



Duty to God and You

Complete Requirement 1 and at least two others of your choice.

1. Discuss with your parent, guardian, den leader, or other caring adult what it means to do your duty to God. Tell how you do your duty to God in your daily life.
 2. Earn the religious emblem of your faith that is appropriate for your age, if you have not done so already.
 3. Discuss with your family, family's faith leader, or other trusted adult how planning and participating in a service of worship or reflection helps you live your duty to God.
 4. List one thing that will bring you closer to doing your duty to God, and practice it for one month. Write down what you will do each day to remind you.
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Duty to God In Action

Complete Requirements 1 and 2 plus at least two others of your choice.

1. Discuss with your parent, guardian, den leader, or other caring adult what it means to do your duty to God. Tell how you do your duty to God in your daily life.
2. Under the direction of your parent, guardian, or religious or spiritual leader, do an act of service for someone in your family, neighborhood, or community. Talk about your service with your family. Tell your family how it related to doing your duty to God.
3. Earn the religious emblem of your faith that is appropriate for your age, if you have not done so already.
4. With your parent, guardian, or religious or spiritual leader, discuss and make a plan to do two things you think will help you better do your duty to God. Do these things for a month.
5. Discuss with your family how the Scout Oath and Scout Law relate to your beliefs about duty to God.
6. For at least a month, pray or reverently meditate each day as taught by your family or faith community.

Why a Duty to God?

A Scout is Reverent. He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion.

The BSA Statement of Religious Principle “maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God.” This adventure provides each Webelos Scout an opportunity to learn about and practice his religious faith.

DECLARATION OF RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLE

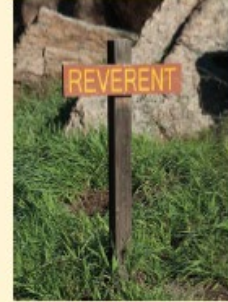
Article IX. Policies and Definitions—From the Charter and Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America

Section 1. Declaration of Religious Principle, 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.

Section 1. Activities, clause 2. The activities of the members of the Boy Scouts of America shall be carried on under conditions which show respect to the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion, as required by the twelfth point of the Scout Law, reading, “Reverent. A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.”

Section 1. Freedom, clause 3. In no case where a unit is connected with a church or other distinctively religious organization shall members of other denominations or faith be required, because of their membership in the unit, to take part in or observe a religious ceremony distinctly unique to that organization or church.

Section 1. Leaders, clause 4. Only persons willing to subscribe to these declarations of principles shall be entitled to certificates of leadership in carrying out the Scouting program.



Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scouting movement, believed that a person’s religion is not in how he behaves; rather it is in what he believes. This is where the Scout Law intersects with spirituality. In developing character, Scouts may connect their spirituality to the Scout Law so that the living out of their religious faith is also an active expression of the Scout Law.

Interfaith Packs and Dens

There can be some difficulty in interfaith packs in how you observe your duty to God when conducting a Den or Pack meeting. However, these difficulties can be overcome by understanding how each boy practices their own duty to God, according to their own faith, and permitting flexibility in how your Den or Pack observes its duty to God.

Still, even knowing what faith the boy practices doesn't keep your meeting from grinding to a halt when they refuse to say a prayer and won't tell you why. So feel free to use more generic prayers, and to mix up the observances with hymns or scriptural readings. Make it a plan in an interfaith den to give each boy a chance to give their observance their way, according to their faith and feelings.

Prayer

As Den Leaders we most often practice our Duty to God in Den and Pack meetings by asking a boy or parent to say a prayer... However, Buddhists normally don't pray, and when they do, it's a ritual; Jewish, Muslim, and Hindu boys may not have learned any of their traditional prayers; and some Christian boys may only pray aloud for saying grace while the rest of their prayers are silent ones. And regardless of their faith, a boy's parents may not encourage prayer at home and therefore the boy is frightened to say a prayer aloud as they're worried they don't know how to pray, or they fear they'll get it wrong and be embarrassed or criticized for it.

When a boy refuses to say a prayer, he often won't tell you why he's refusing. When this happens, have him help you understand his faith practice by speaking to him and his parents and talking to them about the duty to God programs.

