



Lakewood United Methodist Church Cub Scout Pack 104 Religious Emblems Guide

Hello and welcome to the Pack 104 religious emblems program guide. This guide will help you understand how to help your Scout earn his religious emblem award. To earn and wear the religious emblem is a significant achievement and is not taken lightly. Most programs require eight to twelve weeks or longer for completion. Let's get started with the basic principles of Scouting.

Cub Scout Oath:

On my honor I will do my best, To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Cub Scout Law:

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

One way that Cub Scouts can show their "Duty to God" is to earn the religious emblem of their faith and to wear the emblem on their uniform. Religious emblems are very special. When a Cub Scout wears his religious emblem on his uniform, it tells who he is and what he believes. It shows his Duty to God and his belief in faith by being "Reverent". Adult Scouters can also earn their religious emblem of faith. Further information will be provided at the end of this guide.

When a Scout earns his religious emblem, he also earns the right to wear the universal religious square knot. This knot is special because it can always be worn on a scout uniform, even after the scout progresses to a Boy Scout uniform or wears the uniform as an adult Leader.

The Cub Master is responsible to make the religious emblem award known to the Scouts in the Pack. Parents and religious leaders are responsible for helping the scout earn their religious emblem. This is not an award we earn together as a Cub Scout Pack. Rather, this is done on an individual basis because the Scouts are of different faiths and religious backgrounds.

The religious emblem is earned from the faith organization, based on the program it institutes, creates, develops and administers. Your religious emblem should be presented by clergy, usually in a worship service in the recipient's congregation. Whereas, the religious square knot is given by the Boy Scouts of America for successful completion of your religious emblem program. The square knot is awarded by the Cub Master to recognize the

Scout's accomplishment in a meaningful ceremony at a Pack Meeting or the Blue & Gold Banquet.

Most religious emblems programs have more than one level for Scouts. Most programs offer an emblem for each of the ranks in Scouting - Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts (Wolf and Bear), Webelos and Boy Scouts. When you earn more than one Religious Emblem, you may pin a special device in your square knot to show that you have earned your Religious Emblem at different levels. Most religious emblems programs also have an Adult Scouter award.

Why Complete the Program?

The religious emblems programs are key spiritual components of Scouting. These programs have been created by the national religious organizations or committees. *They help young people to become more active members of their own faith and encourage spiritual development by providing specific religious instruction.*

These programs are overseen by, and or taught by, the religious leaders and administered by religious organizations, not by the Boy Scouts of America or Pack 104. Religious emblems can play a vital role in the overall development of young people. Besides providing specific religious instruction, the religious emblems programs share many of the same values that are integral to the Scouting program, to include service to the community, intergenerational relationships, friendship-making skills, and positive self-esteem.

The religious emblems programs provide opportunities for young people to reinforce and internalize the values they have learned in Scouting and to relate them to their faith. *Research has shown that when young people are involved in both a religious organization and a civic youth organization, the number of positive assets increases while their at-risk behaviors decrease.* "Duty to God" has been a fundamental precept of the Scouting movement for 90 years.

Religious emblems help introduce and reinforce this spiritual component. Religious emblems also promote many of the same values that are the basis of the Cub Scout program. They help develop wholesome lifestyles in youth members.

How do you get started?

Participating in the religious emblems program will involve four basic steps for youth members and their families. First, youth members must obtain the specific booklet for their religion. (See the links below for additional information). This booklet contains information on all the lessons and service projects that they will need to complete. Each youth member needs a personal booklet to document progress. Some religious emblems programs also offer adult manuals for counselors, mentors and the religious leader (Priest, Pastor, Rabbi, etc.)

Second, parents must review the specific guidelines for their particular program. Some programs require that the young person be an official "member" of the local religious

institution; other programs may not. Age and grade requirements also vary from program to program. In addition, each program sets its own guidelines as to who may serve as a counselor or mentor. Some programs require clergy to serve as counselors and mentors; other programs allow parents or other family members to serve as counselors or mentors. Parents must check the specific guidelines for their particular program.

Third, families should talk to their religious leaders and, if possible, show them the booklet before beginning a program. Many of the programs require that they be completed under the auspices of that religious organization and its leader and require the signature of the organizations religious leader.

Fourth, youth members need to complete the requirements, obtain the proper signatures, and follow the instructions to order the emblem. These emblems are not available in the local council store. The emblem should be presented in a meaningful ceremony, preferably in the young person’s religious institution. The emblems can be presented at any time of the year. Scout Sunday in February is a perfect time to recognize youth members who have earned their religious emblems during the past year.

Lastly, in Pack 104, the Scout will be recognized for completion of the program and awarded his square knot at a Pack Meeting or at the annual Blue and Gold Banquet. The Scout has the choice to wear his Religious Medal Award or the Religious Square Knot above the left pocket seam.

Adult Scouters can also work on and receive their religious emblem. Adult Scouters are encouraged to seek out information and earn their religious award. Adult Scouters should also live by the Scout Oath and Law and have a “Duty to God” and to be “Reverent”. Not all faith institutions provide for an adult award. The adult Scouter should seek information from the religious organization of their faith. Please see the following links for more information.

Religious emblem program workbooks are available at the French Creek Council, 1815 Robison Road West, Erie, PA 16509. 814-868-5571.



Adult Religious Emblem Square Knot



Youth religious Emblem Square Knot

Chart of Religious Emblems in alphabetical order

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/ReligiousAwards/chart.aspx>

Additional information on how to get started from the BSA website

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/ReligiousAwards/getstarted.aspx>

BSA information on what award is available for each rank and if an adult awards is offered

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-879_WB.pdf

**For Lakewood UMC members, please contact; Reverend Robert Lewis at:
pastor@lakewooderie.org**

Thank you for visiting the religious emblems programs guide. Please visit our other Pack 104 links.

Do your best and God bless!

Thomas Dunmire Jr.
Chartered Organization Representative
Lakewood United Methodist Church