

RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM



Islam
in Canada

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

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.

THE EMBLEM

The Islamic Religion in Life emblem consists of the word Allah in Arabic and English, which means God — The one and only Almighty God — The Lord of the whole universe. The crescent is the symbol of growth and progress, because a waxing moon or a crescent turning to the left grows into a full moon. The star represents God's divine light or 'Nur' (Quran 24:25): God most high is the only reality as He is the only light. Hence the star is a symbol of light and knowledge. The crescent and the star have become an established symbol of Islamic culture and civilization.

REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for the 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 (about 7–8–9)
- Stage 2 — Green Border (about 10–11–12)
- Stage 3 — Blue Border (about 13–14–15)
- Stage 4 — Red Border (15+)

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*.

ISLAMIC STANDARDS FOR THE RELIGION IN LIFE EMBLEM

The Religion in Life emblem is given in recognition of leading an Islamic life which includes learning, practice and service, knowledge of Islam, putting into daily practice that knowledge and service to God by serving others.

ISLAM AT A GLANCE

Islam is an Arabic word which means Peace, Purity, Acceptance and Commitment. The Religion of Islam is complete of the teachings and guidance of Almighty God.

A Muslim is one who obeys God completely by accepting freely and willingly the supreme power of God.

Islam is not a new religion. It is the same religion which was revealed to Adam, Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, David, Solomon, Moses, Aaron, Jesus and Muhammad.

Every action done with awareness that it fulfills the will of God is considered an act of worship in Islam. God consciousness or 'Tuqwa'.

The framework of spiritual life is provided by the five pillars of Islam:

1. a) Declaration of Faith — I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except God and Muhammad is the messenger of God.
b) Belief in the four revealed books — The Psalms, The Torah, The Gospel and the Qur'an.
c) All the angels.
d) All the Prophets.
e) And the day of judgement.
2. Pray five times a day as a duty to God.
3. Fasting during the month of Ramadan: by abstaining from food, drink and sexual intercourse from dawn to dusk and also from all vain talk, evil intentions and desires. It teaches

self-discipline, patience, unselfishness, willpower, social conscienceness; and love, sincerity and devotion.

4. Sharing — payment annually of 2½ percent of one's net savings to be spent on the poorer members of the community.
5. Pilgrimage to Ka'aba in Mecca once in a lifetime if one can afford it and is able to do so physically.

ONENESS OF GOD

Islam enjoins faith in the oneness and sovereignty of God, which makes man aware of the meaningfulness of the universe and his place in it. Belief in one God requires that we look upon all humanity as one family under the universal omnipotence of God — The Creator and nourisher of all. In Islam there is direct relationship between man and God without an intercessor.

QUR'AN AND HADITH

The Qur'an is the last revealed word of God and the basic source of Islamic teachings and laws. Qur'an deals with the bases of creeds, morality, history of humanity, worship, knowledge, wisdom, God-man relationship and human relationships in all aspects.

Hadith, the teachings, sayings and actions of the last prophet Muhammad (peace be on his soul), meticulously reported and col-

lected by his devoted companions, explain and elaborate the Qur'anic verses.

CONCEPT OF WORSHIP

Islam emphasises intention and action. To worship God is to know Him and love Him, to act upon His law in every aspect of life, to enjoin goodness and forbid wrongdoing and oppression, to practice charity, and justice and to serve Him by serving mankind.

ISLAMIC WAY OF LIFE

Islam provides definite guidelines for all peoples to follow in all walks of life. The guidance it gives is comprehensive and includes the social, economic, political, moral and spiritual aspects of life. Qur'an reminds man of the purpose of his life on earth, of his duties and obligations towards himself, his kith and kin, his community, his fellow human beings and his Creator. In Islam man is wholesome. The sacred and the secular are not separate parts of man, they are united in the nature of human beings.

We suggest the following guidelines for the stages of the Religion in Life program.

STAGE	WORD OF GOD OR KNOWLEDGE	WORSHIP OR PRACTICE	WITNESS TO GOD OR SERVICE
	Attend Islamic school or classes appropriate to age and capability.	Be a regular worshipper at home and at the mosque, if possible, with the family.	Be involved in some service project in the community.
Stage 1 6–8 yrs.	Recite the Kalimah or declaration of faith by memory. Recite at least 2 surahs (chapters) from the Quran. Know the names of pillars Islam.	Regular attendance at Islamic classes. Know how to recite the Adhan or call for prayer.	U.N.I.C.E.F. paper drives, collecting food and clothing for needy people.
Stage 2 9–11 yrs.	Own and be able to read the Holy Quran. Know the five pillars of Islam in detail. Recite at least 5 surahs from the Quran.	Say the Adhan and IQamah (the recital just before the prayer). Know the whole salat (prayers) well by memory. Attend seminars in tafseer. (Understanding the Quran).	As above.
Stage 3 12–14 yrs.	Same as above plus be able to read the Quran in Arabic fluently. Recite at least 10 short surahs from the Holy Quran.	Know and understand the meaning of adhan and salat. Know a few hadiths and attend Islamic seminars, conferences, tafseer.	As above.
Stage 4 14 & over	Same as above plus know 25 short surahs.	All the above.	Be a regular volunteer in your community.



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