

RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM



Anglican Church
of Canada

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Girl Guides of Canada

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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* program is to assist girls and boys to develop physically, socially, spiritually and mentally to be responsible citizens of their country. The Religion in Life program has been established to assist in the spiritual growth of each member, youth and adult alike, and to participate actively in their own religious denomination. Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada uphold the principle that specific religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious authorities.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to provide Anglican *Scouts* or *Guides* with an opportunity to explore their faith, to make it a basic part of their personal life, and to share it with others.

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 Religion in Life program differ in each faith and denomination and are prepared nationally by the Churches or religious bodies to suit their particular needs.

INSTRUCTION

The instruction of a candidate desiring to qualify for an emblem is the responsibility of the candidate's own spiritual advisor or his/her 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.

STAGES

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

Stage 1 — Yellow Border (about 7–8–9)

Stage 2 — Green Border (about 10–11–12)

Stage 3 — Blue Border (about 13–14–15)

Stage 4 — Red Border (15+)

Stage 5 — Purple Border (Adults)

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*.

PREPARATION

The approach for each *Scout* or *Guide* will depend on their age and development. Essentially, each member should take a step in growth to prepare to receive the Emblem.

As much help as possible should be provided by the Rector or Spiritual Advisor; the Scout Leader/Guider and the parents to underline that each person's Faith pervades all facets of life.

The *Scout* and *Guide* should recognize a challenge, but not be faced with expectations beyond their ability. As with the entire Guiding/Scouting program, this Emblem offers a vehicle for Youth Ministry and Mission.

There is embodied in these outlines a rich opportunity for the Priest, or the Spiritual Advisor to share in the boy's or girl's life and to share his/her faith with the boy or girl.

BASIC EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL STAGES

To be applied according to the age of the youth member

A. Worship

- Worship regularly with his/her Parish.
- Church School attendance could be considered acceptable, especially for younger members.
- As the Parish and/or parents permit, each youth member should become a communicant at the earliest opportunity.

B. Learning

- Be involved in or have completed the Christian Education programs in the parish such as Church School classes, or as may be offered by his/her Parish.

C. Serve the Church

- Be of service to the Parish Church, through such activities as being a Server, Choir member, (junior) Sidesman, etc.

D. Service to Others

— Be of service to others through community action and service, such as through opportunities offered by the pack, troop, company or crew, whether as direct help to individuals; or protecting the environment.

These are *continuing* ways in which the youth members reflect their Faith in daily life. It is not intended that shortlived burst of activity or involvement be acceptable. Rather, they should already be regular in such habits. If, as may well be the case, these patterns are new, they should show continuity in their new-found habits.

YELLOW STAGE (AGES ABOUT 7–8–9)

Fulfill the Basic Expectations, and:

1. Know, and have an understanding of the Lord's Prayer.
2. Read, with whatever help is required, and be able to answer questions on a selected Bible passage, such as: Luke 15; Luke 6:23–38; Luke 2:39–52; I Corinthians 13:1–13.
3. Identify and explain the purpose and use of:
 - a) Altar
 - b) Lectern
 - c) Pulpit
 - d) Fontas they are found and used in the Parish Church.
4. Describe and discuss an Outreach Project undertaken or funded by the Parish.

GREEN STAGE (AGES ABOUT 10–11–12)

Continue to fulfill the Basic Expectations, and:

1. Know, and have an understanding of either the Apostles' Creed, or the Nicene Creed.
2. Explain what is a Sacrament, and discuss:
 - a) Baptism as Christian Initiation (and how it leads to Confirmation)
 - b) the Eucharist as Liturgy of Celebration.
3. With the help of a summary (as may be found in a commentary of the Bible), tell the Spiritual Advisor of his/her understanding of one of the four Gospels. (With some specific reference to Scripture).
4. Assist in planning and leading a Scout's/Guide's Own service — This might be preceded by leading in prayer at meetings of the troop or company.

BLUE STAGE (AGES ABOUT 13–14–15)

Continue to fulfill the Basic Expectations, and:

1. Identify the specific Biblical references in the Prayer of Consecration (as used in the Parish); and discuss the prayer in its fullness.
2. With the Spiritual Advisor, develop and use a daily plan of Prayer and Bible reading.
3. Discuss one of: St. John 1:1–14; St. John 20:1–10; Acts 2:1–28; Ephesians 4:1–16 or other such passage as may be agreed upon by the young person and the Spiritual Advisor.
4. Share his/her Faith and its relevance to his daily life, with his/her company.
5. Understand the various orders of Ministry in the Church: Bishop; Priest; Deacon and Laity; and discuss the duties of these orders in the life of the Church.

RED STAGE (AGE ABOUT 15+)

Rovers/Rangers are expected to participate as adults in fulfilling the Basic Expectations of Worship, Learning, and Service to Church and the World.

Growth

A Quest for Faith Journey should be prepared in consultation with the Priest or Spiritual Advisor. The Quest or Faith Journey should encompass four distinct areas:

- a) Bible knowledge
- b) Fundamentals of the Faith
- c) Outreach, its importance and purpose to the life of the Christian community.
- d) Knowledge of the Anglican Church of Canada; its structure, organization, and how it relates to other Christian bodies and political institutions.

The Quest or Faith Journey should be presented to the group in the presence of the priest or Spiritual Advisor.

PURPLE STAGE (ADULTS)

1. An agreement must exist between the Scouter/Guider and his/her Clergy person or Spiritual Advisor that the Scouter/Guider has, is and plans to continue showing by their way of life and their commitment and level of participation in their community of faith, that they are carrying out their Scouter's/Guider's promise to the best of their ability.
2. The Scouter/Guider must satisfy his/her Clergy person or Spiritual Advisor that they are on their own active faith journey.
3. The Scouter/Guider must be a regular church attendee.
4. The Scouter/Guider must be dedicated to influencing Scouters or Guiders they work with to ensure that the spiritual aspects of Scouting and Guiding are given proper program emphasis in their Scouting or Guiding endeavours.
5. The Scouter/Guider must be dedicated to promoting the Religion in Life program to the youth and adults they work with and will be supportive of those youth and adults as they become involved in the Religion in Life program for their community of faith.

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 — Pamphlet.

These resources are available from your local Scout/Guide Council office.

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



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