

Religious Emblems Counselors (REC)/Volunteers:

1. **Set up a timeline for the entire Religious Emblem Programs for the year.**

Meet with all Religious Emblem Counselors (REC) in your parish:

- ❖ To determine the timeline of each Religious Award and
- ❖ Coordinate (review and schedule) the timeline for all Exit Interviews.
- ❖ Communication is very important to make all timelines in harmony and to encourage future Religious Awards participation.
- ❖ Recruit additional adults for **Catholic Religious Emblems Counselor** (REC) training. Check the Catholic Committee on Scouting (CCOS) website for applications and upcoming training events (info.ccosbr.net).

Catholic responsibility:

- ❖ ***All CCOS Religious Emblem Counselors (REC) must be currently registered as adults with the Boy Scouts and/or Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, American Heritage Girls, Jr. Catholic Daughters of America.***
- ❖ ***All CCOS Religious Emblem Counselors (REC) must attend retraining every three years, especially participating in National Awards.***
- ❖ ***All scouts must be registered Catholic Scouts in order to complete Catholic Religious Emblem Awards.***
- ❖ ***Only one Religious Emblem Award per scout is to be received in the current year.***

2. **Schedule a short Religious Emblems Presentation for parents in:**

- ❖ August or September.
- ❖ Help parents/RECs develop a timeline for completing awards.
- ❖ Organize the process that will be utilized in obtaining the Religious Emblems Booklets for the Scouts and
- ❖ Date when there will be distribution of the material to the parents/scouts.

Remember:

The Religious Emblems in the younger grades are guided by the parents and towards the completion of the Religious Emblem a special group activity is planned together with all the scouts participating on the specific award. This fosters fellowship, faith sharing, and encourages the scouts to desire to earn the other Religious Emblems throughout the years.

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS 2016

<i>Girl Scouts Religious Emblem</i>	<i>Cub Scouts Religious Emblem</i>	<i>Boy Scouts Religious Emblem</i>	<i>Parent / REC Guidance</i>
God is Love	Light of Christ	-	Parent/REC
Family of God	Parvuli Dei	-	Parent/REC
I Live My Faith	-	-	REC
Our Lady's Award	Our Lady's Award	Our Lady's Award	REC
Mary, the First Disciple	-	Ad Altare Dei	REC
Spirit Alive	-	Pope Pius XII	REC

3. **Order Religious Emblem booklets:**

❖ **Girl Scout Religious Emblem booklets are available at the Our Lady of Mercy CCOS office or on-line each year from:**

- **July 15 – March 15.**
- **Each REC must communicate to the Chairman of Religious Emblems the number of Scouts and Religious Award working on, if ordering on-line.**

❖ **Boy Scout Religious Awards (Our Lady of Mercy CCOS office may have Religious Emblem booklets once they run out of supply they are available only at the Boy Scout Office.**

- The Boy Scout Office does sell the Cub Scout and Boy Scout Religious Emblem booklets with tax added.

❖ **Our Lady's Award Booklets are only available by contacting the Chairman of the Religious Awards.**

4. **Facilitate Exit Interview:**

- ❖ **Set up a meeting with the parish priest:**
- ❖ To schedule **exit interviews**
- ❖ **With the scouts (as a group) per each Religious Award**
- ❖ **As a group in April and/or May.**

- This meeting should be scheduled at the beginning of the school year.

Priest:

- ❖ Parish Priest should interview all Scouts as a group per Religious Award prior to submitting Religious Award to CCOS.
 - Review with the Parish Priest letter:
 - Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Committee on Scouting Requirements for Priests – dated 10/16/2015
- ❖ **All applications are to be signed by Parish Priest.**
- ❖ Priest must sign and date the Original Religious Award Application for each scout. (Original Book Application cannot be copied)
- ❖ Invite the Parish Priest to the CCOS Religious Awards Ceremony.

5. **Finalize and Complete Applications:**

- ❖ All Religious Emblem Booklets,
- ❖ Religious Award Applications, and Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Committee on Scouting Religious Award Ceremony Application (RACA)
 - **All applications need to be signed by the appropriate individuals:**
 - Scout,
 - Parent,
 - Scout Leader,
 - Religious Emblem Counselor, and
 - Parish Priest
- ❖ Prepare the Diocesan CCOS Religious Award Ceremony Application (**RACA**) for the Ceremony and **attach this to the front** of the Original Religious Award Application.
 - CCOS Religious Emblem Counselor must sign the Diocesan CCOS Religious Award Ceremony Application (RACA).
 - (Application on page 39 of Counselor's manual, copy freely, it is also on our website)
 - Guidelines are listed in the:
 - Youth Religious Emblem Booklets and
 - Religious Emblem Counselor Manual.
- ❖ **Please note: The Original application in the Religious Emblem Booklet and the Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Committee on Scouting Religious Award Ceremony Application (RACA) are to be submitted for application per Religious Award per scout, along with the application fee per scout. Please do not send cash through the mail.**
- ❖ **Note: The Original Religious Emblem Booklets Application for the Religious Awards are Copyrighted – therefore the application in the booklet cannot be copied.**

