

RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM



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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 and 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 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 services of God from 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 (13-14-15)

Stage 4 – Red Border (15-20)

Stage 5 – Purple Border (21+)

Candidates may start at any stage appropriate to their age and capabilities. Only one emblem – the latest 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*.



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