



**JDCCS**  
 Joliet Diocese Catholic  
 Committee on Scouting

Blanchette Catholic Center  
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## Welcome to the Scouts BSA Training Program for Religious Recognition Advisers, Counselors, and Facilitators!

This training program packet is designed for leaders in Scouts BSA who wish to serve as an adviser, counselor, or facilitator for Catholic emblems offered within the Scouts BSA program. (There is a separate (but very similar) training if you would like to be a trained advisor [for religious recognitions for other scouting groups.](#))

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# TRAINED ADVISOR'S CHECKLIST FOR BECOMING CERTIFIED AND STARTING AN AAD OR PPXII GROUP

Once you've been approved as a trained religious recognition advisor, you'll want to bookmark this page because it is your guide on how to do your job! Here's the step-by-step to helping Catholic scouts earn their recognitions. Lots of additional helpful resources and information can be found at the Helpful Files for Trained Advisors [here](#).

\_\_\_ **Complete this training! Then fill out the application and await your confirmation and welcome interview.** (see p.27 for specifics)

\_\_\_ **Inform the JDCCS of your intention to hold group meetings for a specific medal.** (See p.28 for specifics.)

\_\_\_ **Assemble your group through announcements, newsletters, social media, etc.** (see p .28 for specifics)

\_\_\_ **Meet with your scouts and help them complete the requirements.** Use the resources we offer on the website to help run your groups.(see sections III and IV for specifics)

\_\_\_ **When all requirements are fulfilled, arrange for a Board of Review.** (see p. 29 for specifics)

\_\_\_ **Collectively send in your group's application with check or make sure everyone does it individually to order your medals.** (see p.31 for specifics)

\_\_\_ **Help your scout be recognized by their scout group, their parish, and/or the Annual Recognition Mass.** (see p. 31 for specifics)

**More questions? Try the [Helpful Files for Advisors page](#) on the JDCCS website.**

**Now let's get to the specifics!**

# INTRODUCTION

## SERVICE AREA

Before we dig in, do you live and/or are in a parish within the **Joliet Diocese**? The Diocese comprises the City of Joliet in Illinois and its surrounding counties: **DuPage, Ford, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, Kendall and Will**. If you live in Kane or Cook County, check to be sure that you are completing training in the right diocese. You may need to be helping scouts receive their awards through the Rockford or Chicago Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting. If so, please contact those dioceses for procedures and training.

## CATHOLIC SCOUTING

As you probably know, religious recognition programs in scouting help fulfill the 12<sup>th</sup> point of the scout law (“a scout is reverent”) as well as their Duty to God which is a requirement for all Scouts

BSA. Religious recognition programs in Scouting can have a significant influence in developing spirituality, citizenship, and character.

The most important ingredient in Catholic Scouting is the interaction that youth have with their adult leaders and with priests, deacons, and Religious Recognition advisers...that’s you! So volunteers should all try to live as role who participate in the Catholic faith and offer service to others. We also know you that in your service to scouts, you will grow in faith by helping youth explore answers to their questions and stay informed about church teaching and events.

## JDCCS

**The training you are receiving today is made possible by the [Joliet Catholic Committee on Scouting](#) (aka JDCCS)**

The Joliet Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting is made up of volunteers from the four Scouts BSA Councils we serve: Three Fires, Rainbow, Pathways to Adventure, and Prairielands. Our mission is to assist the Catholic Scouts within the diocese to grow and develop in keeping with the spirit and teachings of Jesus and the highest ideals of His Church.

The committee is concerned with Catholic Scouting in the diocese and supports scouts working towards religious emblems by holding several events every year to help them fulfill their requirements. You will want to mark your calendar for these dates and encourage the scouts in your group and/or accompany them to these events:



**[Day of Reflections](#)** (held 1-2x a year as a half-day retreat featuring scouting fun and faith activities)

**Annual Mass and Religious Recognition Ceremony** Where all scouts who have earned religious emblems throughout the year are honored at one joyous event. Typically held the first Sunday after Easter near the feast of St. George. When you have a group of scouts who have earned a medal, you will order the actual pins and devices from JDCCS. (more on this later)



**Ros-a-Ree** An annual weekend retreat and campout, typically held in August at a diocesan church.

**St. George trek at Philmont** We also provide scholarships for the St. George trek at Philmont. Scouts BSA and Venturers are eligible.



**As a trained religious advisor, you may also interact with the JDCCS for:**

- Applying to become a trained advisor
- Potentially attending JDCCS events with your scouts
- Participating in religious activities and service projects with JDCCS
- Holding Boards of Review for scouts to earn their medals (necessary for AAD and PPXII)
- Getting support for publicizing your upcoming groups

The committee meets the third Monday of every month either online or at the Blanchette Catholic Center in Romeoville, Illinois. We welcome guests and input!

## NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING



### ***National Catholic Committee On Scouting (NCCS)***

It is the mission of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting to utilize and ensure the constructive use of the program of the Boy Scouts of America as a viable form of youth ministry with the Catholic youth of our nation. The National Catholic Committee on Scouting seeks to sustain and strengthen the relationship between the Boy Scouts of America and the Catholic Church and to work cooperatively with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) and various other groups involved in youth ministry in the United States. From the earliest days of Scouting in the United States, the Catholic Church has found it a useful tool for youth ministry. Since its formation in 1934, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting has worked to ensure that Catholic-chartered Scout units and Catholic Scouts would have appropriate resources to integrate their faith experience with their Scouting experience – A Scout is reverent. A Scout promises to do his duty to God. See the [NCCS Guide to Catholic Scouting](#).

## **STAY INFORMED!**

As you help scouts with their religious recognitions, [the JDCCS website](#) is a fount of information to answer all your questions.

Our organization also publishes a quarterly newsletter with information of use to all trained advisors. You will be added to the list when you become a counselor or you can write to us at [jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com](mailto:jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com) and request to be put on the list.

You can also keep in touch with us on our [private Facebook group page](#).

The JDCCS is here to give you mentorship and encouragement as you perform your duties as a trained advisor! If you ever need us, we can be reached anytime at [jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com](mailto:jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com) or at 815- 834-4012.

**Now let's see what we're working towards....**



## PART I: JOLIET DIOCESE YOUTH PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

### Youth Protection

We know this is a serious issue today and in the case of the Scout leader who works with Scouts on their religious recognitions in the Joliet Diocese, they must adhere to two sets of youth protection standards: those from Scouts BSA and those from the diocese.

If you are a scout leader at a Catholic parish, you probably have already taken a Protecting God's Children (PGC) class. That's great, but there is more required for compliance with the Diocese of Joliet. **As an applicant for religious recognition advisor, you must have a VIRTUS account and comply with all diocesan requirements for those working with minors and vulnerable adults.**

Before we get into VIRTUS, let's do a quick review of the youth protection measures that both the diocese and the Scouts BSA require.

#### **Two-Deep Leadership**

Two registered adult leaders or one registered leader and a parent of a participant, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required on all interactions with youth members. The chartered organization is responsible for ensuring that sufficient leadership is provided for all activities.

#### **No One-on-One Contact**

One-on-one contact between adults and youth members is not permitted. In situations that require personal conferences, such as a Scoutmaster's conference, the meeting is to be conducted in view of other adults and youths. (CCS Interpretation Note: If there are not two counselors, the parent of one of the participants or another adult not related to the counselor should be present in the general area. If a religious recognitions session must take place with one youth and one adult, the session must not be in a closed space where the two are alone – a meeting room, rectory, or similar location is acceptable if the room is open, and if at least one other adult is present in the area, and if that adult may view activities where the session is being held, and if the other adult will periodically be in a position to view the session area. A meeting in the home of the Scout or the counselor is acceptable, if there is another adult present, who is not related to the adult counselor)

#### **Respect of Privacy**

Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing clothes and taking

showers at camp, and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations.

### **Appropriate Attire**

Proper clothing for activities is required.

### **Zoom Meeting Protection**

As remote trainings have become more ubiquitous, youth protection guidelines must be followed to ensure a safe, virtual environment. The best practices with social media are the same rules we use with in-person gatherings, face-to-face or classroom setting. You would not be in a 1-on-1 situation in with a minor in-person and neither should you be in a 1-on-1 situation with a minor on social media.

### **Never Do:**

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1. **Have Private Contact** with any minor/young person (under the age of 18) involved in any program (other than your own children and family). **\*\*Private** means completely outside of the sight and hearing of others, without any oversights.
2. **Never** share your personal email or phone with a minor.
3. **Never** allow your phone to be used by anyone other than you.
4. **NO "Friending"** of any minor/young person (under the age of 18)
5. **Never** text minors individually using your own personal phone. All communication with young people should be done in a group setting and include/have oversight from a supervisor and Communication with minors using social media tools must be done in group settings **NEVER** an individual 1-on-1 setting.
6. **Never** exchange pictures/videos with young people in a *one-on-one setting*. Posting photos on a social media page or group chat where other adults are present is allowed by the site administrator only.
7. **Never** engage in any sexually oriented conversations or the telling of inappropriate jokes.
8. The acquisition, possession, or distribution of any pornographic or inappropriate images, or verbiage by whatever means or whatever technology is unacceptable and prosecutable.

