



# RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM



*Roman Catholic Church  
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 their 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, and to encourage them to participate actively in their own religious denomination. Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada uphold the principle that specific religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious authorities.

## 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.

The purpose of this program is to provide Catholic *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 Christian Religion in Life emblem consists of a great circle, the symbol of eternity. In the circle are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, *Alpha* and *Omega*, a symbol of God, and a reminder that the worship and services of God form an essential part of life from beginning to end.

## INSTRUCTION

The instruction of a candidate desiring to qualify for an emblem is the responsibility of the candidate's own spiritual advisor. The spiritual advisor can be a priest, chaplain, seminarian, catechist, religious, or qualified lay person.

## 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.

## 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*.

## STAGE 1 — YELLOW

### A. Word (Learning)

1. Own a Bible or New Testament and show how to use it.
2. What does the Bible tell us? Why do Christians read it?
3. Show how the Bible helps you to do your duty to God and your neighbour.  
OR  
Show that you can use the Bible in your prayer each day.

### B. Worship (Responding)

4. Take an active part in Sunday Mass. How does Jesus help you, your family, and all God's people when you celebrate the eucharist?  
OR  
Take part in your parish liturgy by regular service as a choir member or server, or in another form of ministry.
5. Plan and conduct a tour of your parish church, explaining important places in it, such as the place of the assembly of God's people, the baptismal font (and use of blessed water), the lectern as the place of God's word, the altar, and the chair of the presider.  
OR  
Give some examples of how you try to do your duty to God and your neighbour.

### C. Witness (Serving)

6. Know the new commandment given by Jesus in John 13:34–35. How can you live this each day?
7. With your spiritual advisor, discuss what Jesus does for us in baptism, and what it means for you to belong to the people of God at home and at school.
8. Choose and carry out a project to help someone in your home, community, or another part of the country or world.

### D. Projects

9. Choose and carry out any two of these projects. They may be done alone or with a group, and are to be of a religious nature.
  - a) Scrapbook, or other form of collection;
  - b) Murals, collages, pictures, banners;
  - c) Models, such as a model sanctuary with all essentials.

- d) Music: from your church hymnal, choose and sign (solo or in a group) a song of thanksgiving, or play this hymn on a musical instrument.
- e) Drama: act out some Bible stories.
- f) Nature: with permission, set up and maintain a bird feeding station on your church property, or plant and take care of a tree there.

## STAGE 2 — GREEN

Review and discuss the yellow stage requirements with your spiritual advisor.

### A. Word (Learning)

1. Own and use a Bible or a New Testament. Show that you understand that the Bible is the Word of God speaking to us through the writers.  
OR  
Show that you have a general understanding of what the Bible contains, and how it is divided into two Testaments and into books. Tell how it is used in other Christian Churches and in the Jewish faith. Be aware of some of the sacred books used by other world faiths.
2. How can you use the Bible in your prayer?  
OR  
Read the Bible regularly, preferably everyday.
3. Do two of the following:
  - a) Tell the story of one person in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament. What is God teaching us through these persons? Be able to locate these stories in the Bible.
  - b) Choose two Bible texts; and be able to locate them and tell what they mean.
  - c) Choose your favourite psalm and tell why you like it.

### B. Worship (Responding)

4. Name and explain the principal parts of the Mass.
5. Why does God call us together to celebrate as a community as well as asking us to pray as individuals?  
OR  
Why do we sing during our worship, and how does this help us as a community of God's people?  
OR  
Show that you are aware of the responsibilities flowing from the sacrament of confirmation.
6. Do two of the following:
  - a) Tell why we celebrate God's loving mercy to the people of God in the sacrament of reconciliation or penance.
  - b) With some friends, prepare a communal celebration of penance.
  - c) Prepare yourself and serve as a reader on several different occasions: at church, school, *Scout* or *Guide* meetings or camps.
  - d) Encourage your family to begin, revive, or continue the custom of regular reading of the Bible.

### C. Witness (Serving)

7. How does Scouting or Guiding help you to live the life of a follower of Jesus?
8. In the Beatitudes what does Jesus tell us about how we relate to God, to our family, and to everyone in the world? How can a person of your age live this way?  
OR  
Tell how the commandments of God and the new commandment of Jesus (John 13:34–35) help you to follow Jesus every day.

9. How can your promise and law help you to be a good Christian?  
OR  
With your spiritual advisor, discuss ideas on the role of sisters, brothers, priests, deacons, and lay ministers in the Church today.

## D. Projects

10. Choose and carry out any two of these projects, after talking them over with your spiritual advisor or leader.
  - a) Alone or with friends, give Christian service in your community, as one way of showing love of neighbour. (This may be one large project, several smaller ones [such as the daily good turn], or one that lasts for a time).
  - b) With a friend, make a pilgrimage to a shrine or important place of worship. Tell about your trip, and something about the history and importance of this sanctuary.
  - c) Begin a history of your parish, covering the work of the founding families and priests.
  - d) Draw six symbols used in Catholic art and liturgy, and explain their meaning.

## STAGE 3 — BLUE

Review and discuss the yellow and green stage requirements with your spiritual advisor.

