

Membership Musings

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A Scout is Reverent

It is my sincere hope and prayer that everyone in our scouting families and their friends and families are well in this time of uncertainty and challenge. This is the first of regular communications that I hope will inform the members of our council up to date on membership and relationship efforts throughout the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council.

You may be asking yourself what a scout's reverence has to do with membership. I can answer that with one simple observation. Each of us in Scouting acknowledge that we have an individual Duty to God each time we recite the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

I have been giving some thoughts to how we can incorporate our Duty to God into the Scouting at Home programs that we are implementing during this COVID-19 pandemic and have come up with three recommendations.

a. *Work on Religious Emblems.* Many of our partner religious groups have developed religious emblems programs to encourage their members to grow stronger in their faith. The Boy Scouts of America has approved of these programs and allows these emblems to be worn on the official uniform. Our various partners administer the programs. Working on religious emblems is appropriate for our Cub Scouts in the Scouting at Home environment since much of the work is accomplished in the family. Emblems for older Scouts BSA members, Venturers, and Sea Scouts require more personal interaction at a group level and may prove problematic under current conditions.

- How can a Cub Scout get started on their emblem?
 - Parents should obtain the specific information for the emblem of their faith.
 - Parents should review the program guidelines.
 - Families should talk with their religious leaders and/or emblem counselors and review the requirements before beginning the program
- Where can you find the necessary program information?
 - Most **Protestant and Independent Christian** churches utilize the P.R.A.Y Program for religious emblems. Their Cub age programs include:
 - Jesus and Me (Grades K – 1)
 - God and Me (Grades 1 – 3)
 - God and Family (Grades 4 – 6)
 - Detailed information can be found at www.praypub.org.

- **Roman Catholic** Cub Scouts can use the emblems program developed by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. The Cub age programs include:
 - Light of Christ (Ages 6 -7)
 - Parvuli Dei (Ages 8 – 10)
 - Detailed information can be found at www.nccs-bsa.org.
- **Eastern Orthodox** Cub Scouts can use the emblems program developed by the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting. The Cub age programs include:
 - Saint George Award (Tiger, Wolf or Bear)
 - Chi-Rho Award (any Cub Scout)
 - Detailed information can be found at www.eocs.org.
- **Jewish** Cub Scouts can use the emblems program developed by the National Jewish Committee on Scouting. The Cub age programs include:
 - Maccabee Emblem (Grades 1 – 3)
 - Aleph Religious Emblem (Grades 3 – 5)
 - Detailed information can be found at www.jewishscouting.org.
- **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** Cub Scouts can earn certificates offered by the church. The Cub age program is:
 - Faith in God
 - Detailed information can be obtained from their Ward.
- **Community of Christ** Cub Scouts can earn emblems developed by the church's World Community Program. The Cub age program is:
 - Path of the Disciple
 - Detailed information can be found at www.cofchrist.org/world-community.
- **Churches of Christ** Cub Scouts can earn the emblems developed by the Members of the Churches of Christ for Scouting. The Cub age program is:
 - Loving Servant (Grades 1 – 3)
 - Joyful Servant (Grades 4 – 6)
 - Detailed information can be found at www.goodservant.org
- **Islamic** Cub Scouts can earn the emblems developed by the National Islamic Committee on Scouting. The Cub age program is:
 - Bismillah
 - Detailed information can be found at www.islamicscouting.org or www.islamiccouncilonscouting.org.
- **Hindu** Cub Scouts can earn the emblems developed by the North American Hindu Association. The Cub age program is:
 - Dharma
 - Detailed information can be found at www.naha.us.
- **Buddhist** Cub Scouts can earn the emblems developed by the National Buddhist Committee on Scouting. The Cub age program is:
 - Metta

- Detailed information can be found at www.bcascouting.org
- **Cub Scouts of Other Faiths** can find detailed information at https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-879_WB.pdf.

b. ***Service to Others:*** Scouts BSA, Venturers, Sea Scouts, leaders, and parents can participate in projects being organized to help others in our community. Such participation, however, must be done in accordance with all the health and safety precautions outlined by government guidelines.

c. ***Pray:*** All Scouts and their families can pray in accordance with their religious tradition.

I know that each of you can probably come up with other ideas about incorporating Duty to God in our Scouting at this time. These are just some of my thoughts.

I wish you peace and good will.