### **Always Do:**

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- **Parents Should Always** be aware of and be included in any communications with minors/youth. *In the rare instance* where notifying the parent/guardian would place the youth in jeopardy then it is essential that you contact your supervisor at the parish and the diocese.
- **All Communications** should be done through organization sponsored/sanctioned/approved media sites/webpages that keep everyone informed. This means that it is not appropriate to communicate with a young person/child using your own personal account for any social media platform.
- **Establish a separate 'professional' email** for communications with families and students(minors) that is used exclusively for your role as a volunteer: i.e: [mrcsgrade8RE@yahoo.com](mailto:mrcsgrade8RE@yahoo.com). All emails sent to large groups should always be sent as bcc: blind copy to maintain privacy.

- **Directors/Supervisor** should be included in all communications with families/minors.
  - **Safety Settings:** Make sure that whatever virtual platform you use that the default settings create the safest environment for minors and minimizes mischief and enhances the learning intended.
  - **2-Adults:** There must always be two adults/chaperones present when interacting with minors. This layered support offers protection for both the facilitators and the minors. This applies to virtual and in- person gatherings.
- **If young people initiate 1-on-1 contact with you** inform them that you would be happy to communicate during normal working hours/class time, in a place that is conducive to your role/ministry and invite them to meet in a location, preferably at the parish, where others can see and hear you. Additionally, notify your immediate supervisor/program director regarding when and where the meeting will occur as soon as possible. **If the meeting is in regard to Protecting God's Children protocols or self-harm / youth endangerment issues notify the Office of Youth Formation** as soon as possible to ensure that all parties are safeguarded.
- **Social Media & Minors:** Social media maintained by the parish, program, or school are not intended for the use of children. Sanctioned media sites must have at least two adult administrators, (21 yrs. and older). For youth to use any site operated by a parish/school that is oriented toward youth under the age of 18 you must have parental consent to do so. Users of such a site may not post images. Posting of images must be done by the administrator only. Any images of minors must have the *prior written* consent of a parent or legal guardian of any minor depicted and must not use names of any minors.
- **Communication with Youth** should always be done during appropriate timeframes and time of day. Establish clear boundaries when communicating with minors.
- **Enforcement:** Any use of social media that does not comply with these standards should be brought to the attention of the program director. Failure to follow these social media protocols may result in the loss of privileges and/or disciplinary action.





## TRAINED ADVISORS, SCOUT VOLUNTEERS AND VIRTUS FILE AND REQUIREMENTS

All Diocesan Catholic Committees on Scouting are responsible for training their religious emblem advisors and part of that training is to ensure that they are compliant with all youth protection measures through the sponsoring diocese (Joliet Diocese in this case).

The Diocese of Joliet's Office of Child and Youth Protection has a chart on the diocesan website that spells out the compliance requirements for all who work, minister, and volunteer with minors/vulnerable adults. It is available [HERE](#) and explained further below.

### [VIRTUS SPECIFICS](#)

#### **Your Role in VIRTUS**

Aspiring religious emblem advisors are categorized with a primary role as a VOLUNTEER with a secondary role as a VOLUNTEER: SCOUT LEADER. You must therefore be in compliance with everything required for volunteers with minors in a repetitive role. Your requirements are spelled out below, or you can access it [HERE](#).

#### **Your Local Administrator/Safe Environment Coordinator**

This is the person who may already be keeping track of your training in VIRTUS if you have volunteered or worked in any capacity somewhere in the Diocese of Joliet. Now that you are volunteering in the Diocese of Joliet, your VIRTUS file must be visible to another location --the Blanchette Catholic Center, home of the Diocese of Joliet. Please work with your local administrator to do this. You may also need to contact the VIRTUS helpline to make this request. If you are creating a new file, your local administrator will be the Diocese of Joliet.

#### **Creating a VIRTUS Account**

***This is a FREE account that you create online that serves as a clearinghouse for all your child and youth protection training required by the diocese.*** Create an account at [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org) and follow the instructions. If you have questions about your account, see the FAQs below

Trained advisors must complete the following items within your VIRTUS account to be in compliance:

#### **A. Proof of completion of a Protecting God's Children Class**

*PGC does not expire and does not need to be renewed if you have completed the course. However, proof of taking it must exist in your VIRTUS file. If you do not see proof in your VIRTUS account, you must contact the safe environment coordinator (aka the local administrator) from the parish, school, etc. that gave you the course. Ask them to make the file visible to the Joliet Diocese, Blanchette Catholic Center. For your PGC to count in our diocese, we must have a shared copy of your record. If you have a hard certificate, submit a copy to the Diocese of Joliet's Office of Child and Youth Protection and they will add it to your account.*

#### **B. Review and sign the diocesan policy and standards of behavior form**

*This is an easy "read and sign" in your VIRTUS account*

#### **C. Complete a background check**

*Even though the scouts do a background check on you when you register as a leader, The Office of Child and Youth Protection at the Diocese of Joliet is bound to perform its own background checks. For everyone's safety, we cannot accept background checks performed by other organizations. A name-based background check will be electronically ordered through your account. You must sign a release form to make this happen.*

**D. Complete Mandated Reporter Training and sign a CANTS22.**

*Even though Scout leaders complete some youth protection training, the Office of Child and Youth Protection at the Diocese of Joliet must have everyone ministering to minors complete a Mandated Reporter Training (MRT) approved by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and signing the CANTS letter to verify the MRT was taken. For everyone's safety, we cannot accept youth protection training from other organizations. However, if you are a professional in a role that deals with minors, you may have already taken this training through your employer. Please have the local administrator make this file visible for the Blanchette Catholic Center location. When complete, submit your CANTS22 letter to your local administrator.*

**E. Complete a volunteer application**

*Even though you have doubtless filled out an application for scouts when you became a leader, and perhaps even for a role in your church, we must still have you on file as a volunteer applicant for the Diocese of Joliet specifically. Submit it to your local administrator for your VIRTUS account.*

The entire process to complete your VIRTUS compliance requirements will take you about an hour.

You can check the status of your compliance by logging into your personal account on the VIRTUS website. Please take time to ensure that you are in compliance with all diocesan requirements before volunteering at JDCCS events or helping scouts earn their religious recognitions. Doing so will speed your application process and get you certified to train and begin working with youth sooner!

**FAQs Concerning VIRTUS Account**

**What happens if I don't complete my VIRTUS account?**

You will not be in compliance with the JDCCS. Therefore, when you apply to be a trained advisor and your application is checked for your VIRTUS status, you will be asked to complete all missing items or open an account before you can be approved as a counselor. YOU CANNOT SKIP THIS STEP IF YOU WANT TO HELP SCOUTS WITH THEIR RELIGIOUS MEDALS. Please do not try. A scout is honest.

**How do I create a VIRTUS account?**

Go to [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org) and follow the instructions. Then complete the bullet list above of items required for compliance.

**Is creating a VIRTUS account free?**

Yes.

**I don't know if I have a VIRTUS account. What do I do?**

You can go online and try to recover a user name and password. Or contact [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org) and ask them to check for you. They can help you with a new username and password if necessary.

**I took Protecting God's Children a long time ago. Is it still good? I do not see it in my VIRTUS account.**

PGC does not need to be renewed if you have completed the course. However, if you do not see proof of taking the course in your VIRTUS account, you must contact the safe environment coordinator from the parish, school, etc. that gave you the course. Ask them to transfer the file to the Joliet Diocese. For your PGC to count in our diocese, we must have a shared copy of your record.

**Why are you going to check my background again? The Scouts BSA already did that.**

The office of youth protection at the Joliet Diocese is bound to perform its own background checks. For everyone's safety, we cannot accept background checks performed by other organizations.

**Why do I have to take mandatory reporting training? I already have YPT!**

The office of youth protection at the Joliet Diocese must have everyone ministering to minors and vulnerable adults complete the diocesan-approved MRT. For everyone's safety, we cannot accept youth protection training from other organizations.

**I created a VIRTUS account a long time ago but cannot find it. What should I do?**

Try to remember why you created the account and which parish or institution you were serving at the time. Chances are it was not in the Joliet Diocese. The safe environment coordinator at the place you served should be able to give the Joliet Diocese access to your VIRTUS account. You may have to call [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org) to gain access to your account again.

