

How to Start Working on a Religious Emblem. What You Need to

Know: be sure to contact your religious leader and obtain your religion specific workbook from www.praypub.org or www.scouting.org Show the booklet to your religious leader before beginning a program. It is the responsibility of the scout to check the specific guidelines for their particular program.

Become a member if necessary of the local religious institution, some programs may not require. Age/grade requirements also vary from program to program.

Each faith group sets its own guidelines as to who may serve as counselor. Some programs require clergy to serve as counselors; other programs allow parents or other family members to serve as counselors.

Many of the religious recognitions programs require that they be completed under the auspices of that religious organization, and many require the signature from the local religious leader.

Unlike other advancement, these emblems are not purchased through the local council Scout Shop. You buy them through the faith organization that administers the emblem program. Depending on the emblem, it may take anywhere from 6 to 14 weeks for the emblem to arrive. So plan accordingly.

The recognition should be presented in a meaningful ceremony, preferably in the scout's religious institution.

All faiths have emblems or medals that should be worn as part of the official uniform. A silver knot on purple cloth may be worn by youth members who have received their religious emblem. For adults, the knot is the reverse: purple on silver cloth. If you earned both, you may wear both at the same time as per Scouts BSA.

What about adult emblems?

Unlike youth religious emblems, adult awards are based on service to Scouting and their faith.

Most require a nomination form, letters of reference and clergy signature.

Their approval also goes through the appropriate faith organization. Because most units are interfaith and multid denominational, it is not uncommon for adults to receive the emblem of other faiths in recognition of their service.

Your Chaplain and Chaplain Aide can assist you in this process.