



## GOD AND WORLD RELIGIOUS EMBLEM

The “World of Scouting” is comprised of young people and children from all over the world. Scouts of all nationalities, creeds, cultures and religions contribute to the goals of Scouting. These diverse cultures and religions are evident as we live our daily lives and serve others in our neighborhoods and in our world.

The purpose of the *God and World Religious Emblem* is to help members of the Boy Scouts of America gain knowledge, understanding and respect for the religious beliefs, customs, and practices of others.

Would you like to get to know what others believe? Would you enjoy exploring how they express their faith in God in their places of worship and in their daily lives? The *God and World Religious Emblem* program will help you do just that while strengthening your own faith. The *God and World Religious Emblem* is an interfaith emblem of the Baltimore Area Council, Boy Scouts of America open to Boy Scouts, Varsity and Venturers.

While a Scout must have a belief in a God or Supreme Being and promises to do one’s “Duty to God,” and practice the Twelfth Point of the Scout Law – “A Scout is Reverent” - it is recognized that not all Scouts belong to an organized religion or church. This emblem can be earned by any Scout regardless of one’s faith or religious affiliation.

Here are the steps that are needed to guide you on your journey and to meet the requirements of the *God and World Religious Emblem*.

1. You must be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America either in the Boy Scout or Venturing Program. You should inform your Scouting leader that you are interested in earning the *God and World Religious Emblem*.
2. Your counselor for this emblem must be a registered adult Scouter who is currently certified in BSA Youth Protection Training and approved by the Baltimore Area Council, BSA Interfaith Committee.
3. You will need a book of your own faith, for example, a Bible, Koran, etc. if applicable.
4. You will need a notebook for recording your answers to the questions so that they can be reviewed with your counselor.
5. As you complete each section, have your counselor sign in the space provided. When all of the requirements have been met, share your journey with your spiritual leader, priest, rabbi, imam, etc. if applicable, and have him or her sign the last page of this workbook.
6. Order your *God and World Religious Emblem* and then request that it be celebrated and presented during a worship service (if applicable) and with recognition in your Scouting unit.
7. Be willing to adjust your schedule to correspond to the dates that are convenient for the host clergy person whose place of worship you and the group will be visiting.

## **SECTION ONE**

Our world is made up of people who profess religious beliefs that express how one views God, God's role in human affairs, and the manner in which one practices their religion in the world and in their daily life. To complete Section One, do the following:

1. Share the name of your religion and five basic beliefs that mark you as a member of that religion.
2. Identify at least five major world – wide religions.
3. Locate the places of worship in your neighborhood, if any, for those religions.
4. With your counselor, select three of those religions that you would like to know more about. If working with other members as a group, the group should decide which religions they would like to learn more about.
5. With the assistance of your counselor contact the clergy persons representing the religions in which you are interested and request the opportunity for you (or your group), the counselor, and another adult to meet with him or her at their place of worship for a visit. Request any information that you may need to know in order to prepare for your visit. If handouts are available, or a website available, distribute the literature to your group and/or view the website before your visit.
6. Provide the host religious leader or clergy person with the questions listed in Section Two prior to the visit.
7. Please note: Religious beliefs and customs often dictate appropriate attire and deportment for guests in another person's house of worship. Your counselor should inform you or your group if special attire is requested.

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Counselor Signature

Date

## **SECTION TWO**

This section is designed to give you guidance and present questions to be answered during and after your visit to the places of worship you have selected. Answers to the questions should be recorded in your notebook.

Once you have made the appointment, the host clergy person or representative will greet you and invite you as a guest into their place of worship.

- Be aware of your first impression of the surroundings.
- Listen carefully to your host and be prepared to ask questions concerning what you observe and learn during your visit. Your host clergy person or representative is the best person to share information about their religion, so, do not hesitate to ask questions.
- Please remember not to make any negative references to other religions or why your or another religion may be better than others.
- Remember that the fifth point of the Scout Law is "A Scout is Courteous."

## **Things to observe, ask questions and think about during your visit**

### **Worship Practices**

1. What items or images, present in the house of worship, are used as symbols or aides? What is the meaning and importance of these symbols?
2. Where is the Holy Book and how and when is it used in worship?
3. Are there any musical instruments present? What role, if any, does music play in worship?
4. What part do the clergy have in the worship? What is the role of other participants and the people present in worship?
5. Do the clergy wear special vestments or other special symbolic attire? What is the meaning of the vestments, historical basis, if any, for the vestments, and why vestments are worn?
6. How is the main worship service structured or organized and are there portions of the worship service that have extra special meaning? Are there other worship or prayer services customary to that religion in addition to the main worship service?

### **Into the World**

1. What relationship does worship have to living one's life in God's creation?
2. How is a believer taught to live and act in their family, community, and in the world? What teachings, creeds, laws, or principles guide and direct one in how they are to live their life?
3. What role does God have in one's personal life and in world affairs?

### **Personal Reflection**

1. What did you learn from your visit that interested and surprised you the most?
2. What part of the visit and sharing encourages you to want to learn more? About what in particular?
3. What did you learn about yourself and your own religious beliefs?
  - a. How does your worship experience relate to what you learned?
  - b. Does your Holy Book contain some of the same teachings? How are they similar/ different?
  - c. Compared to what you learned from your visit, are there any similarities in your religion that relate to how one is to conduct themselves in their daily life and in the world community?
  - d. How does this strengthen your own faith?

***After each visit you, or your group, will meet at a separate time with your counselor to discuss the answers to the questions in Section Two that you recorded in your notebook.***

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Counselor Signature

Date

### SECTION THREE

1. Learn about the religious emblems of your faith that a Scout can earn.
2. Learn about the religious emblems that Scouts from other faiths can earn.
3. What religious emblems are available through the religions whose worship place you visited?
4. Share your findings with your Scouting unit.

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Counselor Signature

Date

### SECTION FOUR

1. Attend an Interfaith Retreat sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America.
  - a. Was there a theme to the retreat?
  - b. How did the retreat relate to what Scouting teaches?
  - c. What did you learn during the retreat? How can you apply what you learned to your everyday life?
  - d. In what activities, prayers, services, did the various religions jointly participate? What were different and why?

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Counselor Signature

Date

### SECTION FIVE

1. Make a presentation to your Scouting unit describing the *God and World Religious Emblem* program and share what you have learned from your experiences while earning this emblem.
2. How has earning this religious emblem helped you learn about, understand, and gain respect for other religions? Has this experience changed your view about other religions? How?

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Counselor Signature

Date

***Congratulations! You have now completed the God and World Religious Emblem. Share what you have learned with others. Celebrate the diversity of the various world religions. Remember that what we all have in common is our respect for God and the responsibility of using our faith to spread peace and kindness in God's world.***

**Approval and Application for the  
God and World Religious Emblem**

**We the undersigned verify that the Scout named below has completed all the requirements for the *God and World Religious Emblem*, and that he/she has gained an understanding and greater respect for other religions.**

\_\_\_\_\_

Counselor Signature

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Clergy Signature (of your faith)

Date

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**To receive the God and World Religious Emblem, enclose a check for \$ 5.00 (for patch, handling) made payable to: Baltimore Area Council, B.S.A. Mail the check with this last page to the address below:**

**God and World Religious Emblem  
Interfaith Committee  
Baltimore Area Council, BSA  
701 Wyman Park Drive  
Baltimore, Maryland 21211-2899**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Number \_\_\_\_\_ Chartered Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you hear about the *God and World Religious Emblem*?**