**If you have any additional questions regarding your VIRTUS requirements, please contact JDCCS or the Office of Youth Protection at the Joliet Diocese.**



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## PART II

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### Introduction

#### ***What does it mean to be a Catholic Scout?***

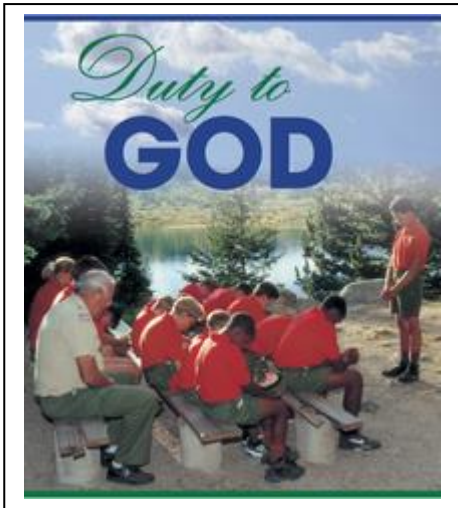
It means being a Scout that believes in Jesus Christ and upholding everything the Catholic Church believes and teaches. Scouts grow to understand their faith within scouting through earning Religious Emblems. Religious emblems help Scouts grow stronger in their faith life, providing an opportunity to learn more about Catholicism and grow closer to Christ. Earning religious emblems is an important cornerstone of faith development in study, activities, prayer, and community to strengthen their spiritual foundation. Developing a deeper relationship with God coupled with a love and understanding of the Catholic Church will carry young people through the rest of their lives.

#### ***Catholic Youth Ministry***

“Youth ministry is the response of the Christian community to the needs of young people and the sharing of the unique gifts of youth with the larger community.” Essential goals: (1) Empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today; (2) Draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the faith community; and (3) Foster the personal and spiritual growth of each young person.”

The values taught in Scouting are the same found in the Gospels. Scouting is an effective way to help Catholic youth to do their duty to God and to their country. Scouting builds character and teaches devotion to God in an environment that provides wholesome fun under the guidance of strong adult role models. The Scouting program provides a wonderful channel to involve youth in the life of Catholic parishes.

Young people experience Scouting as a growth into personal maturity and social responsibility. They learn to assume their role in life with a high degree of commitment and to care for others who are less fortunate. They develop a strong desire to build a culture of goodwill, respect for the environment, acceptance of duties, including the most fundamental of all duties — love of God and obedience to His will.



When a young person joins the Boy Scouts of America, one of the first things he or she learns is the Scout Oath, and every member starts the Oath the same way:

**“On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God ...”**

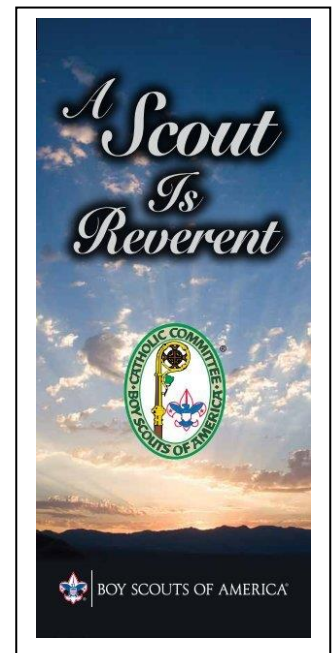
The wording was not created at random. Duty to God has been one of the most important principles of Scouting from the beginning. In fact, in 1916, James E. West, the BSA’s first Chief Scout Executive, helped install what is now known as the “Declaration of Religious Principle” into the original BSA constitution and by-laws, and it remains there today. Underscoring just how important it is, the BSA National Executive Board met at the 2018 National Annual Meeting and adopted a resolution that reaffirms the organization’s Duty to God. “Duty to God” is at the heart of the Scouting movement. Religious emblems reinforce this spiritual component and

promote many of the values found in the Scouting program.

### **12<sup>th</sup> Point of the Scout Law**

“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.”

James E. West, the first Chief Scout Executive, was responsible, at least in part, for the great interest churches had in Scouting. Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the British founder of Scouting, did not include reverence for God in his Scout Law. But at West's urging, the BSA adopted "A Scout is reverent" as the 12th point of the American Scout Law in 1911 because, he explained later, "I felt...that there is nothing more essential in the education of the youth of America than to give them religious instruction."



### **GOALS OF TRAINING**

Our goal in this training is to give you the information you need to serve as a Catholic Religious Recognition counselor, or facilitator. At the end of this training, you should:

- Understand how Catholic Scouting and the Religious Recognitions can help a young person grow in faith, and Scouting as a youth ministry
- Know what Religious Recognitions are available to Scouts BSA and Venturers
- Have a basic idea of the goals and content of the Religious Recognitions requirements
- Understand some important points from the Scouts BSA and JDCCS for child safety

- Understand the Diocesan requirements for earning a Religious Recognition

Please note that this training primarily provides information about Catholic scouting and the emblem programs themselves. For tips on how best to run a youth group, please reference the counselor manuals for your respective religious emblem program.

## **Position Roles with the Emblems**

**ROLE OF THE COORDINATOR** – (Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei Medals) A Pack Coordinator works as the Counselor to the parents. The Pack Coordinator does not work with the young Scouts. Only parents or legal guardians work directly with the youth on the Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei Medals. An understanding of where the Scouts are and what kind of assistance the parents need is necessary.

**ROLE OF THE COUNSELOR** – (Ad Altare Dei Medal) The Counselor is to help the youth in going beyond the surface answers of childhood as part of their experience of growing as a Christian and to deal calmly and reasonably with the occasional challenge to authority.

**ROLE OF THE FACILITATOR** – (Pope Pius XII Medal) As a Facilitator the Emblems Counselor now steps back and lets the older youth lead the discussions. The Facilitator is a general moderator or guide. The Facilitator brings the group together to get the youth started. The Facilitator adapts these skills depending on the need of the moment.

**So let's now look at the Religious Emblems programs you are needed to lead.**

## PART III

### Religious Recognitions for Scouts BSA

#### Religious Emblems

##### **What are the religious emblems programs?**

The religious emblems programs are programs 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 emblems programs themselves. The Boy Scouts of America has approved of these programs and allows the recognition to be worn on the official uniform, but each religious organization develops and administers its own program. A poster of all the religious emblems available is available [here](#).



##### **Catholic Religious Emblems**

A program developed by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) for the Boy Scouts of America of the Catholic faith. Catholic religious emblems are based on age, grade and/or rank. There are two which can be earned by cub scouts and two earned by Scouts BSA and Venturers. If a scout has earned all 4 emblems, they can apply for the Pillars of Faith Award.



The emblems programs for elementary age youth are facilitated and guided by parents, grandparents, or guardian and the programs are designed to be done in the family setting. This is not to say that a pack or den cannot work together on an emblem, but a lot of the material will need to be discussed as specific to one's family as God is explored as seen from a family perspective.

No specific training needs to be done by a parent wishing to lead his/her child to earn their religious emblem and there is help available on the JDCCS website if they have



questions. The emblems programs for Jr. high and high school-age youth are designed to be done by a group of youth working together to explore the material and how it relates to what they are experiencing in their youth program. These programs must be led by a trained, certified religious emblems counselor, advisor, or facilitator through this (or another diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting). Counselor guides are available to help guide these emblems. A retreat or day of recollection is required as part of these emblems.

## Cub Scout Emblems



**Light of Christ.** The purpose is to help the Cub Scout develop a personal relationship with Jesus. With the parents' active assistance and participation in this program, it is hoped that the Cub will come to see Jesus as a real person and his friend. The Light of Christ Emblem is designed for registered 6- and 7-year-old (Tiger or Wolf) Cub Scouts of the Catholic Faith. The book is designed for the Cub Scout and his parent or guardian to work together.



**Parvuli Dei.** The purpose of the Parvuli Dei (Children of God) emblem is to help scouts explore a wide range of activities in order to discover the presence of God in their daily lives as members of their families and parishes, and also to develop a good, positive self-image through the contributions they can make to the group or community. Registered 8 to 10 year old (Bear or Webelos) of Catholic Faith. The book is designed for the Cub Scout and his parent or guardian to work together.

## Scouts BSA and Venturer Emblems

### Ad Altare Dei



The purpose of the Ad Altare Dei (to the altar of God) program is to help Catholic Youth of the Roman Rite develop a fully Christian way of life in the faith community. The program is organized in chapters based on the seven sacraments. The seven Sacraments are a primary means toward spiritual growth.

#### Program Objectives

The most important aspect of the program is that the Scout grows in his spiritual experience of his relationship to God and the church.

#### Eligibility

Any youth of the Roman Catholic Faith who is registered in a BSA Troop, Crew, or ship. Designed for 13 – 14-year-old Boy Scouts & Venturers, (*7th grade + allowed*), but older Scouts and Venturers through age 20 may use this program. Active member of a unit for 6 months. Completed 6th grade before starting the program.



## Pope Pius XII

Scouts of high-school age and Venturers are eligible for the emblem. Designed for age 15-16 year old's, but all registered Venturers and Sea Scouts before their 21st birthday and all registered Scouts BSA (in high school) before their 18th birthday.

