic faith, When you're a cub scout you can earn the Light of Christ award, then when you get to webelos you can earn the Parvuli Dei, after that as a boy scout the award is the Ad Altare Dei, if you earn that medal, then you can go on to get the Pope Pius XII award, finally after all of that if you are an adult you can earn the St. George medal. Then for scouts of the Jewish faith as a webelos or just regular Cub Scout you can earn the Aleph medal. As a Boy Scout the award would then be Ner Tamid medal. IF you choose to become a Venturer or Varsity Scout the award is called Etz Chaim. If as a leader you would then still like to pursue the religious emblem, you could get the Shofar medal. (I have only used the Catholic and Jewish faiths as examples; most all the other faiths have levels to the awards too.) Like most things with levels as you get higher, the requirements get harder, but they are always doable and fitting to what you should be learning.

Some faiths may not have more than one level but for the most part they do. At the very least they have for Boy Scouts and Adults. The religious emblem makes a scout believe in being reverent and open to doing more things in scouting. There will always be someone to make sure if you really want your specific emblem, no matter what the faith, you'll get it.

If you want to find what medals your faith has check out:
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/ReligiousAwards/chart.aspx>

Summer Camp Awards:



Summer Camps have so many different types of religious awards a scout can receive. These awards are usually smaller than the emblem for your faith, but they are still nice to do and fun to have. If you are interested, around summer camp time find your chaplain's aide to the troop and talk to him about it. These rewards aren't hard to schedule, if you even have to schedule them. They make good time of what you do at summer camp.

How to go About Completing These Awards:

People who want to complete a religious award in scouting need a few things to help them out. One of these things is that the scout needs to have a good connection to their faith. They have to want to become a bigger part of their faith, and live the part of the Scout Law, which says "A scout is reverent". I'm not saying that your faith is all you have to think while you do these awards, but it should be important to you in the fact that you want to learn more about it. All the people in these programs want to help you better yourself as a scout of faith.

If you are interested in earning a medal of your faith talk to Mr. Endler in our troop or email Matthew Fernandes at mfernand@bsamail.org who can help you see if there is a class available for you. If there is not a class locally you can take, there is definitely another way you can receive the award so do not give up on it. These awards mean a lot to me a reverent scout and it should mean a lot to every scout.