The BSA guidelines for interfaith services are:

“...if the group consists of mixed beliefs, or if the beliefs of the group are unknown, then prayers should be of an interfaith content. However, if the group is of like belief, then it is entirely appropriate to offer belief-specific prayer.”

When a Den or Pack is diverse, prayers can be made much simpler in order to be open to all beliefs and practices. You can teach the boys to say a simple prayer such as:

“Gracious Giver of all good, we thank You for food and rest. Grant all we say or do pleases You.”

Hymns

Having fun and singing songs is an important part of Scouting and should never be discouraged, even when the boys sing out of key. Hymns can be a great way to show our Duty to God and can be used in place of the prayer.

However, in an interfaith Den or Pack, it's better to select hymns that are not specific to a single faith, such as “America the Beautiful”. It's also appropriate to have the boys teach each other songs of their faith (if they know any) and listen for things that are similar to their own beliefs.

Scriptural Readings

Another great way to show our Duty to God is through reading scripture aloud. In an interfaith Den or Pack it's best to not limit these readings to one particular book of scripture, such as the bible, but permit all faiths to be represented. Meaningful passages from the Koran, the Dhammapada (teachings of the Buddha), the Book of Mormon, the Bhagavad Gita and other religious texts can be found easily on the internet, but the boys should also be encouraged to find passages on their own that exemplify the tenets of the Scout oath and law.

*“The true servants of the gracious God are the following:
Those who walk upon earth with humility and when they are tempted by the evil ones, they respond: peace;
Those who pass the hours of the night in prayers and standing before the Lord;*

*Those who pray: Lord turn away from us the punishment of hell, for it is a heavy torment, it is indeed an evil dwelling place;
Those who are neither extravagant nor stingy in spending, but keeping a balance between the two;
Those who repent and believe and do good deeds.”*

(From the Koran, Al-Furqan, part 19, chapter 25)

Completing This Adventure

Webelos Scouts should fulfill the requirements for these adventures primarily at home with their family.

If your den or pack chooses to participate in Scout Sunday, or a Scout interfaith service, all members of the Webelos Den will need to assist and/or participate in the service to fulfill Requirement 3 for Duty to God and You.

The Service Project (Requirement 2 in Duty to God in Action) should be a church or family project, separate from a den or pack service project.

Earn the religious emblem of your faith that is appropriate for your age, if you have not done so already

Your local council service center can help you and the families in your den learn more about the religious emblems program. Families can also visit www.praypub.org or www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-879_WB.pdf



Most faiths have a second religious emblem specifically for Webelos, so if they earned their first emblem as a Tiger, Wolf or Bear, they can earn a new emblem, now. A small Webelos pin is available at the Scout shop to place on their religious knot, to show they also earned it as a Webelos (not necessary for faiths that do not have a Webelos-specific award).

In the course of earning their religious emblem, the Webelos Scout will usually have the opportunity to participate in a worship service, practice parts of their faith for one month and pray or meditate for one month, regardless of the emblem being sought.

For example:

Mike, Chris, and Daniel are working on their Duty to God and You and Duty to God in Action adventures and both decide to earn their religious emblem. Mike is LDS, Chris is Methodist, and Daniel is Buddhist.

Mike is told to use his Faith in God for Boys booklet he was given in primary. By completing the items marked with a square knot, he will earn his religious emblem. His requirements are as follows:

1. Give a family home evening lesson on Joseph Smith's first vision.
2. Given an opening and closing prayer in family home evening or Primary.
3. Tell a story from the Book of Mormon that teaches about faith.
4. Prepare a pedigree chart.
5. Write a letter to a teacher, your parents, or your grandparents telling them what you appreciate and respect about them.
6. Help your primary leaders plan and carry out an upcoming quarterly activity.
7. Write a poem, story, or short play that teaches a principle of the gospel or is about Heavenly Father's creations.