This emblem equips the Scout to take his place in the world as a maturing Catholic and a maturing American. With a facilitator the Scouts reflect and dialogue on subjects such as: Christianity, Vocation, Responsibility to Self and Society, Citizenship and Response to Faith. Pope Pius XII is Catholic Scouting's church-related ministries and vocation program. The program deals with different life choices (single, married, religious, ordained), occupations and ministries in the church as calls from God. It includes youth led discussions on current issues facing the church and society.



## Light is Life

The "Light is Life" is a program developed for scouts of the Eastern-rite Catholic Churches. Light is Life respects the cultural and ritual differences among the various Eastern Catholic Churches. This program is to be used by the Eastern Catholic Scouts rather than the Ad Altare Dei program. It is not appropriate to work on both programs. Counselors for the Light is Life emblem should be approved in advance by their pastors and the eparchial Scout Chaplain or Catholic Committee in Scouting



## REQUIRED BOOKS FOR EMBLEM PROGRAMS

All activity books can be purchased at the council's scout shop, through the NCCS online store, at [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org).

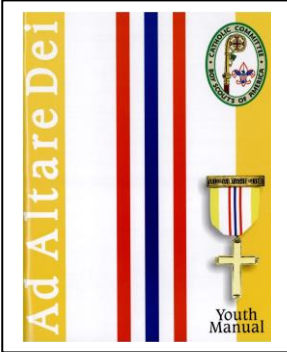
Ad Altare Dei online Version through NCCS website.

A Catholic Bible is required cannot be purchased at above locations.

Pope Pius XII Facilitator manual and Participant manual can only be purchased at the NCCS online store.

**Ok, let's look at the counselor's role and requirements for medals that require a trained advisor—the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII emblems.**

# AD ALTARE DEI COUNSELOR



## Program Structure

### AD ALTARE DEI - WHAT IS IT?

- Youth Ministry Program
- Faith Growth via the Sacraments
- Not Catechetical
- Typically takes 6-8 months to complete
- 13-14 year olds

The Ad Altare Dei Program, like all programs utilized by the Catholic Church, is ministering to the youth of our faith. The Bishops of the United States in 1927 recognized the Scouting program as an important means of providing youth ministry. We as Scouters need to realize that the Boy Scout program is not simply an outside civic organization that wishes to utilize our facilities, but rather a tool we have for youth ministry. The Ad Altare Dei program is not a program to increase the Scout's knowledge of his faith, but rather a program to assist him in determining how that knowledge comes into play in his daily life. He grows in the Sacraments by seeing how they come into play daily in his life. The Ad Altare Dei program cannot be used as a Sacraments preparation program. It is a faith growth program, not a faith knowledge program. A scout's knowledge and activity in Scouting is a vital part of his learning experience.

## Ad Altare Dei Counselors

- The counselor has the option of using either the printed youth manual or the electronic version.  
[ELECTRONIC VERSION \(e-AAD\)](#)
- Use the AAD Counselor Guide and the [Religious Emblem Reference Manual](#) (PDF).
- All religious Emblem Counselors and Facilitators must have current BSA Youth Protection and Local Diocese Youth Protection training.
- Counsel the participants when required, and in general facilitate (keep moving and on track) the general discussion.
- Hold all scheduled meetings.
- The youths Emblem book is to be examined as the Scout proceeds through each step of the program. The counselor will sign and date the certification of completion for the step. **Spiritual growth should be evident when progressing from step to step.**
- Virtual meetings need to follow the two deep leadership rules of safe Scouting. (see youth protection section of this training)

## Counselor's Guide

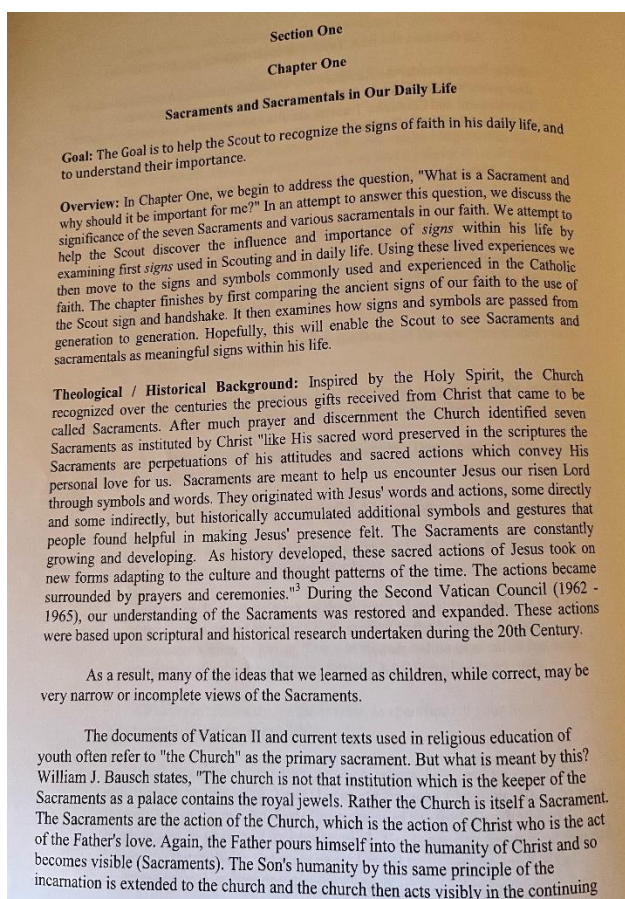
You must own one to work with your group! Inside you will find:

- **Goal of the chapter**

The first part of each chapter in the Counselor's Guide lists the Goal for that Chapter.

- **General overview**

The second part is a General Overview of the Chapter. This explains how the chapter is laid out, the different points that will be developed within the chapter and how these points will be tied together.



- **Theological/Historical background**

The third part is the Theological/Historical Background or overview. During Vatican II the Church examined its current teachings in light of the early church. The Church made many changes to bring current teaching into line with the early fathers. They did a good job of instructing the youth of the changes, but did not pass this onto the members already out of school. This section attempts to explain the history of the Sacrament, as well as the current church teaching

- **Question by question answers to the AAD Scout Manual**

The last section is a step-by-step analysis of each part of the program. It discusses the intent of the step, gives suggestions on how to proceed with the step and alerts the counselor to any problems that may be encountered. Simply put, this section provides many of the answers set out in the Scout's AAD manual.

## Scout Ad Altare Dei Workbook

For each scout, the first page in the AAD Scout Manual is a cream-colored application that needs to be completed by all Scouts working on the AAD emblem. It includes:

- Applicant's Request
- Parent's Approval
- Counselor's Approval
- Unit Leader's Approval
- Pastor's Approval

It is important that many members of the faith community be aware that the Scout is working on his religious emblem. The Scout applicant requests his desire to work on this award. Parents approve of their son working on

**Application To Begin Working On The  
Ad Altare Dei Emblem**

(Please Print)

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Troop \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Arch /Diocese \_\_\_\_\_ Parish \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant's Request**

I hereby make application to begin working on the Ad Altare Dei Emblem. On my honor as a Catholic and as a Boy Scout I certify that I have fully met the requirements to begin this program.  
 Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Approval**

My son has my permission to work on the Ad Altare Dei Emblem, and I will gladly support him and work with him.  
 Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Counselor's Approval**

I hereby Certify that I have completed the Arch/Diocese Ad Altare Counselors Training program, the Arch/Diocese Youth Protection training and BSA Youth Protection Training. I am willing to work with this individual.  
 Counselor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Boy Scoutmaster's Approval**

I hereby certify that the above named Scout for the last six months has been an active, registered member in our troop.  
 Boy Scoutmaster's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Pastor's Approval**

I hereby certify that the above named Scout is a member of my parish, and have no objections to his receiving the Ad Altare Dei Emblem if he successfully fulfills the requirements. I have received and approved the application from the above-named counselor to work with the youth of our parish.  
 Pastor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

the AAD and indicate their support and assistance for him by signing their approval. The Counselor also provides approval to work with this Scout. All Counselors are trained and approved by the Diocese before facilitating any AAD sessions. The Unit Leader certifies that the Scout is registered with the Boy Scouts of America and has been active for a minimum of 6 months within the Troop. The Pastor must also approve, indicating that the Scout is a member of the parish and that he has no objections to his receiving the AAD emblem if successfully completed. Do not tear this application page out of the manual at this time. Wait for the Board of Review which will occur at the end of the program.

### Chapter Outlines

There are eight chapters in the Ad Altare Dei Scout Manual.

- **Chapter 1:** Sacraments & Sacramentals in our Daily Life
- **Chapters 2-4:** Sacraments of Initiation
- **Chapters 5-6:** Sacraments of Healing
- **Chapters 7-8:** Sacraments of Service

Here is a brief overview of each of the chapters.

**Chapter 1** covers Sacraments and Sacramentals in Our Daily Life. The goal is to help the scout to recognize the signs of faith in his daily life, and to understand their importance.

