

# RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM



## Zoroastrianism

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 and to encourage them to participate actively in their own religious community. Specific religious instruction is not included in *Guide/Scout* program materials but is available from denominational sources.

### THE EMBLEM

The emblem of the Zoroastrian faith depicts a Fravashi. The Fravashi is God's spark (His essence) in the form of a guardian spirit who is believed to be the protector of each one of us. Every human being has a Fravashi which is special and unique to each individual. It is the soul's counterpart and guide through life.

The symbol represents the two worlds, the 'Physical' through the image of man, and the 'Spiritual' by the wings and tail of a bird.

### 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

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.

### STAGES

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

Stage 1 — Yellow Border

Stage 2 — Green Border

Stage 3 — Blue Border

Stage 4 — Red Border

Candidates start at stage one. Only one Emblem — the latest stage earned is worn.

### WHERE OBTAINABLE

The emblems are available through Scout Council offices or regular badge channels.

### WHERE WORN

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

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

### STAGE 1 — YELLOW (AGES ABOUT 7, 8, 9)

1. The basic Zoroastrian belief in one God (Ahura Mazda) and Mazdayasni Zarathoshti religion.
2. Why and how we pray.
3. The times, life, parentage of Zarathustra.
4. General knowledge about Navjote ceremony. Describe Sudreh and Kushti.
5. Ashem Vohu and its meaning.
6. Formal attire for prayers, cleanliness and attitude.
7. Fire and Deevo and the Emblem of Ahura Mazda.
8. Discuss with the tester 'Humata', 'Hukhta' and 'Huvestha'.
9. Expected Ethics from a good Zoroastrian in terms of day to day living.

### STAGE 2 — GREEN (AGES ABOUT 10, 11, 12)

1. Stage 1.
2. Meaning of Yatha Ahu Vairyo.
3. Sudreh — Kusti prayers — recite and understand.
4. General knowledge about 'Pateti', 'Navroze' and other main festivals. e.g. (Gambars, Parabhs, Khordad Sal, etc.).
5. Understand the rites and responsibilities of a Nahn and Navjote in detail.
6. Zoroastrian aim in life:
  - a) Expected Ethical behaviour both personal and social leading to improvement and development of the world and the progress of the soul towards perfection and immortality.
  - b) Care of God's good creations and avoidance of pollution.
  - c) Care of one's own Body, Mind and Spirit.
  - d) Equality of the Sexes.
7. Know and understand the days of the month and their respective attributes.
8. The 12 months of the year, their attributes and their seasonal festivals — (Gahambar).
9. Shah Nama stories — names of Zoroastrian Dynasties of Persian Kings.
10. Brief outline of main Scriptures (Yasna — which includes the Gathas, Yashts, Visperad, Vendidad, Khordeh Avesta).

11. Discuss with the tester the qualitative application of the Amesha Spentas and Yazatas in daily living.

### STAGE 3 — BLUE (AGES ABOUT 13, 14, 15)

1. Stage 1 and 2.
2. Navjote completed.
3. Understanding and participation in Humbandagi, Jashan, and Muktd. (Afrinagan, Faroxi, Satoom).
4. Recite and understand 'Sarosh Baj' in 5 different 'Gehs'.
5. Recite and understand 'Doa Tan-Dorosti'.
6. Recite and understand 'Din-no Kalmo' and 'Deeva-no Namaskar'.
7. Symbolism of Sudreh and Kusti.
8. Essential elements of true Prayer — Philosophy and Ethics prescribed by them.
  - a) Purification for and method of praying.
  - b) Order of prayer from 'Khurdeh Avesta'.
9. Explain the concept of the Fravashies.
10. Care of God's elements and avoidance of pollution.
11. The Nature of Man — The five constituents of Man.
  - a) Body
  - b) Breath of Life
  - c) Soul (Freedom of Choice)
  - d) Prototype Image
  - e) Guardian Spirit.
12. Explain to the tester how in your daily life as a Zoroastrian you reflect the Promise and the Law.

### STAGE 4 — RED (AGES 15+)

1. Stage 1, 2 and 3.
2. Recite and understand 101 attributes of God.
  - a) Refer to Hormazd Yasht Para ( Aat Marot Ahura Mazdao...).
3. Zoroastiran Metaphysics
  - a) Origin of Virtue and Vice
  - b) The Nature of Yazatas and their Interrelationship.

4. The story of creation as explained in the Bundahishn.
5. The reason for and importance of Rituals and the Role of Priests. What do rituals represent.
6. Understand the rites and responsibilities of the wedding ceremony.
7. Understand the rites of the funeral ceremony.
8. After-life doctrine: — Status of the souls after death — Reward and Retribution.
9. Awareness of the differences between Atash Bahram, Atash Adarans, and the Atash Dadgah.
10. Study select scriptures out of 'Gathas', 'Visperad', 'Vendidad', 'Khurdeh Avesta'.
11. Explain in your own words the active fight for righteousness and active opposition to evil — two mentalities.
12. Nature of Prayer — Compose a personal prayer.
13. Choose a passage from the Gatha on which you could pattern your daily life.
14. My heritage, identity and history.
15. Social and Community Organization of Zoroastrians.
  - a) Panchayats
  - b) Libraries
  - c) Training Institutes for Mobeds, Navars and Martabs.
16. Describe how you feel the practice of your religion can make you a better member of the *Guide/Scout* movement and a worthy citizen of your community and country.

### RESOURCES

*Zoroastrianism — An Ethnic Perspective*  
by Khojeste P. Mistree.

*Zoroastrianism — A Basic Perception*  
by Homi B. Minocher Homji.

*Handbook of Information on Zoroastrianism*  
by Dastour Khurshed S. Dabu.

*The Religion of Zarathushtra*  
by I.J.S. Taraporewala.



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