



# **2025 National Capital Area Council University of Scouting - College of Cub Scouting**

**CUB 212: A Cub Scout's Duty to God**

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## A Cub Scout's Duty to God

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## Scout Oath & Law

- Scout Oath - Duty to God and Country
  - By What Measure?
  - For What End?
- Scout Law
  - Reverent
  - But what about Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, and Clean



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## Moral Foundations/Character

- What is Character?
- What are Ethics?
- How Do Character/Ethics Get Formed?
- What is the Role of Religion?
- What is Scouting's Role?



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## Scouting & Faith – The Early Years

- What Did Baden Powell Say/Do?
  - Very Inclusive
  - Gentlemanly – British Military
  - Any Faith Tradition Should be Respected
- Can't Be No Religion



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## Early BSA Faith Leadership in USA

- YMCA role
  - Foundational meetings of BSA
  - 1<sup>st</sup> headquarters in YMCA headquarters in NYC
- James West, 1<sup>st</sup> Scout Executive –
  - added Brave, Clean, Reverent
- Quick adoption by faith communities as chartering organizations



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## BSA Mission Statement

- The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.



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## Aims & Goals of Scouting

- Character Development – adherence to moral virtue
- Citizenship – engagement and action for moral cause
- Personal Fitness – emotional well-being on a spiritual foundation
- Outdoor Awareness – appreciation and preservation of God's creation
- Leadership Development – principled moral influence on others



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## BSA Declaration of Religious Principle

- Article IX. Policies And Definitions (Policies)— Clause 1
- *The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God.*
  - In the first part of the [Scout Oath](#) or Promise the member declares, "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law."
  - The recognition of God as the ruling and leading power in the universe and the grateful acknowledgment of His favors and blessings are necessary to the best type of citizenship and are wholesome precepts in the education of the growing members.
  - No matter what the religious faith of the members may be, this fundamental need of good citizenship should be kept before them.
  - The Boy Scouts of America, 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 the organization or group with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life.



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## World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)

- "Duty to God" is a principle of worldwide Scouting and WOSM requires its member National Scout Organizations to reference "duty to God" in their Scout Promises.



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## WOSM (concluded)

- Fundamental Principles:
  - Under the title "Duty to God", the first of the above-mentioned principles of the Scout Movement is defined as "adherence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the religion that expresses them and acceptance of the duties resulting there from".



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## UK – The Scout Association

- All members of The Scout Association are encouraged to:
  - make every effort to progress in the understanding and observance of the Promise to do their best to do their duty to God;
  - belong to some religious body;
  - carry into daily practice what they profess.



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## What Duty to God Means to Faith Based Units

- Charters to Faith Based Units
  - Integral part of youth programs
  - Adjunct to youth programs
  - Service to broader community
- Goals of the Chartering Organization
- Impact on Leadership Choice
- Troop Number e.g. 316, 413, 4031



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## What Duty to God Means to Faith Based Units (concluded)

- Impact on Pack Activities
  - Meetings
  - Worship
  - Meeting location
  - Specific rules
- Still must be open to Scouts of other faiths who are willing to respect the pack's faith based adaptations



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## Some Faith Community Scouting Links

- BSA Faith Based Videos
  - <https://scouting.webdamdb.com/bp/#folder/942180>
- Baptist Scouters
  - <http://baptistscouters.org/>
- Catholic Committee on Scouting
  - <http://www.nccs-bsa.org>
- Hindu Scouting
  - <http://naha.us/>
- Islamic Council on Scouting
  - [Islamic Council On Scouting \(islamiccouncilonscouting.net\)](http://IslamicCouncilOnScouting.com)
- Jewish Committee on Scouting
  - <http://www.jewishscouting.org/>



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## What Duty to God Means in Secular Units

- Role of Family
- Role of Faith Community
- My pack –
  - Suburban multicultural secular pack that meets at a local elementary school
  - Catholic, Jewish, Hindu, LDS, Muslim, Protestant (multiple denominations), no faith community



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## The Religious Knot Program

- Resources
  - <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/Awards/ReligiousAwards.aspx>
  - [http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-879\\_WB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-879_WB.pdf)
  - [www.praypub.org](http://www.praypub.org)



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## Pack Tools & Resources

- Scout's Own Service
- Scout Sunday/Sabbath – How to Support
- Diversity – Learn About Other Faiths
- 10 Commandments Hike – select NCAC districts



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## Each Rank in Cub Scouting

- A Scout is Reverent
  - How? When?
  - How to Teach It?
- What is Required at Each Rank
  - Tiger
  - Wolf
  - Bear
  - Webelos
  - Arrow of Light
- How to Support Appropriately



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## Duty to God in Boy Scouting?

- Chaplain & Chaplain's Aide
- Prayers at Court of Honor
- Religious Knot Program
- Ties to service projects

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## Conclusion

- Faith Component of Scout Oath & Law
  - Reverent, but also Friendly, Courteous, Kind
- Faith-based units
  - Be respectful of Scouts of other faiths without compromising faith component of Unit & CO
- Secular units
  - Be respectful of all faiths
  - Guide families to resources
  - Faith & service projects
  - Scout's Own Service

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## Contact

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