**Chapters 2 through 4** cover the Sacraments of Initiation. As a member of Scouting, Scouts join millions of adults throughout the world in the adventures of Scouting. In Baptism individuals throughout the world join millions of people in the adventure of faith in Christ. As a Scout grows in skills and leadership, he grows in character. As he grows in his knowledge of faith and is fed by the Eucharist, he grows in his dedication to Christian values. As a catholic Scout, he becomes a better Christian the more he makes Jesus Christ “the way, the truth and the life” for himself. And through Confirmation, he begins to take on a role of Christian leadership in his family, his troop his parish, his community and his Church.

**Chapters 5 through 6** address the Sacraments of Healing. The Sacraments of Christian Healing are Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. Through the centuries of the Church, these Sacraments have gone through radical change and are now positioned to better express their true healing nature.

**Chapters 7 and 8** focus on the elements of Service. These chapters assist the Scouts in investigating how ordination and marriage helps individuals grow in holiness, and witness Christ’s love through their service commitment.



## Organization of Chapters

Each chapter includes the following sections:

- Life Experiences • Activity • Faith Responses • Signoff • Follow-up

Each chapter in the Youth's AAD Scout Manual is divided into five sections.

- The first section (Life Experiences) examines situations from the Scout's life and relates that experience to the Sacraments.
- The second section (Activity) has various activities for the Scout to see this relationship in action.
- The third section (Faith Response) provides the Scout with the opportunity to respond to the call of God through the Sacrament. This is the part where a scout shows what they know and how to place his belief into practice.
- The fourth section (Sign-off) has both the counselor and the scout certifying completion of the chapter. The sign-off is a testament that the scout has explored that part of the AAD program.
- The fifth section (Follow-up) has the youth relating to his Unit Leader his progress on the emblem. This can be done during the youth's next Scoutmaster Conference. This Conference (per the Boy Scouts of America) should not only take place at rank advancement, but rather every 3 months to check on the Scouts progress. During this conference the Scout should update the Scoutmaster on his progress for this emblem. It does not matter if the Scoutmaster is Catholic or not. The scout does not have to wait for the sign-off before proceeding with the program and the Scoutmaster can sign-off on more than one step at a time.

The first chapter has an ongoing activity which consists of the Retreat or Day of Recollection and a Crossword Puzzle. The Scout will need to work on this throughout the program.

## Program Completion


- After all sections have been completed, the counselor will contact the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting to find out the schedule for the AAD Board of Review for the scouts in their group. (Hint: Boards of Review are always offered at Days of Recollection)
- The Scout will sit before the Board of Review.
- After Board of Review has been successfully completed, the counselor should contact the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting for further direction concerning presentation instructions.

The last page of the scout manual includes an application with:

- Candidate's Certification • Counselor's Certification • Board of Review

When all the chapters have been completed, the candidate will so indicate with his signature on the back side of the application. The counselor will also indicate his certification of approval. The counselor will then contact the

**Application For  
Review and Presentation  
Ad Altare Dei  
Emblem**



**Report For Diocesan Scout Chaplain's Office**

Has Applicant's Fee Received \_\_\_\_\_

Arch/Diocesan Scout Chaplain Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Date Recorded \_\_\_\_\_

Date Emblem Mailed \_\_\_\_\_

Date Presented \_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate's Certification**

I hereby make application for the Ad Altare Dei emblem. On my honor as a Scout and as a Catholic I certify that I have faithfully fulfilled all the requirements for this emblem. I further certify that I have prepared myself as best I can for a review.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Councilor's Certification**

I hereby certify that the above named Scout has successfully completed the work required for the Ad Altare Dei Emblem.

Councilor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Board of Review Certification**

**To The Diocesan Scout Chaplain:**

The undersigned review committee certifies that this Scout has presented the proper credentials and records and that he has satisfactorily passed a review of the requirements for this program. We therefore recommend that he be presented with the Ad Altare Dei emblem.

The review was given before us on (Date) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Scout's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilor's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting regarding the Board of Review date and presentation instructions. The Board meets with each of the applicants and reviews their overall progress. Emphasis is placed on the spiritual growth of the scout as evidenced by progress made by the scout from chapter to chapter.

The Ad Altare Dei program uses the following types of activities to earn the medals: Group Discussion, Bible Readings, Creative projects (skits, PowerPoints, collages, etc.), Service projects, Word searches and crossword puzzles

There is a PowerPoint presentation on the JDCCS website that goes into the Ad Altare Dei program IN DETAIL. It walks you through each chapter of the book and gives you hints about how best to present the material, work with the group, etc. **Please [this link](#)** before planning your group or workshop. **Additional information about teaching this medal can be found on the website [here](#).**

# Pope Pius XII Facilitator

Scouts of high-school age and Venturers are eligible for the emblem. Designed for age 15-16 years old, but all registered Venturers and Sea Scouts before their 21st birthday and all registered Scouts BSA (in high school) before their 18th birthday can earn the award.



This emblem equips the Scout to take his place in the world as a maturing Catholic and a maturing American and helps them explore their place in the world within a desired vocation and occupation.

## Requirements

Each Venture Crew Member and Scout must have their own Activity Book (*Pope Pius XII Religious Emblem Participant Manual*, Publication Date: 2017). These manuals are available only from the [NCCS Online Store](#). The program should be run by the candidates themselves, the adult serves as a Moderator

- Ideal group size is 4-12, but the course may be run with smaller groups.
- A number of interviews and an investigation of a controversial issue facing the church or society are integral to the program.
- A retreat experience, ideally centered on the Pius XII program itself and a ministries service project are required. The JDCCS offers Days of Recollection and Ros-a-Ree retreats are offered to fulfill this requirement.
- The program is designed to be completed in 9-12 sessions. As the youth are older, two-hour sessions seem to work well, and flexibility is often required in scheduling sessions and interview feed backs.
- All candidates must successfully complete a Pope Pius XII Board of Review.
- Diocesan and BSA Youth Protection policies **must** be followed.
- A trained religious emblems coordinator/counselor/moderator is required to work on religious emblems. Contact your Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting to become trained and for ceremony schedules.

**The Pope Pius XII program uses the following types of activities to earn the medals:**

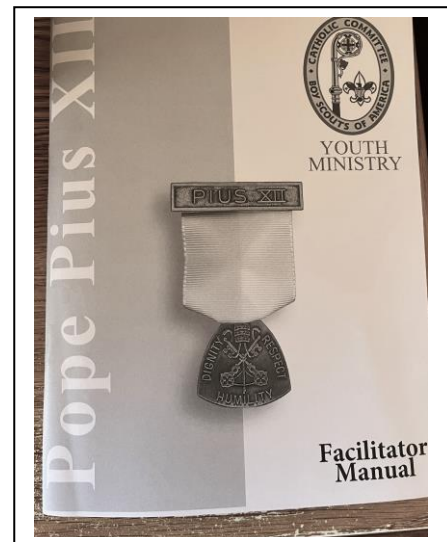
- Group Discussion
- Bible and Catechetical Study
- Interviews with people in different life states
- Interviews with people in different careers and vocations
- Service projects
- Final research report on Catholic issue

There is a PowerPoint presentation on the JDCCS website that goes into the Pope Pius XII program IN DETAIL. It walks you through each chapter of the book and gives you hints about how best to present the material, work with the group, etc. It will tell you everything you need to know. See the PowerPoint presentation at [this link](#) before planning your group or workshop.

- Additional information can be found on the website [here](#).

## Pope Pius XII Facilitators Role

- Counselors for the Pope Pius XII emblem should be approved in advance by their pastors and the Joliet Catholic Committee on Scouting.
- The ***Pope Pius XII Religious Emblem Facilitator Manual*** (Publication Date: 2017) is an integral part of this program and contains the necessary resources for anyone. Facilitator Manuals may be obtained only directly from NCCS Website [here](#).
- All Religious Emblem Facilitators must have current BSA Youth Protection Training and Local Diocese Youth Protection training.
- Form the group
- Act as Facilitator, not group leaders
- Help the candidate focus on essential elements and important issues
- Keep the Religious Emblems Coordinator informed of the youth's progress.



## Program Completion

- After all sections have been completed, the counselor will contact the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting to find out the schedule for the Pope Pius XII Board of Review.
- The Scout will sit before the Board of Review.
- After Board of Review has been successfully completed, the counselor should contact the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting for further direction concerning presentation instructions.
- Candidates and Facilitator are asked to complete the paper or on-line survey to give NCCS feedback about the program.



## Pillars of Faith - Duty to God



This is a special award for those members of Scouts BSA who have earned **ALL** four of the Catholic Religious emblems: *Light of Christ*, *Parvuli Dei*, *Ad Altare Dei*, and *Pope Pius XII*. The recognition consists of a golden pin which can be worn on the Scout uniform or as a lapel pin on non-Scout clothing.

Because this is a cumulative award from the JDCCS, it is awarded once a year, at the Annual Religious Recognitions Mass & Ceremony. The Pillars of Faith Eligible youth should complete pages 2 & 3 of the application in the attached brochure before their 21st birthday and forward it to the Joliet Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting.

