

Roundtable Hot Topic

A Scout Is Reverent



A Scout is reverent toward God. A Scout is faithful in their religious beliefs and respects the beliefs of others. The Scout Oath begins with duty to God, and the Scout Law ends with reverence. It is the twelfth point of the Scout Law, but it cannot be an afterthought. Reverence is integral to good character and citizenship!

As the BSA's Declaration of Religious Principle states: "The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God and, therefore, recognizes the religious element in the training of the member, but it is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that religious training. Its policy is that the home and organization or group with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life."

SCOUT SUNDAY

Scout Sunday is typically held the Sunday before February 8th which is the anniversary of Scouting. However in 2024, the Scouting.org calendar of religious observances shows all three religious observances on the following dates:

Scout Sunday - February 11, 2024

Scout Shabbat - February 9-10, 2024

Scout Jumuah - February 8-9, 2024

During these observances young people in Scouting can give back to their religious communities by honoring their "Duty to God". This is also a great time to honor Scouts and Scout leaders who have completed their religious programs with a presentation of their awards.

RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS

The religious emblems programs are created by the various religious groups to encourage youth to grow stronger in their faith. The religious groups—not the Boy Scouts of America—have created the religious emblem program. The Boy Scouts of America has approved of these programs and Scouts and Scouters may earn and wear their religious knots on their uniforms.

How do we get started on these programs?

Unit leaders/parents obtain the specific booklet for their scouts' religion. Each youth member needs his or her own booklet to document progress. Some religions offer adult manuals for counselors and mentors.



Resources on some religious award programs:

The **P.R.A.Y.** (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) program is a Bible-based religious emblems program for Protestant and Independent Christian churches designed to bring children, youth, and families to Christ. P.R.A.Y (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) is a non-profit organization aimed at fostering. www.praypub.org

Jewish Awards and Emblems <https://www.jewishscouting.org/awards-and-emblems/>

Vanguard award for Latter Day Saint Scouts <https://vanguardscouting.org/religious-awards/>

Additional Resources:

Calendar of Religious Observances 2024

<https://www.scouting.org/resources/relationships/religious-observances/calendar-of-religious-observances-2024/>

Scout Sunday information <https://scoutingwire.org/marketing-and-membership-hub/new-unit-development/chartered-organizations/religious-chartered-organizations/a-scout-is-reverent/>

Getting Started Page <https://www.scouting.org/awards/religious-awards/getstarted/>

Scouting.org Religious Emblems Information Page <https://www.scouting.org/awards/religious-awards/>