



Religious Awards Troop Presentation

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland
4806 Seton Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215-3247
T 410.358.9711 800.492.2521
F 410.358.9918
www.gscm.org

04-3109
Sept 2007

**Religious Awards Presentation Script:
A Presentation by Girl Scout leaders to Troops and Parents**

Considerations for presenting the religious awards to your troop:

- Notify parents and invite them to the meeting
- Provide information on religious awards of all faiths
- Explain that Girl Scouting encourages girls to grow strong in faith and that Girl Scouting recognizes that religious instruction must come from families and faith communities
- Emphasize that each girl will earn the religious award for her own faith
- Ask an older Girl Scout who has earned her religious award to talk to your troop
- Preview the requirements for the "To Serve God Puzzle Patch" at www.praypub.org and decide whether you will pre-order these patches for your participants, both girls and adults.

Resources (available at www.praypub.org)

- "To Serve God" brochure
- Dear Parent Handout
- To Serve God Puzzle Patch flyer / order form

Religious Awards Presentation Script:

1. Hold up the brochure for everybody to see. Then say, **"The title of this brochure is 'To Serve God.' What does this title refer to?"** (It refers to the Girl Scout Promise) **"We hold up three fingers when we make the Girl Scout Promise because there are three parts to the promise. But the first part of the promise is the most important. We promise to "serve God." One way a Girl Scout can "serve God" is to earn the religious award of her faith and to wear the award on her uniform. The religious awards are very special recognitions. Look at them. They are not like ordinary patches. They are special pins and medallions. You would make me very proud if you earned your religious award. "**
2. Explain that the Girl Scout leader is not the instructor for the religious awards. These are optional programs. Parents and guardians will decide whether or not a girl participates in them. **"Your parents and religious leaders will help you earn your religious award. This is not a badge we earn together as a troop. We are of different faiths and we belong to different congregations. Each girl needs to earn the award for her own faith. These awards are fun opportunities for you and your family to work on something together."**
3. **Here's how you get started on these programs.** [The following information is adapted from the To Serve God Brochure.]

First, you must obtain the specific booklet for your religion. This booklet will contain information on all the lessons and service projects that you will need to complete. Each of you will need your own booklet to document progress. Some religions also offer adult manuals for counselors and mentors. You can check with our council store to see if they stock these booklets, or you can contact the religious organization directly (addresses and phone numbers are listed inside the "To Serve God" brochure).

Second, parents must review the specific guidelines for their particular program: some programs require that the girl be an official "member" of the local religious institution, other programs may not. Age/grade requirements also vary from program to program. In addition, each program sets its own guidelines as to who may serve as counselor. Some programs require clergy to serve as counselor, others allow parents or other family members to serve as counselor. Parents must check specific eligibility guidelines!

Third, families should talk to their religious leaders and show them the booklet before beginning any program. Most of the religious recognitions programs require that they be completed under the auspices of that religious organization, and many require the signature of the local religious leader.

Fourth, you need to complete the requirements, obtain the proper signatures, and follow the instructions to order the recognition or pin. (These awards are not available in our Girl Scout store.)

4. Distribute the To Serve God brochure and/or the "Dear Parent" handout. **"The To Serve God brochure provides the name and address of where to obtain more information and/or to purchase the booklets. The "Dear Parent" handout is a short summary of how to get started on the programs. It also provides space for you to copy the contact information"** (if copies of the To Serve God brochure are not provided). Please note that most of the Protestant, independent, and non-denominational

churches use the God and Country program which is listed in the brochure under "Protestant". Have the girls find out what the award for their faith looks like. Be prepared for some not to know what religion or denomination they are or not to be active in a religious institution. Remind them that the religious awards are optional programs.

5. Help the girls get started by setting a target date: **"Let's set our first goal together as a troop. The important thing is to get started! Can everybody try to get a copy of her booklet and show it to her clergy by _____(date)? I'll ask each of you to give a "progress report" to the troop at that time.**
6. Explain the special To Serve God puzzle patch: **"I have a special announcement about a To Serve God Promotion Patch. This patch is for girls or adults who 1) learn about religious awards, and then 2) make a commitment To Serve God. Because you are here today at this presentation, and are taking information about religious awards to show your parents, you have fulfilled the first requirement for this patch. The second requirement is making a commitment. You may commit to earning your religious award, helping younger Girl Scouts earn theirs, making a presentation on religious awards to another troop, etc. How many girls want to make that commitment today? Please stand.**
 - If you ordered patches to distribute to your girls, hand them out now: **"Congratulations on making a commitment To Serve God. Here is your To Serve God patch that shows you are committed to earning your religious award."**
 - If you plan on ordering patches for your girls, make an announcement: **"Congratulations. You will be presented with a To Serve God patch on _____(date). This will be a good reminder To Serve God."**
 - If you want participants to order their own patches, distribute the order form and make the following announcement: **"Congratulations. Every person standing is eligible to wear a To Serve God Promotion patch. Here is an order form so that you can purchase your own patch."**

Briefly describe the patch: **"The To Serve God Promotion Patch is a four-segment puzzle patch. You can only earn one segment a year. Every year that you learn about the religious awards or earn an award or help make a presentation about them, you can earn the next segment."**

7. Conclude your presentation: **"By learning about religious awards and making a commitment To Serve God, you are living up to your Girl Scout Promise. Thank you for your attention. This concludes our presentation."**
8. Continue to encourage your girls by setting goals and keeping track of their progress. Try to include some activities for your troop. Can you plan a joint field trip or service project related to the religious awards programs? Can you visit each other's church, synagogue or temple? This would be a wonderful opportunity for the girls to experience pluralism.
9. Religious awards are presented to the girls by clergy, usually in a worship service in the recipient's congregation. Religious award recipients should also be recognized in a Girl Scout setting, such as an awards ceremony. Plan now to recognize them in a special way.