[Click Here for information and Application](#)

## The Scouts BSA Religious Knot

Trained advisors should be aware that Scouts who earn any NCCS Religious Emblem are also entitled to wear a Scouts BSA Religious Knot over their left pocket. Please remind your scout to order the knot through their Troop or Pack advancement chair so it can be presented at an upcoming meeting. If they are not presented with the Religious Emblems, they can be purchased at your local BSA Council Service Center Scout Shop with proof that the scout received the emblem.



# NCYFM MEDALS & OTHER LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Scouts BSA are also able and qualified to pursue religious medals available from the National Catholic Youth Formation Ministry.

These awards include **God is Love, Family of God, I Live My Faith, Mary the First Disciple, The Spirit Alive, and Missio**. They are typically pursued by scouts not in Scouts BSA such as Girl Scouts of the USA, American Heritage Girls and Campfire Scouts who do not qualify for NCCS medals.

If you would like to learn more about these medals and become trained to present them, please see the training materials [HERE](#).



**God is Love**



**Family of God**



**Mary, The First Disciple**



**Spirit Alive**

There are also many religious activities and series of activities where scouts can earn a patch. These programs are administered by the NCCS and take less time to earn and can be completed in one or two meetings or a weekend retreat. They are a great option to focus on particular Saints, Marian celebrations, faith exploration, etc. See Appendix A





## **PART IV**

# **TRAINED ADVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

## **STARTING A GROUP**

**I have been trained, what's next?**

- 1. Inform the JDCCS of your intention to hold group meetings for a specific medal.** (This is for several reasons: (1) so we can help you [publicize your group formation](#) to get more scouts; (2) to ensure we have medals in our inventory for your group and (3) to offer mentorship or opportunities to fulfill requirements. Please see the website to complete and email in the [Intent to form a group form](#).
- 2. Find a location for your meetings.** Have another counselor or parent with you during meeting time. Two deep leadership is required and if you have females in your class a female adult must also be present. Zoom meetings are allowed too, but not preferred.
- 3. Form a group of scouts who would like to earn the medal.**  
You can advertise by words of mouth, flyers, parish bulletins, the JDCCS website, council newsletters and roundtables etc. There are some helpful templates and other information on the webpage [here](#). When the JDCCS is informed that you are starting a group, we will share the news on our private Facebook group and/or the newsletter if possible.
- 4. Before your first meeting determine the cost of the program.** Many counselors collect the money at the first meeting. The costs usually cover the workbook, retreat, and the medal. Prices vary so check the scout shop and the JDCCS website. The cost for the program should include the workbook (~\$5) a retreat (varies) and the [cost of the medals](#). Make sure you spell out to your parents what the money is going for. If you pick up the workbooks that will guarantee you they will be there for the first class instruction. All Religious Emblems must be completed using an ORIGINAL workbook. No copies of workbooks are allowed.
- 5. Purchase the AAD or Pope Pius XII or Ad Altare Dei Counselor manual.** The AAD counselor manual has the answers to the Youth activity manual and lesson help in it. It

may also be easier to purchase a Youth Manual and go through the chapters and fill out the answers. The Pope Pius Facilitator Manual also gives lessons and talking points.

6. **Develop your lessons and/or make an outline to cover your classes.** There are 8 Chapters in the AAD class It is almost impossible to complete 1 Chapter per week. You can assign work to be done out of class and a couple of assignments can only be done outside of class. Be sensitive to the fact that the scouts also have lots of schoolwork they need to get done outside of school.
7. **Open and end each class session with a prayer.** At the first meeting fill out the Application to Begin Working on the medal and have the scouts get the necessary signatures. This completed application has to be shown at the Board of Review and turned in when ordering the medals or for class completion. Remember as each chapter is completed; you, the scout, and the scoutmaster sign off on each chapter.
8. **After the class and Board of Reviews are completed, order the medals for the class.** See specifics on how to order later on.

## Scouts with Special Needs

Although the requirements for the religious recognitions cannot be changed, modifications and adaptations are allowed to permit the adult Adviser / Counselor / Facilitator to present the program to any Scout with special needs. In the case of educational disability, the Board of Review should be made aware of the person's disability prior to the meeting so that they may fairly evaluate the progress made by the Scout. The Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting may be able to provide some suggestions in modifications for a specific need if asked.

## Lone Catholic Scout Program

Since its inception Scouts BSA has been concerned with extending the Scouting program to scouts in isolated areas or those who find it impossible to join a nearby Scouting unit. The Lone Scout plan serves such scouts who cannot take part in a nearby Cub Scout pack or Scouts BSA troop on a regular basis because of such factors as leader availability, distance, weather, time, or disability.

With this in mind, there have been allowances made to accommodate youth wishing to earn these recognitions. While many of the programs are best conducted in a group setting, in some cases this is impossible. Therefore allowances have been made for a Scout or Venturer to fulfill the program requirements on an individual basis under the *Lone Catholic Scout Program*. They **MUST** however follow these guidelines:

1. The student **MUST** work (at least via phone) with a trained counselor (preferably one who is also a member of the JDCCS). Regularly scheduled calls should take place between the counselor and the student. It is the student's responsibility to contact and find a counselor (the JDCCS maintains a list of trained counselors on their website for this purpose).
2. The full and completed recognition manual along with **ALL** the corroborating work **MUST** be turned in as evidence that the work was completed **BEFORE** a Board of Review can be scheduled. This should be sent to the trained counselor the student was already working with in Step 1.
3. A JDCCS member **MUST** be present (or available by phone) during the Board of Review.

# Holding Class Sessions

Your counselor's manual will be very helpful in giving you information about how to best hold your group meetings. There is also plenty of good information on the JDCCS website, especially the page, [helpful files for advisors](#).

Remember that the best you can do with the scouts is to be honest about your own faith and be a good role model. If you don't have the answer to their question, find out so that both of your faiths can be enriched.

## Board of Review

Upon completion of all requirements, a meeting with Board of Review must be scheduled for each scouts wishing to earn the Ad Altare Dei, and Pope Pius XII emblem. **BORs are typically offered at JDCCS events and retreats**, , or you can set one up on your own.

The main purpose for a Board of Review is to give the Scouts an opportunity to show off what they have learned in a relaxed format that promotes discussion among all the participants. It is NOT meant to be a test like an oral exam or a grilling about the information they learned. Instead, initiate a conversation and a dialogue to discover what the youth did during the program. The Board does not need to check the proper completion of all requirements; however, they should encourage the Scout to share their experience in earning the recognition, and to validate that that the proper procedures and steps were followed.

### Setting Up a Board of Review

Advisors must assist the Scouts in obtaining a Board of Review. The Board can convene in or near the parish or meeting location of the Scouts. Please note that Board of Reviews are also typically made available at JDCCS events.

Ideally, the Board of Review should be made up of a panel of at least three individuals from the following groups:

- Religious Recognition Advisors /Counselors/Facilitators for AAD or PPXII
- Scouts who have already earned the Recognitions
- Ordained clergy
- Lay ministers and scouters familiar with the program
- JDCCS members

Once the Board is completed and the scout's workbook is signed off by the board, the recognitions can then be ordered through the Diocesan Scouting Office.

Contact the JDCCS with any questions regarding board of reviews.

## Ordering Medals

Parents should order the Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei medals themselves. For Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII groups, the trained advisor should order the medals on behalf of their scouts. Collect the ORIGINAL signed application forms from the scout books from each of the scouts to mail in with your order form and check. Make sure all signatures (including the pastor's) are received. (However, have each scout keep a copy of their application in case of emergency.)

**Emblems may be ordered by mail only.** The Diocesan Office is not able to process "walk-in" orders. Payment is by check and must accompany the order. The Diocesan Office is not able to accept credit cards.

*Please be patient and allow 2-3 weeks to process medals! All medals are processed by volunteer and part-time staff.*

The CURRENT order form can be found [HERE](#).

## Presentation of Recognitions

The #1 reason Scouts do not earn a recognition is that they simply did not know it was available. Help others learn about the availability by presenting the recognition in **THREE** of the following settings:

- A. **At the Parish Level.** [Scout Sunday](#) is a great time to make a parish presentation of the medal, but why wait? You can work with the parish pastor to arrange for a special blessing or recognition to take place at a Sunday mass. You can find some pointers and scripts for making presentations on the JDCCS website.
- B. **At the Diocesan Level.** All Scouts who have earned a recognition in the calendar year should also be presented annually at the Religious Recognitions Mass & Ceremony which is often celebrated by a Bishop. Find dates, places and times for the Annual Religious Recognitions Mass & Ceremony on the JDCCS website, [here](#).
- C. **At the Troop Level.** Lastly all recognitions should also be presented at a Troop/Unit level during their regularly scheduled award night (i.e. Court of Awards / Court of Honor, etc.)

You can find some helpful guidance in planning your presentations on the website [HERE](#).



