

# RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM



*Lutheran Churches  
in Canada*



## **RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM**

Membership in the Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada is open to all youth who wish to make the promise, regardless of race, colour or creed. The purpose of the Scout/Guide programmes is to assist youth in character development by encouraging them to be responsible citizens of their country. Part of the programme is to assist in the spiritual growth youth 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 programme 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 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 programme is in eight progressive stages, colour coded and adapted to the age groups concerned.

Stage 1 — Stage 2— Stage 3 – Stage 4 — Stage 5 –

Pro Deo et Patria Award (must have earned stage 5)  
Stage 6 – Leader,  
Stage 7 – Lamb Award (available only by nomination)

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 through regular badge channels, except for the Pro Deo et Patria Award and the Lamb Award which are available only from the Lutheran Council in Canada. Once evaluation is completed the latter two awards will be sent out.

## **Where Worn**

Girl Guides of Canada — see *Policy, Organization and Rules*.  
Scouts Canada — see *By-Law, Policies and Procedures*.

## **Stage 1 — SUGGESTED AGES 5-7**

### **Word**

#### **Required**

-Read or have read to you Luke 2:1-20 and draw a picture of the story

#### **Elective**

-Read or have read to you Isaiah 43:1-2, 4 and draw  
-Read or have read to you the parable of the Good Samaritan, discuss and draw

### **Worship**

#### **Required**

-Worship on a regular basis with you family  
-Know how to find where the hymns and services are in your worship book or how to follow projected worship resources  
-Find out the date of your baptism

#### **Elective**

-Know how to receive Holy Communion, if you are allowed to commune in your church.  
-Draw a picture of the worship space of your church with your parents and learn the names of the various parts.

### **Witness**

#### **Required**

-Hand out bulletins in church, preferably as part of the Guide/Scout service  
-Take part in a Sunday School Christmas programme

**Elective**

- Help to decorate your church for either Thanksgiving or Christmas
- Sing in the junior choir
- help collect food for the foodbank
- make a kit for Canadian Lutheran World Relief

**Stage 2 – Suggested ages 8-10****Word****Required**

- Read or have read to you one Old Testament and one New Testament story. Draw pictures to show what each story means.
- Learn the Lord's Prayer

**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.
- 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.
- Make a worship collage with pictures from magazines, etc., depicting various things associated with worship.

**Elective**

Do ONE of the following:

- Prepare a simple prayer, one for each day of the week.
- Prepare prayers to be used at a "Scouts'/Guides' Own, or church parade
- 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.)
- Obtain and colour a copy of Luther's Coat of Arms commonly called the Luther Rose and find out the meanings behind the colours and symbols.

**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.
  - Act as an usher, acolyte, greeter etc
  - 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).

## **Stage 3 –Suggested ages 11-13**

### **Word**

#### **Required**

- Own and use the Holy Bible (preferably a Contemporary version).
- Explain why you believe the Bible to be the Word of God.
- Learn the Apostle's Creed.

#### **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.
- 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.
- Take part in the worship programmes in two of the following: School, Church, Youth Group, Scouts, Guides.

### **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 4 – Suggested ages 14-17**

**NOTE:** May be awarded upon completion of confirmation instruction, at the discretion of the pastor.

### **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 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 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 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 sermon (5 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 musician in Church or Church School.
- Assist in community fund-raising campaigns for projects such as the United Way, Cancer Society, etc.
- Assist Church library staff.
- Assist people with special needs.
- Teaching in Church School or Vacation Bible School.

## **Stage 5 — Suggested Ages 18-26**

### **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 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:

- 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 a 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, mould 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 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 Five of the Religion in Life programme may wish to obtain the Lutheran 'Pro Deo et Patria' award. This award is made by the Lutheran Churches in Canada to Scout/Guides 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 Five of the Religion in Life programme according to the Lutheran requirements and must complete one of the following:

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 programme.

- Discuss with your Pastor ways in which a Christian can carry out the admonition to serve one another in love.
- Research and promote the work of Canadian Lutheran World Relief.
- Prepare a report on the structure and work of the ILC or the LWF.
- Prepare a time line of significant events in the Reformation.
  - Read a book on the life of Martin Luther and write a brief report.
  - Talk with your Pastor about the programmes 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.
  - Give at least fifty hours of service in at least TWO witness areas

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

- verification that Stage Five of the Religion in Life programme has been awarded.
- 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  
 600-177 Lombard Avenue  
 Winnipeg, MB R3B 0W5

## **STAGE 7 – 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 programme.

## **Requirements for the Lamb Award**

### **PURPOSE OF THE AWARD**

This National Adult Award is made available for the purpose of recognizing Lutheran laypersons and pastors who have given noteworthy service of exceptional character to the physical, mental, moral and spiritual development of young persons through or in the Scouting/Guiding programme.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Any adult who is an active member of a Lutheran congregation and who has given a minimum of 10 years of distinguished service as a leader to young people through Guiding/Scouting is eligible. Self and spousal nominations will not be accepted.

### **NOMINATIONS**

Nominations for the Lamb Award are to be initiated by any Lutheran church related group (i.e. congregational youth committee, Scout group committee, the church council) which is knowledgeable of the nominee activities in Scouting/Guiding and in the church.

All nominations for The Lamb Award are reviewed by the Lutheran Council in Canada

**I. DATA ON INDIVIDUAL NOMINATED:**

**A Personal Data:**

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_ P-Code: \_\_\_\_

Position at place of employment/retired: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Data:

Nominee's Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_ P-Code: \_\_\_\_

Name of Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Body: ELCIC \_\_\_\_\_ LCC \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Present Leadership Data:

Present position in Scout/Guide Programme: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years in this position: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Position in Area or Regional Scouting/Guiding

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of years in this position: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Position in other Youth Work: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of years in this position: \_\_\_\_\_

Presently registered in Scouts Canada/Girl Guides of Canada: \_\_\_\_\_

(Yes - No)

## **II. SUPPORTING DATA**

NOTE: Please submit evidence and examples of activity under each of the six categories. DO NOT ANSWER SIMPLY "YES" or "NO"! The recipient of the award should be:

Actively participating in and encouraging the Religion in Life Award programme.

Actively promoting and supporting Guide/Scout Sunday.

Displaying outstanding service in promoting the organization of (Lutheran) Scout /Guide Groups.

Actively encouraging participation of the Guiding/Scouting programme.

Inaugurating significant service projects for the church and Scouting/Guiding.

Providing encouragement and witness to youth of the nominee's congregation to participate in spiritual growth opportunities in their congregation.

## **III. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Supporting letters should be obtained from the following:

Candidate's Pastor

District/Area, Regional/Provincial Guide/Scout Executive

Officer of the Church Council

Member of the Scouting/Guiding Group Committee or Nominating Group

A co-worker in the Scouting/Guiding programme.

**IV. PRESENTATION PLANS IF AWARD IS GRANTED**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion: \_\_\_\_\_

Person presenting the award: \_\_\_\_\_

**V. NAME OF NOMINATING GROUP**

Name of Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_ P-Code: \_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**I. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

A fee of \$35.00, payable to the *Lutheran Council in Canada*, must accompany this form. The fee will be returned if the Award is denied.

All material, pertaining to this Award, for the named individual, must be in the Lutheran Council office no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

The individual nominated should have no knowledge of this Nomination, or Award if granted, until such time as the presentation is to be made

In the case of a pastor being nominated for this Award, a Reference and Appraisal Form will be expected from the pastoral leader in the area, conference, circuit or church body.

Please review and make sure that all questions have been answered and the form properly signed and dated.