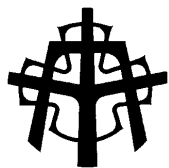


RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM



Lutheran Churches
in Canada

Published for
the Church by
Scouts Canada and
Girl Guides of Canada

RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM

Membership in the Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada is open to all girls and boys who wish to make the promise, regardless of race, colour or creed. The purpose of the *Guide/Scout* programs is to assist girls and boys in character development by encouraging them to be responsible citizens of their country. An important part of the program is to assist in the spiritual growth of each girl and boy and to encourage them to participate actively in their own religious community. Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada uphold the principle that specific religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious authorities.

THE EMBLEM

The Christian Religion in Life emblem consists of a great circle, the symbol of eternity. In the circle are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, *Alpha* and *Omega*, a symbol of God, and a reminder that the worship and service of God form an essential part of life from beginning to end.

REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for the program differ in each faith and denomination and are prepared nationally by the churches or religious bodies to suit their particular needs.

INSTRUCTION

It is the responsibility of the group/section committee and leadership team to arrange for instruction of candidates with the candidate's own spiritual leader or appointee.

PRESENTATION

Presentation of the emblem is made by the candidate's spiritual advisor, and can form an impressive part of a regular *Guide* or *Scout* meeting, a church service, or a special evening for parents/ guardians.

STAGES

The Religion in Life program is in five progressive stages, colour-coded and adapted to the age groups concerned.

Stage 1 — Yellow Border Stage 4 — Red Border
Stage 2 — Green Border Stage 5 — Purple Border
Stage 3 — Blue Border

Candidates may start at any stage appropriate to their age and capabilities. Only one emblem — the latest stage earned is worn.

WHERE OBTAINABLE

The emblem may be obtained from provincial offices or through regular badge channels.

WHERE WORN

Girl Guides of Canada — see *Policy, Organization and Rules*.

Scouts Canada — see *By-Law, Policies and Procedures*.

STAGE 1 — SUGGESTED AGES: 8–9–10

Word

Required

- Own and use the Holy Bible (preferably a Contemporary version).
- Have a knowledge of the Bible and describe the main difference between the Old and New Testament.
- Learn the 10 commandments with a focus on the introduction.

Elective

Do ONE of the following:

- Know John 3:16 and Matthew 22:37–40 and explain your personal understanding of them.
- Tell in your own words one of the parables of Jesus and explain its meaning to you.
- Carry out a series of Bible readings suggested by your Pastor, Deacon or Sunday School Teacher and discuss with them your understanding of them.
- Read a book on Baptism suggested by your pastor, discuss your understanding of Baptism with your Pastor, Deacon or Sunday School Teacher.

Worship

Required

- Attend Church and/or Sunday School on a regular basis.
- Learn the Lord's Prayer.

Elective

Do ONE of the following:

- Prepare a simple prayer, one for each day of the week.
- With the advice of your Pastor, Deacon or Sunday School Teacher, set up a program of personal devotions and carry them out for a specific period.
- Conduct and/or assist in Family Devotions for a specified period.

Witness

Required

- Discuss with your Pastor, Deacon or Sunday School Teacher two ways in which you can witness to your faith in Jesus Christ.
- Give evidence of regular giving to the causes of the Church (Sunday School, etc.)
- If possible, accompany your Pastor to worship at a hospital, extended care home, jail, etc.

Elective

Give a reasonable number of hours of service in at least TWO witness areas (the following, and those listed in other "Stages" are examples of the types of acceptable service):

- Singing in Junior Choir.
- Assist in Sunday School.
- Invite and bring a friend to Sunday School.
- Help prepare posters or other publicity materials for church or community (Scout/Guide Week is one example of community service).
- Assisting with the preparation and distribution of bulletins, church papers, etc.

STAGE 2 — SUGGESTED AGES: 11–12–13

Word

Required

- Own and use the Holy Bible (preferably a Contemporary version).
- Write or give an oral report on the background of the Bible, including such things as its origin, main divisions and types of literature. Explain why you believe the Bible to be the Word of God.
- Learn the Apostle's Creed and simple explanations.

Elective

Do ONE of the following:

- Look at three different contemporary translations of the Bible and tell which one you like best and why.
- Tell one Old Testament and one New Testament story and discuss with your Pastor, Deacon, Sunday School Teacher or Adult Bible Class Leader how this story relates to you.
- Read the Gospel of Mark.

