

Religious Emblem - Light of Christ

Dear Tiger and Wolf Den Leaders,

The Scouting Religious Emblem program is a wonderful opportunity to assist Scouts in their faith development. These programs are built around the interaction between the Scout and his family and are not intended to be a Den activity, however, encouragement of the program within the Den will help to promote the blessings of life-long faith development for the Scout.

One way that Cub Scouts can show their Duty to God is to earn the religious emblem of their faith and to wear the emblem on their uniform. "Religious emblems are very special. When your Cub Scout wears his religious emblem on his uniform, it tells who he is and what he believes. It shows his duty to God. We would be very proud if our Cub Scouts earned their religious emblems."

Eligibility

As part of Wolf Achievement 11, Scouts can choose to earn the Religious Emblem of their faith. Catholic Tiger and Wolf scouts are eligible to earn the **Light of Christ** emblem. This emblem can be earned in either the Tiger or Wolf year and must be completed before the scout starts the third grade.

Protestant Tiger, Wolf and Bear scouts (Grades 1 - 3) are eligible to earn the **God and Me** Emblem. Please contact me for more details if you have a Protestant scout who is interested in earning the God and Me emblem.

Background

Historically, the St. Odilia cubs have earned the Light of Christ emblem in their Wolf year. The intent of the activity is to have the scout develop "a personal relationship with Jesus Christ." As such, work for this emblem corresponds nicely to the work that the second-graders are doing to prepare to receive Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist.

Earning the Emblem

Scouts must purchase and complete the Light of Christ Activity Book in order to be eligible to earn the emblem. The Light of Christ Activity Book is available at the Scout Shop for purchase. Work on the Light of Christ Activity Book is intended to be an activity between the scout and his parents and is not meant to be a den activity. Once the book has been completed, the scout completes the application form in the booklet and then he and his parent/guardian meet with the parish priest to go over the book together. Fr. Gjengdahl will meet with our scouts this year. The priest and scout leader (Den, Cubmaster or Religious Emblem coordinator) signs the application and then I will submit it to the Catholic Committee on Scouting for processing.

Please let me know which scouts are interested in earning their Religious Emblem. Interviews will be scheduled with Fr. Gjengdahl on Tuesday, January 22 and Thursday, January 24, 2008 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

Award and Emblem

Once the scout has earned the award, he receives the Light of Christ Medal to be worn on his uniform on special occasions. These are pins and they tend to fall off and get lost. In addition, the scout also earns the religious knot patch that is sewn on the uniform. The scout will also receive a 'device pin' to be worn on the patch to indicate that he has earned the Light of Christ Medal. Additional 'device pins' can be earned by both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts as they continue to earn the appropriate religious emblems of their faith.

FYI - Catholic Bear and Weblo scouts (Grades 3 - 5) are eligible to earn the Parvuli Dei emblem. A scout does not have to earn the Light of Christ in order to earn the Parvuli Dei emblem. Protestant Weblo scouts (Grades 4 -5) are eligible to earn the God and Family emblem.

Schedule

Interviews are scheduled with Fr. Gjengdahl for Tuesday, January 22 and Thursday, January 23, 2008 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Scouts and their Akela will meet in groups of 4 - 6 with Fr. Gjengdahl. We will encourage scouts to complete their books by the end of December so that they are ready to meet with Fr. Gjengdahl in January.

The Religious Emblems Medals will be awarded during the Scout Mass on February 10, 2008 and the Religious Knot Patch and device pin will be presented at the Blue and Gold Banquet on February 21, 2008.

Getting Started

To get your scouts started:

1. Each Scout must have the Activity Book for the Emblem of their faith. Catholic Scouts use the Light of Christ Activity Book, Protestant Scouts use the God and Me Activity Book.
2. Den Leaders should notify Jeanne Schaaf of any scout who is interested in participating.
2. The Scout and Akela (parent/guardian) completes the activity book together.
3. For Light of Christ - interviews are scheduled with Fr. Gjengdahl in January.
4. For God and Me - contact Jeanne Schaaf for further details.
5. Awards will be presented in February.

Additional Information

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. You can also get additional information at the following web address:

Light of Christ - National Catholic Committee on Scouting <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/emblems-awards/emblems.php>

God and Me - www.praypub.org/main_frameset.htm

The Religious Emblem activity is a wonderful project for the scout and parent and I hope that you would encourage your scouts to participate.

Peace,

Jeanne

Jeanne Schaaf
Pack 626 Religious Emblems Chair