

RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM



Published for
the Community by
Scouts Canada and
Girl Guides of Canada

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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 *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.

THE EMBLEM

The Emblem of the Hindu religion is the OM symbol, the symbol of God.

REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for the Religion in Life program differ in each faith and denomination, and are prepared nationally by the churches 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

Stage 2 — Green Border

Stage 3 — Blue Border

Stage 4 — Red Border

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*.

STAGE 1 — YELLOW BORDER (AGES 8, 9, 10–)

Word

Be acquainted with the basic principles of Hindusim.

'Atman'

Reincarnation

Rebirth or

Salvation

Worship

Prayers: Be able to say in his or her mother tongue or in English the short prayers offered in the morning or in the evening.

Witness

Orientation to **important** Hindu Festivals, e.g. Ganesh Festival, Dashahara, (Durga Puja) Divali, Janam, Ashatami, Shivaratri.

STAGE 2 — GREEN BORDER (AGES 11, 12, 13, 14–)

Word

Be able to read and narrate stories from 'Ramayan'.

Should finish reading the book containing stories from 'Ramayan'. This can be in one's mother tongue or in English.

Should know in particular the following:

1. Ram's marriage
2. The fulfillment of the pledges given by King Dasharath to KaiKayi
3. Exile of Ram
4. Ravan the King of Lanka
5. Rams, Sita and Laxman in exile and how Sita was kidnapped
6. Sita's imprisonment
7. War with Lanka and relieving Sita
8. Rama's return to Ayodhya
9. Ram Navami Day in Hindu Calendar.

Worship

Should offer prayers in the morning and evening.

Be able to recite at least 3 verses in mother tongue or Sanskrit.

Witness

Visits to some temples. Be able to join the prayers in cooperation with others.

STAGE 3 — BLUE BORDER (AGES 14 TO 17)

Word

Be able to read and narrate the stories from 'Mahabharat'.

Should finish reading stories from 'Mahabharat' in mother tongue or English.

Should know in particular the following:

1. Pandavas and Kauraras
2. Krishna's birth
3. Story of Arjun
4. Special virtues of Dharmrag and Bheema and Arjun
5. Draupadi's ordeals
6. War between Kauraras and Pandavas
7. 'Gokul Ashtami' day celebration

Worship

Should offer prayers in morning and evening.

Should add to some Sanskrit vocabulary and know three verses in Sanskrit or say at least one Arati in mother tongue.

Witness

Visits to temples. Do voluntary work to help carry out or participate in one religious program at least in a year.

STAGE 4 — RED BORDER (AGE OVER 17 YEARS)

Word

Should read and understand at least two chapters from 'Bhagavat Geeta'.

Try to memorize at least ten verses from any of the above chapters or to commit to memory the English version of the above verses.

Worship

Should be rigidly following the morality rules re: truth, cleanliness, modesty.

Spend time in reading about other religions (at least one) such as Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism.

Should read biographies (at least one) of Swami Ramkrishna, Swami Vivekanand, Mr. Mohandas, K. Gandhi, Mr. B.G. Tilak.

Should know by personal example the way to behave with members of the society and participate in serving the community where one lives.

Witness

Two community persons should testify whether the person is following principles of behaviour mentioned above.

REFERENCE BOOKS ON HINDU RELIGION

'Ramayan'

by C. Rajagopalachari or by any other author

'Mahabharat'

'Geeta'

Story of Ramayan

by Bani Roy Choudhary

(Hemkunt Press — Publishers, I-E/15, Patel Rd., New Delhi)

Stories from the Mahabharat

by Indirabai M. Tau

(India Book House, Education Trust — Bombay, Dalamal Park 223 cuffed, Parade Bombay 400005)

Stories of Krishna

Temples of India

Stories of Rama

Drona

Hanuman

Surya

Mahabharat

Karna

Valmiki

Shiv Parvati

Legends from the Puranas Son's of Rama

All the above books are by Amar, Chitra, Kathas

Publisher: India Book House, 3A Rashtrapati Rd., Secunderabad

Panch Tantra Pandit Vishnu Sharma

(published by Chandiramani Publishing House

Bombay 5 India)

Great Religions of Modern Life — Hindusim

edited by Louis Renou

(Washington Square Press Inc., New York)

"A Guide to the World's Religions"

by David C. Bradley

(Prentice Hall Inc., Englewood Cliffe, N.J.)

NOTE: Information on the program and resources like Amar, Chitra, Kathas books are available from:

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