Mike completes his requirements with the help of his family and primary leaders. When his Den Leader talks to him about the Adventure requirements, Mike learns he's completed the following:

1. Discuss with your parent, guardian, den leader, or other caring adult what it means to do your duty to God. Tell how you do your duty to God in your daily life. – **completed in the discussion with the Den Leader.**
2. Earn the religious emblem of your faith that is appropriate for your age, if you have not done so already. - **Completed**
3. Discuss with your family, family's faith leader, or other trusted adult how planning and participating in a service of worship or reflection helps you live your duty to God. – **Requirement 6 in earning his Emblem. – Duty to God and You Adventure COMPLETED**
4. Under the direction of your parent, guardian, or religious or spiritual leader, do an act of service for someone in your family, neighborhood, or community. Talk about your service with your family. Tell your family how it related to doing your duty to God. – **Requirement 5 in earning his Emblem**

5. With your parent, guardian, or religious or spiritual leader, discuss and make a plan to do two things you think will help you better do your duty to God. Do these things for a month. – **Requirements 2 and 3, as these could be set over the course of a month**
6. Discuss with your family how the Scout Oath and Scout Law relate to your beliefs about duty to God. – **Requirement 7 – Duty to God in Action COMPLETED**

Chris meets with his Pastor and is told they're going to make a "pizza" together, as he works on his God and Family emblem.

1. Crust-Foundation – We are God's Family

Every pizza needs a crust or foundation. Families need foundations, too. Families need to build their foundations on God and on God's love. Students will *read passages from Deuteronomy and Matthew* to learn how families need to build their foundations on God and on God's love.

2. Sauce – Family Heritage, Spiritual Heritage

Every pizza has sauce (which has simmered over time). Like the sauce, a family's heritage grows over time. A family's heritage, especially its Christian heritage, is an important part of its identity. Students will *learn about Ruth* (how she came to faith through marriage) and *Jesus* (how he was brought up in the faith from infancy on) and realize that even though our faith journeys may differ, our faith in Christ is the same.

3. Toppings – Our Talents and Gifts Strengthen Our Families

The toppings on a pizza make each pizza unique. Like the toppings, the individual members of a family bring unique gifts and talents that strengthen and make their family special. Students will *read about Moses and Aaron*, two brothers with very different gifts, and *Timothy*, a young man with the gift of faith. Students *will be challenged to name their own gifts and the special gifts in each member of their family*.

4. Cheese – In God's Family We're Loved No Matter What! Because We're Loved, We Follow Rules

The cheese on a pizza covers everything and holds it together. Families need to be held together, too. Christian rules and guidelines can help families relate to each other and live together as God's family. Students will *study Jesus lost in the temple and the parable of the prodigal son and discuss WHY we need rules. They will then be required to memorize the Ten Commandments*.

5. Bake – Being in God's Family Helps Us When Things Are Tough

When pizza comes out of a hot oven, it's better than ever! Families can be like pizza: by relying on God, families can come through the heat of tough times and be even stronger. Students will *study Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace, and Paul and Silas in prison, and be challenged to name the "faith tools" that can help their families in tough times*.

6. Eat, Share, Enjoy! – In God's Family, We Share as a Response to God's Love

Pizza tastes good: it nourishes our bodies and satisfies our hunger. Pizza is fun to share: everybody loves a pizza party. Families are like pizza: they need to provide spiritual nourishment for family members, and they need to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those around them! Students will *read about the feeding of the five thousand and the Great Commission to learn the importance of sharing God's love with other people*.

Chris finishes his requirements and meets with his Den leader to learn he's completed the following:

1. Discuss with your parent, guardian, den leader, or other caring adult what it means to do your duty to God. Tell how you do your duty to God in your daily life. – **completed in the discussion with the Den Leader.**

2. Earn the religious emblem of your faith that is appropriate for your age, if you have not done so already. - **Completed**
3. Discuss with your family, family's faith leader, or other trusted adult how planning and participating in a service of worship or reflection helps you live your duty to God. – **Requirement 4 in earning his Emblem. – Duty to God and You Adventure COMPLETED**
4. Under the direction of your parent, guardian, or religious or spiritual leader, do an act of service for someone in your family, neighborhood, or community. Talk about your service with your family. Tell your family how it related to doing your duty to God. – **Requirement 6 in earning his Emblem**
5. With your parent, guardian, or religious or spiritual leader, discuss and make a plan to do two things you think will help you better do your duty to God. Do these things for a month. – **Requirement 5 as each faith tool could be practiced daily over the course of a month**
6. Discuss with your family how the Scout Oath and Scout Law relate to your beliefs about duty to God. – **Requirement 6 – Duty to God in Action COMPLETED**