**JDCCS**  
Joliet Diocese Catholic  
Committee on Scouting

Blanchette Catholic Center  
16555 Weber Rd.  
Crest Hill, IL 60403

[www.dioceseofjoliet.org/scouting](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/scouting)  
[Jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com](mailto:Jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com)

## **PART V**

# **TRAINED ADVISOR APPLICATION**

Before you advise or facilitate an Ad Altare Dei or Pope Pius XII group, you must apply to become a trained advisor. The application is located on the JDCCS website [HERE](#).

Once the application is received, we check to make sure all materials are in including your proof of Protecting God's Children, YPT, scouting registration, VIRTUS and the completed quiz (at the end of this packet.)

If all is well, you will receive a trained advisor card within 2 weeks. Please be patient with us; all applications are processed by part-time and volunteer JDCCS staff.

### **Applicant Welcome Interview**

Once all your paperwork is complete we will contact you for a brief Zoom meeting with one or more members of the committee. The interview is the last step to becoming a trained advisor. The purpose of the welcome Interview is to introduce you to a member of the JDCCS, answer any questions you have, and offer any help or mentorship you may need to serve your group.

### **Failure to Follow Policy**

The JDCCS cannot authorize recognition of a religious recognition if the policies set forth in these training materials are not followed. Special attention should be paid to the requirements for Advisers / Counselors / Facilitators. If an advisor helps a scout but has not been approved by the JDCCS, the committee waives the right to deny the emblem to the scout.

*PLEASE*, for the sake of your scouts, complete the application form and await the approval and receipt of your trained advisor card before you begin helping a group of scouts with their emblems.

A scout is honest.

# Thank You for Completing This Program

## Required Paperwork Checklist

- Application to be a trained advisor
- VIRTUS** training for JDCCS compliance (Create a profile [here](#). Review and complete POLICY & STANDARDS, proof of background check and Protecting God's Children completion, Mandatory Reporter training and volunteer application. See p. 10 for specifics.
- Religious Recognitions Adviser Application
- Youth Protection Training Certificate (*Copy- BSA Only*)
- Program Quiz Answer Sheet
- Interview with Committee Members (to be scheduled after application is complete)

**FASTEST Service - Scan & Email All To: [jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com](mailto:jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com)**

**-OR-**

**Print & Mail All To:**

**Diocese of Joliet  
Attn: Catholic Committee on Scouting Blanchette  
Catholic Center  
16555 Weber Road • Crest Hill, Illinois 60403**

After **All** paperwork has been reviewed, we will try to get in touch with you as soon as possible to schedule a time for your welcome interview.





**JDCCS**  
**Joliet Diocese Catholic**  
**Committee on Scouting**

Blanchette Catholic Center  
 16555 Weber Rd.  
 Crest Hill, IL 60403

www.dioceseofjoliet.org/scouting  
 Jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com

**RELIGIOUS RECOGNITIONS ADVISER APPLICATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Scout Registration # (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish City: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Scouting Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Council: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_

.....  
**BACKGROUND**

**Catholic Religion Background (please check all that apply):**

\_\_\_\_ Catholic Elementary School \_\_\_\_ Elementary CCD Program \_\_\_\_ Catholic High School \_\_\_\_ High School CCD  
 Program \_\_\_\_ Catholic University \_\_\_\_ RCIA Program \_\_\_\_ Other – Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult Religious/Faith Continuing Education:**

\_\_\_\_ Parish CCD/PSR Teacher \_\_\_\_ RENEW Leader \_\_\_\_ Catholic Faith Workshops/Courses - If YES, please list:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Other – Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish/Church Activities:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Scouting Background (List positions with dates, locations and awards, or if you have a scouting resume, please attach)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Community Activities, Civic Awards, hobbies, and other Interests:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Explain why you want to be a Religious Recognitions Adviser: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**REFERENCES**

The following people have known me for some time and would be willing to provide the committee a reference:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**PARISH ENDORSEMENT**

I, the undersigned, certify that the above-mentioned person is an active member of my parish. I further endorse this person as a Religious Recognitions Adviser, within this Diocese, with the duty and responsibility of guiding the faith development of Catholic youth. To my knowledge, the abovementioned person is qualified to work with youth in accordance with our Diocesan Youth Protection Policy.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Pastor or his designate**

**Date**

\*\*\*\*\*

**SIGNATURE**

I, the undersigned, hereby make application to become a Religious Recognitions Adviser. I testify that I have reviewed all information in this packet and I have an active VIRTIS account and am in compliance with all Joliet Diocese regulations. The information provided herein is true and correct. I authorize the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (JDCCS), to contact the above-named references. I further authorize the JDCCS to provide my contact information to those seeking an adviser for the recognitions I am being certified for. This includes my name being included in the posting on the JDCCS website of trained counselors.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant's Signature**

**Date**

Please email completed application and quiz to [jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com](mailto:jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com) or send to Blanchette Catholic Center, 16555 Weber Rd., Crest Hill, IL 60403.

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<b>FOR ARCH/DIOCESAN USE ONLY</b>	
Certification Record Registration Verified: _____	Youth Protection (BSA Only): _____
Venture YPT (BSA Only): _____	
References Checked by: _____	Date: _____
Interviewed by: _____	Date: _____
Approved by: _____	
Commission valid until: _____	Religious Recognitions Adviser Number: _____



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## BSA Recognitions and Awards Training

### Quiz - BSA Religious Emblems

Please use this answer sheet to complete the following quiz and mail or email the answer sheet only with the other required information to the JDCCS.

---

Mark your answers a, b, c, d or T or F for true and false

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 16. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 17. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 18. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 19. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 20. _____ |
| 6. _____  | 21. _____ |
| 7. _____  | 22. _____ |
| 8. _____  | 23. _____ |
| 9. _____  | 24. _____ |
| 10. _____ |           |
| 11. _____ |           |
| 12. _____ |           |
| 13. _____ |           |
| 14. _____ |           |
| 15. _____ |           |

## QUIZ FOR JDCCS TRAINED ADVISOR APPLICANTS

**1. Which one of the following classes is required to be compliant with the Joliet Diocese Youth Protection Policy?**

- a. Safer Spaces
- b. Protecting Gods Children
- c. BSA Youth Protection Training
- d. Protecting Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**2. Which organization has developed the Boy Scouts Religious Emblem program?**

- a. BSA
- b. National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry
- c. National Catholic Committee on Scouting
- d. The International Catholic Conference of Scouting

**3. True or False: Sir Robert Baden Powell founder of the Scouting Movement added the 12<sup>th</sup> point, a scout is reverent to the scout law.**

4. Which of the following are essential goals of youth ministry?

- a. Empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today
- b. Draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the faith community
- c. Foster the personal and spiritual growth of each young person
- d. All of the above

**5. Which of the following is a true statement about youth protection policies in connection to work as a Catholic religious emblem Counselor / Facilitator?**

- a. Youth protection policies do not apply
- b. Only Boy Scout policies apply
- c. Only Diocesan policies apply
- d. Diocesan policies and all Scouting policies apply

**6. Which one of the following is NOT a boy scout Religious Emblem?**

- a. Parvuli Dei
- b. Ad Altare Dei
- c. I Live My Faith
- d. Light of Christ

**7. True or False: The Ad Altare Dei recognition focuses on the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.**

**8. The Pope Pius XII recognition would use which of the following adult advisers?**

- a. facilitator
- b. parent
- c. moderator
- d. counselor

**9. In working on the following emblems, the Counselor / Facilitator can waive requirements or substitute requirements as needed:**

- a. Parvuli Dei medal
- b. Ad Altare Dei
- c. Both Pope Pius and Ad Altare Dei
- d. Changing or waiving requirements are not permitted

**10. True or False:** An Adviser / Counselor / Facilitator may adapt requirements, but not waive them, for a Scout with a special need.

**11. Which of the following emblems do not need a trained counselor to complete?**

- a. Ad Altare Dei
- b. Parvuli Dei
- c. Pope Pius XII
- d. none of the above.

**12. \_\_\_\_\_ is an emblem that concentrates on vocation.**

- a. Ad Altare Dei
- b. Parvuli Dei
- c. Pope Pius XII
- d. Pillars of Faith

**13. True or False:** A registered scout must be an active member of the Troop for 8 months before taking the Ad Altare Dei class.

