

Religious Emblems Basics

1. Make sure boy or girl is of correct grade for the emblem. Youth do not need to have taken earlier programs to participate in later programs.
2. **Try to instill into the youth the spirit of the program, not just the requirements.**
3. Contact the Girl Scout Office or Boy Scout Office for program materials. However, neither office has any jurisdiction over the various religious emblems. The National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire (NCCSGSCF) and the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS)® have authority over the religious emblems programs.
4. Non-Catholics may not work on Catholic Scouting emblems. If your unit has both Catholic and non-Catholic Scouts, encourage all the Scouts to work on the emblem appropriate for their faith. Information is available from P.R.A.Y. (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth).
5. Become familiar with the requirements of the program BEFORE the Scouts begin working on it to avoid problems down the road, such as not enough time to finish the requirements. Get all necessary signatures before (when needed) and at the end of the program. Explain the program to the parents also.
6. The Day of Recollection in November is for both older boys and girls working on both Ad Altare Dei and Marian Medal emblems.
7. Youth working on the Ad Altare Dei, Marian Medal, Pope Pius XII, and Spirit Alive emblems will be required to appear before a Board of Review. (See related information.)
8. Application deadline is April 1 for all youth emblems. Nominations for adult awards are due March 1.
9. Make sure names of youth are NEATLY PRINTED. If it is poorly written, the name may be wrong in the ceremony booklet. The youth should print his or her name as it is to be listed in the ceremony booklet.
10. Please make sure we can read the name of the counselor; please include address, phone number, and email address if available in the event we have a question. We also use this information to return the pictures for distribution.
11. Make copies of all applications to keep for your records before mailing them, in the event we do not receive them. If you send in applications, you will get an email or a letter acknowledging receipt of applications and to give you details of the ceremony. We plan to mail these letters shortly after April 1 depending on available time.
12. Applications should be mailed, as a parish or unit, to:

Kathy Petr
3128 Applewood Drive
Wichita, KS 67220

along with the appropriate fees. Some units pay for the cost of the emblems; in others, the parents pay the cost. If parents are paying, it would be helpful for the unit to send in just one check which covers the cost of all applications. The cost of each medal -- which includes a 5x7 photo taken at the ceremony -- is currently \$8.00 (April 2011). Make checks payable to: Catholic Committee on Scouting.

13. Each year the Diocese of Wichita conducts the Scouting Emblems Recognition at one of the area churches. Normally, the bishop will preside. At the end of the service, the emblems are presented to the hundreds of youth, girls and boys, who have earned the emblems in the prior year. Each family is asked to donate one dozen cookies for the Bishop's reception that follows.
14. If Scouts are unable to attend the recognition ceremony to receive their emblems, they may be picked up after the ceremony and given to the Scouts at an appropriate occasion. In some parishes the pastor might present the emblem at a weekend Mass. Photos will be available 4 - 6 weeks after the ceremony. Persons picking up photos will be required to sign for them so that we may know who has them.
15. For the emblems recognition, teach the kids how to properly receive the emblem (take the emblem with left hand above, shake with right hand below); also, they should be mindful of where the photographer is. The youth should angle a bit towards the photographer and should not cross in front of the photographer after receiving the award. (This would mess up the next person's photo.) Remind the youth to watch for cues from CCS people.
16. **Information will be printed in The Catholic Advance, the CCS website, or emails to adults who we have email addresses for, near the time of the activity. Encourage your Scouts and their parents to watch for these announcements as well.**
17. Please refer to the calendar in the newsletter you receive.
18. If you would like to find out more about Catholic Scouting, you may visit these web sites:
<http://www.nccs-bsa.org> (National Catholic Committee on Scouting,
for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, Explorers
<http://www.nccgscf.org> (National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire
- "NCCGSCF")
19. Consider your unit leaders for the various adult awards available -- adults appreciate recognition too: Cub/Boy Scouts: Bronze Pelican, St. George emblem; Girl Scouts: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Ann medals. The nomination form for adult awards is due March 1 to Kathy Petr and must be submitted on the proper form, available from Kathy Petr.
20. Acquaint yourselves with the other religious awards and patches available: The Pope Paul VI unit award, International Awareness, Gold Medallion award, and the Scouting is Youth Ministry Initiative for Cub and Boy Scouting and Venturing Crews. The Rosary Patch and the Saints series programs, while not religious emblems, may also be earned by youth and adult from the NCCS.
21. **All adults who are working with youth within a parish MUST have on file at that parish the signed Diocesan Abuse Form and must have completed the VIRTUS program.**
22. Visit ur diocesan CCS website: www.ccsdowk.org
(Catholic Committee on Scouting – Catholic Diocese of Wichita Kansas)
23. Have a question? Call us (Kathy Petr at 686-7893 or email at kpetr@cox.net).

**DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR
MARIAN, AD ALTARE DEI, SPIRIT ALIVE, AND POPE PIUS XII EMBLEMS**

1. All candidates must attend a Board of Review as a final step in receiving the emblem. To be scheduled for a Board of Review, the candidate must submit the application found in the emblems books by the due date. The application **MUST BE SIGNED BY A CERTIFIED COUNSELOR**. (A certified counselor is one who has received training in the latest edition of the particular emblems book.) Youth who have worked on the same emblem together will attend the Board of Review together, unless other arrangements need to be made.
2. At the Board of Review, each candidate is required to bring all completed workbooks, journals, projects, and materials. The emblems notebook must be signed by the certified counselor and the youth's pastor. If these materials are not on hand, or are not properly signed, the Board of Review will not continue and the Scout is not eligible for the award.
3. The Board of Review panel will consist of at least three people, to include at least one certified counselor, one youth (if available) who has previously received the emblem under review, and at least one member of the Diocesan committee.
4. Counselors and/or parents will be excluded from the Board of Review.
5. The decision of the Board of Review is final. If the candidate has not satisfactorily completed the requirements of the emblem, that candidate may submit the application for the following year. Please be aware that the emphasis of the programs is on **GROWTH IN FAITH**, not only material covered.
6. Any application not signed by a certified counselor will be returned as incomplete.