

Guidelines for Priests working with Catholic Scouting Units

Scouting is Youth Ministry. One of its most basic tenets is “Duty or Service to God”. The girl scouts, boy scouts and cub scouts of your parish have worked hard to earn their Religious Emblems. Thank you for sharing your faith with the Scouts as they complete their Catholic Religious Emblems.

The Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Committee on Scouting follows the requirements of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting in the completion of the Religious Emblem Awards per Scout. In our Diocese, we have various guidelines and timelines to complete the Religious Emblem Awards.

The Religious Emblem Counselors (REC’s), who are trained in the CCOS Program, coordinate the Religious Emblem Awards activities throughout the year with the Scouts and their Leaders.

Upon completion of the Religious Emblem Booklet, the REC coordinates the Exit Interview with the Parish Priest for each Religious Emblem, meeting the scouts in a group for about 30 minutes.

The Exit Interview is required in our CCOS Program and is a requirement of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting Program. One of the reasons for the Exit Interview with a Priest is to open the door to Religious vocations in our Scouts. The Exit Interview also affirms this Scout is a registered Catholic parishioner participating in the Catholic Religious Awards. Non-Catholics may not receive Catholic Religious Emblem Awards.

It is a great opportunity for shared faith experience with our Scouts, Parents, and Priests in a group setting. All participating persons have to sign the Original Religious Emblem Applications.

The only time an application would be signed by a parish designee or Administrator is when there is no longer a Priest at the Parish. This is the requirement of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

Thank you for your support and for encouraging the Girl and Boy Scouts in your parish to earn their Religious Emblems Awards.

All REC’s are trained in the CCOS Program requirements and comply with the Youth Protection Programs in the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Although the REC’s are members for life, the Diocese of Baton Rouge CCOS requires retraining every three years. We provide trainings twice a year for new REC’s.

On our website is a list of active REC’s per Parish and additional information on our programs. info.ccosbr.net.