Please duplicate.

P.R.A.Y. 8520 Mackenzie Road, Ste. 3, St. Louis, MO
63123-3413
1-800-933-7729 /
www.praypub.org

Dear Parent ...

Dear Parent,

Today we talked about the religious awards and encouraged our Girl Scouts to earn the religious award of their faith. You, as the parent or guardian, will decide whether or not your child will participate in these programs. Here is the information we covered together:

- Each Girl Scout will earn the religious emblem for her specific faith
- Parents and religious leaders are the teachers, not the troop leader
- Most religious awards programs have more than one level. A Girl Scout who has earned a religious award when she was younger, may progress to the next level and earn another award.

There are four steps to get started on these programs:

1. Girls must obtain the specific booklet for their religion. This booklet will contain information on all the lessons and service projects that they will need to complete. Each girl needs to have her own booklet to document progress. Some religions also offer adult manuals for counselors and mentors. Check with your local Girl Scout Council to see if it stocks these booklets in its store, or contact the religious organization directly.

Here is the information that your child found on the program for her faith:

Name of program: _____

Address, phone, or email _____

2. Parents must review the specific guidelines for their particular program: age/grade requirements vary from program to program; some programs require that the youth be an official "member" of the local religious institution, others may not; and each program determines who may serve as counselor (some require clergy, others allow parents or other family members). Be sure to look at specific eligibility guidelines!
3. Families should talk to their religious leaders and show them the booklet before beginning any program. Most of the religious awards programs require that they be completed under the auspices of that religious organization, and many require the signature of the local religious leader. Again, check the specific eligibility requirements for your religious program.
4. The young person needs to complete the requirements, obtain the proper signatures, and follow the instructions to order the award. (These awards are not available in your local Girl Scout Council store.) The award can be presented at anytime of the year and should be presented in a meaningful ceremony, preferably in the girl's religious institution.

We would be very proud if our Girl Scouts earned their religious awards. Please talk with your daughter about these programs. We would like to know by _____ (date) who is going to participate in the religious awards programs. Even though this is a project that will be done with your family and your clergy, we are interested in your daughter's progress and want to encourage her as much as possible. Feel free to call if you have any questions.

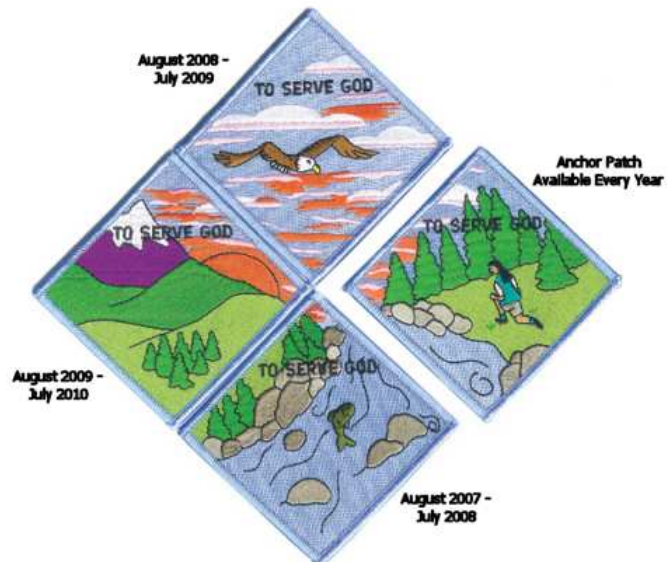
Thank you!

TO SERVE GOD PROMOTION PATCH REQUIREMENTS

The Preamble to the Girl Scout Constitution states, “We, the members of Girl Scouts of the United States of America, (are) united by a belief in God... We believe that the motivating force in Girl Scouting is a spiritual one.” Religious awards help girls fulfill their promise “To Serve God”. The purpose of this “To Serve God Promotion Patch” is to encourage girls and adults to learn about and promote the religious awards programs.

Requirements: Girls and adults must:

1. Attend or coordinate a presentation or information seminar on religious awards (sample resources and suggestions are available at www.praypub.org).
2. Make a commitment to fulfill their promise “To Serve God”. For example:
Girls can commit to earning the religious award of their faith at an appropriate time or making a presentation on religious awards to another Troop.
Adults can commit to having 50% of families participate in the religious awards programs, nominating a worthy adult to be recognized with an adult religious award, serving as counselor in their local congregation, etc.



