

# RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM



## Buddhist Faith

Published for  
the Faith by  
Scouts Canada and  
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## RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM

Membership in the Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada is open to all girls and boys who wish to make the promise, regardless of race, colour or creed. The purpose of the *Guide/Scout* programs is to assist girls and boys in character development by encouraging them to be responsible citizens of their country. An important part of the program is to assist in the spiritual growth of each girl or boy in their own religious community. Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada uphold the principle that specific religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious authorities.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to provide *Scouts* or *Guides* with an opportunity to explore their faith, to make it a basic part of their personal life, and to share it with others.

## THE EMBLEM

The Religion in Life emblem for the buddhist faith is the Dharma Cakra (Wheel of the Law), the eight spokes represent the Eight-fold Path. It reveals the victorious wheel of a thousand spokes. It also represents the symmetry and completeness of the Law.

## REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for the program differ in each faith and denomination and are prepared nationally by the church or religious bodies to suit their particular needs.

## INSTRUCTION

It is the responsibility of the group/section committee and leadership team to arrange for instruction of candidates with the candidate's own spiritual leader or appointee.

## PRESENTATION

Presentation of the emblem is made by the candidate's spiritual advisor, and can form an impressive part of a regular *Guide* or *Scout* meeting, a church service, or a special evening for parents/guardians.

## STAGES

The Religion in Life program is in four progressive stages, colour-coded and adapted to the age groups concerned.

Stage 1 - Yellow Border (7-9)

Stage 2 - Green Border (10-12)

Stage 3 - Blue Border (13-15)

Stage 4 - Red Border (15-17)

Candidates may start at any stage appropriate to their age and capabilities. Only one emblem - the latest stage earned is worn.

## WHERE OBTAINABLE

The emblem may be obtained from provincial offices or through regular badge channels.

## WHERE WORN

Girl Guides of Canada - *see Policy, Organization and Rules.*  
Scouts Canada - *see By-Law, Policies and Procedures.*

## BUDDHA (OUR TEACHER)

### STAGE 1

1. Lead a short ceremony.
2. Daily recitation of a Sutra, or a mantra.

### STAGE 2

1. Lead an opening ceremony.
2. Daily recitation of a Sutra, and a mantra.
3. Discuss with your spiritual advisor about the life and story of Sakyamuni Buddha.

### STAGE 3

1. Learn & chant the Sutras, and mantras.
2. Learn & understand taking Refuge in the Three Jewels and discuss with your spiritual advisor its meaning.

### STAGE 4

1. Learn & chant the Sutras, and mantras.

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2. Learn & understand taking Refuge in the Three Jewels and discuss with your spiritual advisor its meaning.
3. Give a lecture on Buddhism.
4. Learn some of the outstanding leaders in Buddhist history.

## **DHARMA (THE TEACHING)**

### **STAGE 1**

1. Know the Six Paramitas.
2. Write a short essay on the life of Sakyamuni Buddha.

### **STAGE 2**

1. Know the Six Paramitas.
2. Learn and understand the Three Jewels, Cause & Effect and the Five Precepts.

### **STAGE 3**

1. Learn one of the following:
  - (i) The four Noble Truths, or
  - (ii) The Eight-fold Path.
2. Learn the Six Paramitas.
3. Learn and understand the Three Jewels, Cause & Effect; Karma and the Five Precepts.
4. Learn & practice meditation.

### **STAGE 4**

1. Learn all of the following :
  - (i) The four Noble Truths,
  - (ii) The Eight-fold Path, and
  - (iii) The Six Paramitas.
2. Learn and understand the Three Jewels, Cause & Effect; Karma and the Five Precepts.
3. Learn & practice meditation.

## **SANGHA (THE MONASTIC)**

### **STAGE 1**

1. Help in a Sunday service.
2. Relate the Six Paramitas to your daily life.

### **STAGE 2**

1. Learn how to play one dharma instrument.
2. Help in a weekend service.
3. Relate the Five Precepts to your daily life.
4. Lead a group discussion on Buddhist principles.

### **STAGE 3**

1. Discuss how Buddhism can help you develop self-respect, self-confidence and good character.
2. Lead a group discussion about Buddhist principles.
3. Volunteer your services at a temple or monastery for three months.

### **STAGE 4**

1. Write an essay (approx. 1,300 words) on “Youth and a Living Religion” or a related topic.
2. Deliver a lecture to a group on outstanding leaders in Buddhist history, discuss reasons for selecting them.
3. Discuss your program of service with your spiritual advisor and try to put it into practice.

The Eight-fold Path:

1. Right Belief;
2. Right Aims;
3. Right Speech;
4. Right Actions;
5. Right Means of Livelihood;
6. Right Endeavour;
7. Right Mindfulness;
8. Right Meditation.



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