

RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM



Canadian Baptist Ministries

Published for
The Community by
Scouts Canada and 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* 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 or boy 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.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to provide *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 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 church 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 four 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+)

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.*

REQUIREMENTS

STAGE 1

1. Memorize the Lord's Prayer.
 2. Obtain a Bible and point out where the Old Testament is and where the New Testament is and where the four Gospels are. What does the word "gospel" mean?
 3. Memorize the names of the books of the New Testament in order.
 4. Tell, in your own words, your favorite Bible story.
 5. Memorize Matthew 22:37-39.
 6. Draw a sketch or make a model of a church sanctuary. (Try to do this with one or two others).
 7. Identify each of the following items in your church and explain how they are used and/or their purpose:

a) Bible	g) Communion Table
b) Hymn book	h) Offering Plate
c) Baptistry	i) Windows
d) Ministry	j) Organ/Piano
e) Lecturn	k) Choir
f) Pulpit	l) Bulletin
 8. Tell, in your own words, what worship means to you.
 9. Tell one way in which you practice each of the parts of your promise.
 10. Tell how your actions (behaviour) at home, in school and at church can show your faith in God.
- NOTE:** In addition to the above, you are required to complete at least three months regular attendance in Sunday School and Church.

STAGE 2

1. Read the Gospel of Mark in either the New International Version or Today's English Version.
2. Memorize Psalm 23.
3. Write a prayer that could be used at a Scout's Own Service, Vespers, or a Church Worship Service. Try to include the following:
A doration
C onfession
T hanks-giving
S urrection
4. Memorize the names of the books of the Old Testament.
5. Locate five different forms of literature in the Bible such as poetry, law, prophecy, letter, history or gospel.
6. Memorize Matthew 5:3-10 and John 3:16-17.
7. What does stewardship mean to you? Explain how you give to support the work done in and through your church.
8. Perform some service to your church as directed by your Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School Superintendent or Minister.
9. Provide some service (alone or with others) to your community.
10. Tell how you have tried to bring at least one other person to Sunday School or Church.

NOTE: In addition to the above, you are required to complete at least six months' regular attendance in Sunday School and Church.

STAGE 3

1. Read the Ten Commandments, (Exodus 20:317). Be able to list in order the ten key phrases.
2. Tell how to apply the ideas of the Ten Commandments in your daily life.
3. Read the Gospel of Luke and Acts in a modern translation of the Bible.
Obtain or borrow a Bible Atlas or map and trace the journeys of Paul.
4. Prepare a service of worship for your own age group.
5. Explain the meaning and purpose of the two Ordinances recognized in Baptist Churches, (Baptism and Communion).
6. Participate in a Bible study program, either on your own or in a small group, for a period of at least six weeks.
7. Explain the following terms:
—Lordship of Christ
—Priesthood of all Believers
—Regenerate Church Membership
—Autonomy of the Local Church
8. Write an essay of at least 300 words to explain your understanding of the Bible as "the Word of God."
9. Participate in some worthwhile community effort and learn about three agencies which provide help to people.
10. Volunteer to be in a work party or to assist in some way in the church.

NOTE: In addition to the above, you are required to complete at least nine months regular attendance in Sunday School and Church.

STAGE 4

1. Memorize Isaiah 53 or write an essay of at least 250 words showing the relevance the book of Amos has to today's society (or identifying the conditions that exist in our day that are much like those of the days of Amos).
2. Attend a worship service in some denomination other than your own and write a report telling of your feelings and experience.
3. Follow a specific Bible study program and submit a record of this study showing what you have learned. This should take place over a six week period.
4. Read the Gospel of John.
5. Memorize John 1:1-14.
6. Give voluntary service of at least six evenings in some church or community activity and evaluate your experience by making a brief report.
7. Write an essay of at least 300 words on one of the following:
 - a) Christian Vocations
 - b) Christian Witnessing in Daily Life
 - c) Issues a Christian Young Person has to Face Today.
8. Participate in the leadership of a worship service and submit a report of preparations and results.
9. Outline your ideas on:
 - a) Christ's Teaching in the "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5 - 7) or
 - b) Revelation in the Old and New Testaments (How God Makes Himself known).

NOTE: In addition to the above, you are required to complete at least one year regular involvement and systematic financial support of your church.

RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM FOR GUIDES AND SCOUTS IN CANADIAN BAPTIST FEDERATION CHURCHES

1. **The Religion in Life Program** for Baptist Church *Guides/Scouts* has been developed by the Baptist Convention of Ontario & Quebec for Baptists across Canada. The program is focused for age groups that compare with the section age groupings for *Guides/Scouts*.

Stage 1 (Yellow Border) —Brownies/Cubs

Stage 2 (Green Border) —Guides/Scouts

Stage 3 (Blue Border) —Venturers Pathfinders (combined)

Stage 4 (Red Border) —Rovers/Rangers

2. **Basic Requirements.** Be recommended by your pastor or chaplain as to eligibility for participation in the Religion in Life Program. Confirmation of active participation on a regular basis in worship services and Sunday School is also required.

3. **Standards** are suggested by the information included with the four stages of the program but keep in mind that these are guidelines only. They are meant to be flexible enough to encourage creativity in developing programs and projects which might enhance the learning experiences of the participant while maintaining the spirit of these standards. Leaders should feel free to adopt resource materials to suit local situations and to interpret the guidelines so as to give maximum encouragement to each *Guide/Scout* on his/her faith journey.
4. **Leadership** for this program may be given by the pastor or any designated member of the congregation recognized as a *Guide/Scout* spiritual leader by the pastor and/or the congregation.
5. **Instruction** may be given in a group or individually in any number and for such length of time as agreed upon by the leader and participants.
6. **Presentation** of the emblem is most appropriately made at a regular service of worship by the pastor so the congregation can be supportive, informed and celebrate with the recipients in receiving their Religion in Life Emblem. The *Guides/Scouts* might also participate in the planning and/or conducting of the service.
7. **Every Baptist Church** *Guide/Scout* should attempt to qualify for the emblem. Every Baptist *Guide/Scout* leader should be the kind of example in his/her faith journey that would encourage efforts in this direction.