Patch

The To Serve God Promotion Patch is a four-segment puzzle patch, which is earned over four years. Participants will receive the anchor patch the first year, and then receive the rest of the segments on a rotation basis (only one segment will be offered in any given year). Visit www.praypub.org to find out which patch is currently available. Patches may be pre-ordered for distribution at the presentation / information seminar. Use the order form below or order online at www.praypub.org.

To Serve God Patch Order Form

ANCHOR PATCH

_____ 1-15 Patches @ \$3.00 = \$
_____ 16-30 Patches @ \$2.75 = \$
_____ 31-49 Patches @ \$2.50 = \$
_____ 50-99 Patches @ \$2.25 = \$
_____ 100+ Patches @ \$2.00 = \$

SEGMENT FOR CURRENT YEAR

_____ 1-15 Patches @ \$3.00 = \$
_____ 16-30 Patches @ \$2.75 = \$
_____ 31-49 Patches @ \$2.50 = \$
_____ 50-99 Patches @ \$2.25 = \$
_____ 100+ Patches @ \$2.00 = \$
_____ Postage (see below) = \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Patch Postage Calculation:

1 patch = \$.50 for P/H

2-49 patches = \$.50 plus \$.10 each additional patch for P/H

50 - 99 patches = \$6.00 Flat Fee for P/H

100 - 149 patches = \$8.50 Flat Fee for P/H

150+ patches = \$11.00 Flat Fee for P/H

All orders must be sent with payment in full by check, money order, or credit card:

Mastercard Visa

Cardholder's Name _____

Cardholder's Address _____

_____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date: _____ CV2 Code _____

(The CV2 code is the last three digits in the signature box on the backside of the CC)

Signature _____

Day Phone _____

Ship To:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Email _____

P.R.A.Y.

8520 Mackenzie Rd, Ste 3, St. Louis, MO 63123-3413

1-800-933-7729 / www.praypub.org

July 2007

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About the To Serve God Promotion Patch

1. *What is the purpose of the To Serve God Promotion Patch?*
The purpose of this patch is to encourage girls and adults to learn about and promote the religious awards programs.
2. *What is the difference between this puzzle patch and the religious awards?*
The puzzle patch is worn on the back of the vest or sash (it shows that a girl has learned about the religious awards). When she completes the religious award for her faith, that pin or medallion is worn on the front of the vest or sash.
3. *Can both girls and adults earn this patch?*
Yes. Both girls and adults may earn this patch.
4. *Is this patch for all faiths?*
Yes. This patch requires that you promote the religious awards programs of all faiths. A person from any religious background may earn this patch.
5. *What are the requirements?*
You are required to: 1) attend or make a presentation on religious awards, and 2) make a commitment To Serve God.
6. *What does it mean to “make a commitment To Serve God”?*
Making a commitment To Serve God can mean talking to your clergy about earning your religious award, presenting information to your congregation, helping younger Girl Scouts learn about religious awards, etc.
7. *When can I order the To Serve God Promotion Patch? Do I have to wait until after my presentation to order the patches?*
You may order patches at any time. You may pre-order the patches to distribute them at your presentation.
8. *How do I make a presentation?*
There are free resources available at www.praypub.org. These resources include scripts and a parent handout.
9. *Where is it worn on the uniform?*
The To Serve God Promotion Patch is worn on the back of the vest or sash.
10. *Does the Council Store carry these patches?*
Sometimes. It depends on the store. If not, go to www.praypub.org.
11. *If I want to order patches for my Troop, will I get a price discount?*
Yes. Here are the price breaks:
1-15 patches=\$3.00; 16-30 patches=\$2.75
31-49 patches=\$2.50; 50-99 patches=\$2.25
100+patches=\$2.00
12. *If a Girl Scout just earned her religious award, does she qualify for this To Serve God Promotion Patch?*
Yes. A Girl Scout who just recently earned a religious award may receive a To Serve God Promotion Patch. However, in the following years, in order to receive the next segment of the To Serve God Promotion Patch, she will either have to earn another religious award or help make a presentation on religious awards to another group.
13. *Why is this a four-segment puzzle patch?*
The intent of the puzzle patch is to encourage leaders to make presentations on the religious awards every year.
14. *What is the anchor patch?*
The segment with the kneeling Girl Scout is the anchor patch and it will always be the first segment that a Girl Scout receives. It is the anchor around which all other segments will be added. This patch will be available every year regardless of the rotation.
15. *Is there a designated second, third, and fourth segment?*
No. A rotation is in place, but the year you start will determine which segment you will acquire for the second, third, and fourth segments (i.e. you will acquire the segments in a different order depending on the year you start). Visit www.praypub.org to find out which patch is currently available.
16. *When will the next segment become available?*
The next segment will become available in August.
17. *I make presentations at Leader Training Events every year. Can I hand out patches to the leaders at these trainings?*
Yes. The To Serve God Promotion Patch may be distributed at adult trainings to encourage leaders to make presentations to their own troops.
18. *Is this a GSUSA program?*
No, this is a P.R.A.Y. program created to encourage members of GSUSA to fulfill their promise “To Serve God”.