**14. Which medal would be earned by a Tiger or Wolf Scout?**

- a. Pillars of Faith
- b. Light of Christ
- c. Parvuli Dei
- d. Pope Pius XII

**15. The following award is given to a member of the Boy Scouts who has earned all 4 religious emblems:**

- a. Pillars of Faith – Service
- b. Pillars of Faith – Faith
- c. Pillars of Faith – Vocations
- d. Pillars of Faith – Duty to God

**16. Of the following requirements for the Pope Pius medal which is not true?**

- a. Ideal group size is 4-12
- b. Designed for 13 – 14-year-old Boy Scouts & Venturers
- c. Each Venture Crew Member and Scout must have their own Activity Book
- d. Successfully complete a Board of Review

**17. Scouts who live in a rural area may still earn their religious recognition using which program guidelines?**

- a. REC Program

- b. P.R.A.Y. Program
- c. Lone Scout Program
- d. No Counselor needed Program

**18. A \_\_\_\_\_ would teach an Ad Altare Dei class?**

- a. facilitator
- b. parent
- c. moderator
- d. counselor

**19. True or False: A JDCCS letter of intent to start a religious emblem class is required for any Ad Altare Dei or Pope Pius Class.**

**20. True or False:** The Light of Life medal can be earned by scouts of the Roman Catholic Rite.

**21. True or False:** Each scout can only use an original application and manual. No copies are allowed.

**22. The main purpose for a Board of Review is:**

- a. to determine how strong the Scout is in their faith
- b. to be a test like an oral exam
- c. to encourage the Scout to share the Scout's experience in earning the recognition
- d. to give the Scouts an opportunity to show off what they have learned

**23. A retreat and Board of Review are required for these emblems:**

- a. Pope Pius XII and Ad Altare Dei
- b. Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei
- c. Both a and b

**24. Which of the following statements are true?**

- a. All religious emblem counselors must be registered adults with the BSA
- b. Protecting Gods Children and BSA Youth Protection are required.
- c. A Diocese Virtus account with training is required
- d. All of the above

This completes the JDCCS/BSA training to be a trained counselor/facilitator.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to call or email us.

(815)834-4012 • [jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com](mailto:jolietcatholicscouts@gmail.com)

# Appendix A



## Additional Catholic Religious Activities

There are many religious activities and patches that can be earned through the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. There are Five Series of Religious Activities and two International Activities, to which interested youth and adults will find fun and easy ways to learn more about their faith, Catholic role models, and become more aware of the faith community and cultures around the world. **All of these activities may be used by groups, families, schools, youth ministry, religious education classes, or any scout.**

**Who can participate:** Youth First grade thru adults—Scouts or non-Scouts, Catholic or non-Catholic, male or female—are welcome to participate in the Religious Activities provided by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting®. The Five Series of Religious Activities include: Rosary Series, Marian Series, Footsteps of American Saints, Footsteps of Modern Saints and Faith Series. The International Activities include International Awareness and Blessed are the Merciful-Keep the Lamp Burning Activities.

More information may be found at the [National Catholic Committee on Scouting](#).



### The Rosary Series

The Rosary Series will focus on a different set of Mysteries of the Holy Rosary and an activity describing how to pray the rosary. This is an opportunity for the youth and adults alike to learn more about their faith. There are 5 activities in all. They are [Pray the Rosary](#), the [Joyful Mysteries](#), [Luminous Mysteries](#), [Sorrowful Mysteries](#), [Glorious Mysteries](#). A beautiful 5" diameter patch is available with each activity.



### *The Marian Activity Series*

This activity is one of a series of religious activities that honors Mary, the Mother of God. The Church calendar for the United States includes nineteen commemorative Marian feasts. Each activity in this series examines six of the nineteen feasts and focuses on how and why the Church has honored Mary for more than 2,000 years. The patches in the series [include Immaculate Conception](#), [Our Lady of Fatima](#), [Our Lady of Good Help](#), [Our Lady of Guadalupe](#), [Our Lady of Lourdes](#), [Our Lady of Miraculous Medal](#), [Our Lady of Mount Carmel](#).



### *American Saints Series*

This religious activity honors those men and women who led heroic lives of faith. Their words, their deeds, and their devotion to prayer and to the sacraments inspire all American Catholics. In the Church calendar for the United States, some have the rank of "Saint" and are venerated by the Universal Church. Some have the rank of "Blessed" and are venerated by the Local Church. Some have the rank of "Venerable" and, while on the way to becoming a "Saint," may be venerated by Catholics. Most of these men and women lived and worked in North America in what is now the United States. Some others never set foot in America; however, they had a huge impact on the Catholic American landscape. All of them sought to follow Jesus. The goal of this activity is to share the lives of several Saints so that the youth might relate to what these people have done and maybe look to these individuals as role models. The series includes [Damien of Molokai](#), [Elizabeth Ann Seton](#), [Isaac Jogues](#), [John Neumann](#), [Juan Diego](#), [Junipero Serra](#), [Kateri Tekakwitha](#), [Katherine Drexel](#), [Michael McGivney](#), [Miguel Pro](#), [Pierre Toussaint](#), [Saint George](#), [Solanus Casey](#), [Fulton Sheen](#).



### *Modern Saints*

The goal of this activity is to share the lives of several saints so that the youth might relate to what these people have done and maybe look to these individuals as role models. The saints in this series are [Chiara Luce Badano](#), [Faustina Kawalsk](#), [John Paul II](#), [Maximillian Kolbe](#), [Mother Teresa](#), [Carlos Acutis](#).





### Faith Series

This series provides a group of activities to help youth and adults to learn more about the universal faith-based practices and traditions used in living the Catholic faith. Current activities are the Bishop, Shepherd of the Flock, Corporal Works of Mercy, Divine Mercy, Eucharistic Adoration, and the Spiritual Works of Mercy.



### International Catholic Awareness

This activity is being offered by The International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS) in recognition of demonstrated awareness of Scouting in the Catholic Church throughout the world. It contributes to the complete education of young people through Scouting from the perspective of the Catholic faith. It develops and enhances the spiritual dimension of Scouting in the World Scout Movement.

## **Are the Religious Activities Available for Youths and Adults?**

Yes. Youth and adults must perform the requirements for their grade level to complete the activities. The activities are based on age groups: 1st through 5th grade, 6th through 12th grade, and adults. If so desired, a patch can be ordered to show completion of an activity.

### ***Vocations Awareness Patch***



Vocation Awareness is an annual weeklong celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through education and prayer. It is also a time to pray in support for those who are considering one of these vocations. **The Patch can be earned ANYTIME, and not just during Vocations Awareness Week.** Eligibility: youth or adult - Scout or non-Scout, male or female.

For information on the patch requirements: [Patch Requirements](#)

For more information on Vocations Awareness Week: [National Vocation](#)

[Awareness Week](#)

Order this patch from the Diocese of Joliet Catholic Committee on Scouting at: [Order Form](#)

Girl Scout/Campfire patches can be earned by any Scout; Women in Scripture and Models of Faith

<https://nfcym.org/programs/nccgscf/religious-recognition-programs-patches/>

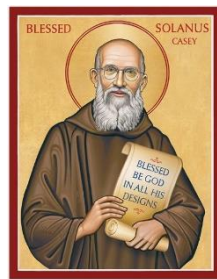
## ***Religious Activities Virtual Lessons***

The following weblinks will take you to Virtual Lessons that have been offered on various Religious Activities. These lessons are offered by individuals knowledgeable on the specific Religious Activity. After viewing the lesson, you may order the associated patch, and/or learn more about that particular specific Activity using the trifold for that Religious Activity.

All of the activities listed below are available [HERE](#).



[Our Lady of Guadalupe  
& St. Juan Diego](#)



[Blessed Solanus Casey](#)



[St. Kateri Tekakwitha](#)



[Our Lady of Good Hope](#)



[St. Faustina](#)



[Eastern Catholic Awareness Patch](#)



[Bishop. Shepherd of the Flock  
\(featuring Bishop Conlon of the  
Diocese!\)](#)



[Venerable Pierre Toussaint](#)

# EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL PATCH

Available through 2025! To order or learn more see [nccs-bsa.org](http://nccs-bsa.org).



## Eucharistic Revival Activity Program – through 2025

In conjunction with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops the National Catholic Committee on Scouting is offering the Eucharistic Revival Activity Program. By offering this program the NCCS is lending support to the National Eucharistic Revival.

### Requirements for the Eucharistic Revival Activity Program

The activities below are designed to encourage all to learn more about the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Participants are required to complete the main central patch requirement first before any auxiliary activity patches may be displayed. All eight auxiliary activity patches may be earned and any five may be placed around the central patch.

#### Requirement for Main Central Patch: Attend Mass



Attend Mass (all participants) and receive the Eucharist (if made First Communion and have no moral impediment) for 12 weeks, preferably consecutively.

#### Activity 1



Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (or study the Ten Commandments if not made first penance).

#### Activity 2



Pray one Rosary of each of the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries.

#### Activity 3



Participate in family prayer (at least weekly) for 12 weeks.

#### Activity 4



Be active in ministry in your parish, such as altar server, choir member, lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or usher (as age appropriate).

#### Activity 5



Attend Eucharistic Adoration (preferably with family).

#### Activity 6



Learn about and discuss five Eucharistic Miracles.

#### Activity 7



Participate in a Eucharistic Procession.

#### Activity 8



For younger youth, attend a Catholic activity, such as a diocesan Cub Scout event, where the theme is the Eucharist. For older youth and adults, attend a Catholic retreat where the theme is the Eucharist.