1. Show that you are aware of the responsibilities flowing from the sacrament of confirmation.
2. Read *Let's Celebrate*, (Chapter 4 — Part 4 — Program Ideas for the Venturer Company) and discuss some of the personal life questions with other members of your unit, your leaders and your spiritual advisor.
3. Choose and carry out two of the following:
  - a) Read Chapter 8 of the epistle to the Romans and discuss it with your spiritual advisor. What does this tell about the place of the Holy Spirit in your life and for your prayer?
  - b) Make a study of one of the Gospels. Describe how Jesus is presented in this Gospel.
  - c) With your friends prepare a service of the word or other liturgy, and join together in its celebration.
  - d) With a group or with your family, discuss renewal in the Church and Christian attitudes toward events in our world today.
  - e) Help to lead another group, such as a Beaver colony or a Cub or Brownie pack.
  - f) Identify some of the needs of your local community, choose one area in which you and your friends can make a contribution, and do it. Write or give a report on your experience.
  - g) Tell how you are keeping your promise of duty to God both in your Scouting or Guiding and in the Church. Show this through some action; if possible, keep a scrapbook or record of your activities.

## Projects

4. Do two of the following:
  - a) Discuss, choose, plan, and do any two of the program suggestions for Venturers or Rangers or Rovers found in Chapter 4 of *Let's Celebrate*.
  - b) Meet with members of the Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, Newman Club, St. Vincent de Paul Society, or other Catholic organizations of adults and discuss their activities and programs.
  - c) Make a chart of the organization of your parish, diocese and national level of the Church in Canada, and describe some of the service work carried out by the various levels.

- d) Take an active part in your parish council, parish youth group, servers, or choir.

## STAGE 4 — RED

Review and discuss the yellow, green and blue stage requirements with your spiritual advisor.

1. “You are the Church.” What does this mean to you? Describe how you are putting it into action.
2. Read the Acts of the Apostles. How was the Holy Spirit working in the Church then? How is the Holy Spirit working now? What is our responsibility to continue this work?
3. Read *Let’s Celebrate*, (Chapter 4 — Part 5 — Program Ideas for the Rover Crew) and discuss some of the points with other members of your unit, your leaders, and your spiritual advisor.
4. Take part in an ecumenical activity in your community, such as discussions with members of other denominations, study of questions of importance, visiting other churches, meetings with other Church members and leaders.
5. As a Christian living in today’s world, review and describe your attitudes toward yourself, other people, poverty, work, unemployment, violence, peace, disarmament, politics, God.

### Projects

6. Alone or with a friend or two, plan and do something to make a positive and constructive contribution to building a better world in your parish, in your school, for the Church, in politics, or in your community.
7. Research and report on some of the ecumenical moves now under way by Churches in Canada and around the world.
8. Discuss, choose, and plan to do any two of the program suggestions for Venturers or Rovers or Rangers found in Chapter 4 of *Let’s Celebrate*.

## ADULT RELIGION-IN-LIFE AWARD

### Guidelines for the Program

#### The Goal of this program

The goal is to provide adult Roman Catholic leaders in the Scouting movement an opportunity to affirm their baptismal calling and to develop their faith awareness in ministering to youth. This is in line with the present guidelines of the award for youth:

“The purpose of this program is to provide Catholic 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.”

#### Instruction

The instruction of adult leaders desiring to qualify for this emblem can be given by the candidate’s own parish priest or another designated person. Whenever possible, it is recommended that this instruction be given on a regional or area basis. This provides participants with a broader sense of Church and allows leaders to gather with others who share similar values and experiences.

#### Requirements

The following requirements have been established for those seeking the award.

1. The person must have the approval of their District Commissioner.
2. The person must have the approval of their parish community through their Pastor or designated person in that community.
3. The person requesting the award should have a good understanding of the following:
  - a) their being part of the Church and its mission;

- b) their being called to lay ministry;
  - c) a Christian’s attitude to issues in the world today such as the environment, peace, justice and caring for others;
  - d) how they participate in the concern of God and the Church for youth; and
  - e) their own ongoing process of faith development.
4. The need for specific skills in working with youth suggests that applicants be given some instruction and training relating to the following:
    - a) the characteristics of faith awareness of youth of different ages;
    - b) how to pray with youth of different ages;
    - c) teaching respect for different faith expressions and groups;
    - d) how to work and pray in multi-denominational and multi-faith settings;
    - e) how to access resources available to leaders;
    - f) how to prepare and celebrate a Scouts’ Own involving youth;
    - g) how to prepare simple prayers and help meet the spiritual needs of youth when situations such as loss, accident or some other unexpected incident occurs; and
    - h) simple ways of sharing faith with youth.
  5. If a specific need is identified, it should be included and addressed during the instruction phase of the program.

### The Emblem

The Christian Religion in Life emblem consists of a great circle, the symbol of eternity. In the circle are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, *Alpha* and *Omega*, a symbol of God, and a reminder that the worship and service of God form an essential part of life from beginning to end.

At the Adult Stage the border and emblem are purple in colour.

### Presentation of the Emblem

It is recommended that the emblem and appropriate certificate be presented in the participant’s parish community, or if numbers warrant, at a regional celebration.

This could be at Mass, at a special Liturgy of the Word or similar event. Such an occasion is an ideal time to invite the youth of the Scouting movement, parents and family, and spouses of recipients. This presentation can be an ideal occasion to affirm positive role models, such as those receiving the award, and stress that the spiritual aspect of a member’s life is encouraged by Scouting.

The CCCB publication *Book of Blessings* has a blessing appropriate for the emblem and certificate. The parish may wish to present a special item as well, and include it in a commissioning rite for the recipient. A social gathering afterwards allows for congratulations and best wishes to be expressed.

## RESOURCES

*Let’s Celebrate* — A book of spiritual ideas for Scouting. This book contains many program ideas for leaders of all sections.

*Role of the Chaplain* — Pamphlet.

These resources are available from your local Scout/Guide Council office. Your leader or spiritual advisor will be able to recommend other useful resources.



Girl Guides  
of Canada  
Guides  
du Canada

