



Catholic Religious Recognition Programs for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers



Why work on an emblem?

Why not! In both the *Cub Scout Promise* and *Boy Scout Oath* these words are written: *To do my Duty to God*. As part of the Boy Scout Law, the twelfth point of the law is "A Scout is Reverent." Working on religious emblems helps a scout learn more about his faith by using an age-appropriate workbook. Upon completion, the scout receives a shiny medal and the universal religious knot for his uniform.

What emblems can Cubs earn?

Light of Christ – Designed for Tigers and Wolves (Grades 1 & 2). The parent/Akela works with their son learning about Jesus' life, baptism, reconciliation, Eucharist and their church.

Parvuli Dei (*Children of God*) – Designed for Bears and Webelos (must be completed before sixth grade). The parent/Akela and son learn more about God and His gifts to us that make us special and how we can use them to serve God.

How are these Cub Scout emblems presented?

When the scout has completed the workbook, his parish priest reviews his work and signs the application. The medal is ordered from the diocese and typically presented at a Mass on Scout Sunday (first Sunday in February). Order medals from Diane Ruminski, Buffalo Diocese Youth Department, 795 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14203 (716) 847-8798. E-mail youth@buffalodiocese.org

What emblems are available to Boy Scouts and Venturers?

Ad Altare Dei (*To the Altar of God*) – Boy Scouts must have completed sixth grade and attend troop meetings for six months. Venturers are also eligible. The scout learns the similarities between scouting and his faith. He attends a retreat and learns more about the seven Sacraments. Community service, Bible readings, presentations and Mass attendance are part of this six month program.

Pope Pius XII – For Boy Scouts and Venturers who have started the ninth grade. This workbook explores friendship, God's call to you, careers and vocations. A panel discussion with clergy, married couples, and single people is a key part of this emblem, as is a presentation (typically 30 minutes) concerning a current issue facing either the church or society today. The candidate must also design and conduct a service project and attend a retreat. The program is completed in about five months.

Who works with the Scouts?

Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII require the scout to work with a trained Religious Emblems Counselor (a parent, troop member or other Catholic adult) followed by a Diocesan Board of Review (held during Lent).

When are Religious Emblem Counselor training dates?

Training dates are offered in early September, late Fall and at the University of Scouting – contact Katrina Overbeck at greenbloodedgirlscout@roadrunner.com or telephone (716) 282-0347.

How are the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII awards presented?

The Bishop presents the award at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Buffalo, NY the Saturday before Palm Sunday. If a scout has earned all four religious awards: Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII, he will also receive the Bishop's Scouting Award patch.

Do I have to be Catholic to earn these emblems?

Yes. There are workbooks available for many other faiths.

Are there other religious activities available?

Yes! The local Buffalo Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting regularly schedules activities i.e. Ten Commandment Hike, Retreats, Scout Sunday, etc.

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting's website has many patches that can be earned on an individual basis or as a unit – visit NCCS-BSA.org. There is also a patch and information at www.praypub.org for many faiths.