Worship

Required

- Attend Church and/or Sunday School on a regular basis.
- Show evidence of daily prayer in your life.
- Write a prayer for use at a Scout/Guide meeting and arrange with your leader to use it.

Elective

Do ONE of the following:

- Accompanied by your Pastor or member of the Worship Committee, visit the worship area of your church, note the various appointments, and be able to name them and explain their purpose. Be able to distinguish between the nave, the chancel, the sanctuary and explain the origin of each word.
- Take part in the worship programs in two of the following: School, Church, Youth Group, Scouts, Guides.
- Make a worship collage with pictures from magazines, etc., depicting various things associated with worship.

Witness

Required

- Make reasonable contributions from your own funds to a specific project of your choice, either Church or Community, and discuss your reasons.

Elective

Give at least five hours of service in at least TWO witness areas (the following, and those listed in other "Stages" are examples of the types of service):

- Serve as an acolyte, crucifer, greeter, or usher.
- Assist in Sunday School, vacation Bible School or other educational activity of the congregation.
- Collecting and/or distributing clothing and food to those in need.
- Assist at fund raising events involving the Church or other community group including Scouting/Guiding Group events.

STAGE 3 — SUGGESTED AGES: 14–15–16

Word

Required

- Explain why the Small Catechism is considered to be a good summary of Christian teaching as found in the Bible.
- Do a study or read an article or book on Christian baptism, its development from Biblical times, and write a report of what you have discovered. Include a paragraph on what your baptism means to you.

Elective

Do ONE of the following:

- Develop a five-minute oral or written presentation (dialogue, playlet, object lesson, campfire talk) on what Christian Faith in Jesus means to you in your own life.
- Prepare a short composition or talk and illustrate with drawings or pictures taken from any source, on one of the following subjects:
 - "The Modern Age and Technology: Is Faith Obsolete?"
 - "My Faith and my Body."
 - "When the going gets rough."
 - "Fun and my Christian Faith."
 - Other subject approved by the Pastor.
- Conduct a nature study of plants, mammals, birds, rocks, stars or another of your choice and discuss with your Pastor, Deacon, Sunday School Teacher or Adult Bible Class Leader what nature tells you about God.

Worship

Required

- Do a study of the Service of Holy Communion, including its history, chief parts, as well as individual parts. Try to discover why Lutherans worship as they do, and how our worship binds us together with other Christians. Give a written or oral report on your project to your Pastor or designated person.

Elective

Do ONE of the following:

- Construct a chart or plaque showing the following:
 - The festivals and seasons of the church year.
 - The colours associated with these festivals and seasons.
 - Christian symbols which remind us of the festivals and seasons.
- Explain to your Pastor, Deacon, Sunday School Teacher or Adult Bible Class Leader the significance of the colours and the meanings of the symbols.
- Have your Pastor or member of the Altar Guild explain to you the vessels and linens used for Communion and learn the proper name and use for each.
- Prepare and deliver a short sermonette (7 to 12 minutes) appropriate for use on Youth Sunday, Rally Day, or Scout/Guide Sunday.
- Plan and conduct daily devotions for one week at a Scout/Guide camp or other camp.

Witness

Required

- Accompany your Pastor or other church member on a visitation to a retirement home or the home of a retired member; or befriend a handicapped person at school or in your community.
- After a period of a month or several visits, share your experience with your Pastor and/or Scouts/Guides and tell how, if any, you have changed your attitudes as a result.

- Begin to explore occupations/vocations in which you are interested and write a report on
 - why you may choose it
 - how you can serve God in it
 - how you can serve others in it

Elective

Give at least ten hours of service in at least TWO witness areas (the following, and those listed in other “Stages” are examples of the types of service):

- Serve as pianist or organist in Church or Church School.
- Assist in community fund-raising campaigns for projects such as the United Way, Heart Fund, Cancer Society, etc.
- Assist Church library staff.
- Assist people with special needs.
- Teaching in Church School or Vacation Bible School.

STAGE 4 — SUGGESTED AGES: 16 AND OVER

Word

Required

- Participate in a youth or adult study class in your church for a period of several months.
- Write a report on your understanding of Holy Communion, why you partake of Communion and what it does for your Christian life.

Elective

Do ONE of the following:

- Read a book on the life of Martin Luther and write a brief report.
- Read the Gospel according to St. John and be able to give a report on how he views Jesus.
- Read one of Paul’s letters and give a report on its content and main emphasis.

Worship

Required

Discuss with your Pastor or Deacon how public worship in church, family devotions at home, and your private prayers and meditations have helped you grow as a Christian person.