6. Mail Application information:

- ❖ For each scout receiving a Religious Award, submit two applications:
 - Original Religious Award Application and
 - Diocesan CCOS Religious Award Ceremony Application page 39 of the Religious Emblem Counselor Manual, (RACA – which may be copied).
- ❖ \$6.00 Application Fee should be collected for each Religious Award per scout. Checks are to be made out to the “Catholic Committee on Scouting.”
- ❖ Submit the **two Religious Award Applications plus fees** to the CCOS address in advance of the

Due Date: June 15.

- **Mail to:**
Catholic Committee on Scouting
c/o Our Lady of Mercy
Religious Emblems Chairman
445 Marquette Ave
Baton Rouge, La. 70806

7. Ceremony:

- ❖ All Religious Emblem Counselors will receive confirmation of receipt of Religious Awards by email acknowledging all applicants receiving Religious Awards once approved, in advance of the ceremony.
 - This letter will include correct spelling of scouts name (full Christian name), the date, time and location of the Religious Award Ceremony.
 - REC’s are to affirm receipt of this letter
 - REC’s are to verify spelling of Scouts names and communicate back to the Religious Emblem Chairman that the spellings are correct.
- ❖ **Religious Emblem Counselors are responsible for contacting each parent and scout in their Parish for the CCOS ceremony date, time, and place.**
- ❖ Each Parish Priests receives an email letter of confirmation of all scouts receiving Religious Awards, along with an invitation of participating in the Ceremony.
- ❖ Come to the Ceremony;
 - Line up your scouts outside of Our Lady of Mercy following the Program order by:
 - Religious Emblem Award
 - Scout Troop – Pack number and
 - Alphabetically by name
 - Take lots of pictures and Relax!

- ❖ Anyone having digital pictures of the ceremony should contact Religious Emblem Chairman at cra77stola@cox.net.
 - Photos should be in the highest resolution for publication in the Catholic Commentator.
- ❖ Please recognize Religious Award recipients at troop/den/pack meetings.
 - Publish an article of the CCOS Ceremony and list all recipients of the Religious Awards in your parish bulletin.

8. **Keep in mind, all faiths have Religious Emblems:**

- ❖ Suggest scouts of other faiths speak to their Pastors/Minister,
- ❖ Check out materials at the Boy Scout and Girl Scout Offices or
- ❖ Contact: PRAY, Programs of Religious Activities with Youth <http://www.praypub.org>.

Counselors: Adult Recognition:

1. There are a number of **Adult Awards** available to Scout Leaders and Parents in recognition for their service – sharing their time, talent and treasures (spiritual gifts) with these Scouts in the Religious Emblem Programs. Information on these Adult Awards is provided in the Religious Emblem Counselor training (which is held two times a year) and in the Religious Emblem Counselors (REC) Manual, on the CCOS website info.ccosbr.net, and the National Scouting sites, <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/> and <http://www.nccgscf.org> and <http://www.nfcym.org>. Applications for adult awards are available in the REC manual or on the CCOS website info.ccosbr.net.
2. Applications for all adult recognitions must be submitted via mail by **May 15** to:

***Catholic Committee on Scouting
c/o Our Lady of Mercy
Religious Emblems Chairman
445 Marquette Ave.
Baton Rouge, La. 70806***

REC Counselors:

- ❖ ***All Counselors should contact us:***
 - If you have moved, or
 - Your phone number and/or
 - Email have changed.
 - It is important to inform us of these changes because we send our reminders and the newsletter through email.

- ❖ Each parish should have a contact person for Religious Awards – contact us if you do not know this person or would like to join us!
 - ❖ ALL REC'S can call us with any question concerning Religious Awards.
 - ❖ ALL REC'S ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR DIOCESAN COMMITTEE. We meet four times a year and participate in various activities with the scouts. We welcome you!
 - ❖ Check CCOS website info.ccosbr.net for copies of all CCOS applications/forms and upcoming events.
-
- ❖ ***Thank you for engaging in the journey of sharing your Catholic faith with the Scouts!***

God bless you!

Pat Mathurin