Daniel meets with the monk assigned to work with the youth in his temple and works on his Metta award:

1. The Buddhist Shrine
 - a. Visit your Temple, stand directly before the shrine, and observe all adornments and symbols carefully.
 - b. Draw a picture of the central symbol of the shrine and explain briefly.
 - c. Do a brief meditation service daily before your family shrine throughout the course.
2. The Ways of a Buddhist
 - a. Attend a Buddhist Sunday Service regularly. Can you detect the smell of incense? What does it symbolize?
 - b. Carry a juzu (meditation beads) with you. Learn how it is used and how one behaves in the Temple.
 - c. Draw a picture of a juzu in your notebook.
3. The Buddhist Holidays
 - a. Read an article on Buddhist Holidays.
 - b. Discuss with your minister on some of the important holidays observed at your temple.
 - c. Write a brief essay on you favorite holiday.
4. The Buddha's Childhood
 - a. Read the story of Prince Siddhartha's birth and early childhood.
 - b. Make a note in you notebook of the names of the Prince's parents.
 - c. Write a paragraph on how he spent his boyhood years.
5. The Search for Buddhahood
 - a. List reasons why Prince Siddhartha abandoned his palace to seek Enlightenment.
 - b. Where did the Prince go and what did he do after leaving the Palace.
 - c. Draw a picture of India and mark the point where his Enlightenment took place.
6. The First Teaching of the Buddha
 - a. Who did the Buddha seek out first to teach what he had attained?
 - b. What was his first sermon called? Draw a picture of the Wheel of Dharma.
 - c. Record in you notebook the Three Treasures recited by the Buddha's disciples.
7. The Teaching of Buddha
 - a. Read the chapter on the Basic Teaching of Buddha.
 - b. List the Four Characteristics of life with a brief explanation in you notebook.
 - c. Draw a picture of the Wheel of Dharma and indicate its relationship to the Eightfold Noble Path.
8. Denominational Emphasis
 - a. Discuss with your minister on the various schools of Buddhism.
 - b. Learn who is responsible for the founding of the denomination to which you are affiliated.
 - c. List a few of the outstanding characteristics of your denomination.

He completes his religious emblem later than Mike and Chris. He talks to his Den Leader and learns he's completed the following requirements:

1. Discuss with your parent, guardian, den leader, or other caring adult what it means to do your duty to God. Tell how you do your duty to God in your daily life. . – **completed in the discussion with the Den Leader.**
2. Earn the religious emblem of your faith that is appropriate for your age, if you have not done so already. – **completed**
3. List one thing that will bring you closer to doing your duty to God, and practice it for one month. Write down what you will do each day to remind you. – **completed in requirements 1c., 2a. or 2b. – Duty to God and You COMPLETED**
4. Under the direction of your parent, guardian, or religious or spiritual leader, do an act of service for someone in your family, neighborhood, or community. Talk about your service with your family. Tell your family how it related to doing your duty to God. – **completed during requirement 7**
5. With your parent, guardian, or religious or spiritual leader, discuss and make a plan to do two things you think will help you better do your duty to God. Do these things for a month. – **completed in requirements 1c, 2a and 2b.**
6. For at least a month, pray or reverently meditate each day as taught by your family or faith community. – **completed in requirement 1c. – Duty to God in Action COMPLETED.**

The following month, at their pack meeting, the boys were honored to receive their purple knots as well as their pins for completing both Faith in God Adventures. Their religious leaders were in attendance and invited to speak on what they boy did to earn his award. The following Sunday, Mike was called up during Sacrament Meeting, Chris was brought up to the Dias at his church and received his medal, and Daniel was honored at his Sunday service with his medal.