Elective

Do ONE of the following:

- Tape record services and play them for the sick and shut-in.
- Present a brief (5–10 minute) devotional talk at a Scout/Guide camp-out, Church School, youth meeting or other gathering.
- Arrange to be an Assisting Minister or Lector at a Sunday Service.

Witness

Required

- Tell your Pastor of at least five ways in which Christians can witness to their faith in Christ.
- Participate or serve in neighbourhood canvass effort such as Vacation Bible School, Sunday School or other evangelism effort.
 - or
- Serve on a Church Committee such as Evangelism, Stewardship, Education, etc., for a period determined by your Pastor.

Elective

Do ONE of the following:

- Using a mission theme, e.g., sharing God’s love in Christ, draw a picture, make a carving, mold a figure, write a short composition, or complete another project agreed upon by your Pastor.

- Using a current social problem which has been in the news, discuss with your Pastor how you as a member of the congregation can witness to the love of Christ in the situation described.
- Talk with your Pastor about the programs sponsored by your church body, or in cooperation with other Lutheran bodies, to minister to the needs of others. Discuss ways in which you can share in this work now and in the future.
 - and
- Give at least ten hours of service in at least TWO witness areas (these following, and those listed in other “Stages” are examples of the types of service):
 - Provide leadership for Sunday School or other worship services.
 - Caring for and maintaining church property and grounds.
 - Serving as a helper for a church-sponsored project for the betterment of the community.

PRO DEO ET PATRIA AWARD

Those who have obtained Stage Four of the Religion in Life program may wish to obtain the Lutheran ‘Pro Deo et Patria’ award. This award is made by the Lutheran Churches in Canada to *Guides/Scouts* who have met certain requirements. The award consists of a Citation certificate, and a badge.

The award is administered by the Lutheran Council in Canada.

To obtain the ‘Pro Deo’, one must have completed and received Stage Four of the Religion in Life program according to the Lutheran requirements and must complete one of the following:

Obtain or draw a map of the world. Place dots of various colours on the countries in which Lutheran Churches of Canada are fostering the spread of the Gospel. Use one colour for your own church body and different colours for the other Lutheran church bodies. Using still a different colour identify the countries which participate in the Scouting/Guiding movement. Prepare your map in such a way that it will be displayed somewhere in your church building.

Prepare a display, to be set up in your church building, showing the work of at least five organizations or groups (church-connected or civic) which are working for the betterment of humanity in the world (at home or abroad). If possible, talk with someone from each organization to learn about their work. Write a paragraph about each organization, mentioning the people or countries served, needs met and extent of the program. Discuss with your Pastor ways in which a Christian can carry out the admonition to serve one another in love.

When completed, the supervising Pastor will submit to the office of the Lutheran Council:

- verification that Stage Four of the Religion in Life program has been awarded.
- a good photograph (approximately 13 x 17.5 cm) of the project completed for the ‘Pro Deo’ award.
- name and address of the candidate, together with church affiliation and a brief resumé of character and religious activities.

Send the above material to:

Pro Deo et Patria
Lutheran Council in Canada
302-393 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg MB
R3B 3H6

STAGE 5 — ADULT

Word (Choose two)

- Participate in an adult Bible Study group or in the church's men's/women's organization.
- Read a book recommended by your pastor in one of the following categories: inspirational, theological, church history, devotional.
- Give evidence of regular Bible reading and a devotional life.
- Teach a Church School class.

Worship (Choose two)

- Give evidence of regular worship and Communion attendance.
- Participate in worship as an Assisting Minister, lector, usher, choir member, or other.
- Give evidence of faithful stewardship of time, talents and financial resources.
- Prepare a Scout/Guide worship service for use at a camp and use it at least once.

Witness (Choose two)

- Serve on the Congregational Council or a committee for at least one year.
- Show evidence of promoting Scouting/Guiding in your congregation.
- Participate in evangelism visitation or in visiting of sick, shut-ins and elderly.
- Provide transportation to church of Sunday School children or others who need transportation.
- Be involved in a church or community social betterment program.
- Introduce an unchurched neighbor or friend to your church.

RESOURCES

Let's Celebrate — A book of spiritual ideas for Scouting. This book contains many program ideas for leaders of all sections.

Role of the Chaplain

Resources are available from your local Scout/Guide Council office.

Your leader, spiritual advisor or Lutheran Council will be able to recommend other useful resources.



Girl Guides
of Canada
Guides
du Canada

