Religion in Life Program

Membership in 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 Scouts program 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. Scouts Canada upholds the principle that specific religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious authorities.

The Emblem

Although, there is no official Bahá’í symbol, the nine pointed star is often used as a symbol of our Faith. Nine is the highest numerical digit and as such, symbolized comprehensiveness, culmination and perfection.

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 Scout meeting, a church service, or a special evening for parents/guardians.

Stages

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

Stage 1 - Grey 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+)
Stage 5 - Tan Border (adults)

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

See Scouts Canada By-Law, Policies and Procedures.

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’í of Canada

Policy: The examiner for the award should be appointed by the local Spiritual Assembly or Group although Bahá’ís may undertake this responsibility. No one is eligible for the next stage until the preceding stages have been passed, but one may proceed from one stage to the next when ready, regardless of age.

Basic Requirements: Since the Bahá’í Faith accepts all religions, boys and girls of any religion may study and be tested for their knowledge of the Bahá’í Faith.

The Promise: The object of this study is to help young people understand God’s promise to mankind as found in the teachings of Bahá’u’lláh and His World Order. Love of service to God involves daily prayer as well as obedience to the Queen and the governments of the land. Work done in the spirit of service is worship. Bahá’ís labour to promote the well-being and best interests of all humanity regardless of race, colour, or creed.

Requirements

Stage 1

History

Name the four principal figures of the Bahá’í Faith. Explain the English meaning of the titles: the Bab,
Bahá'u'lláh, and Ṭabi’l-Bahá.

Name the country of origin of the Faith.

**Principles**
Know at least two of the Twelve Principles and give a simple explanation of those chosen.

**Laws**
Know at least one obligatory Law and when it is observed.

**Prayer**
Know at least the Noon-Day Prayer, and the “Remover of Difficulties” prayer.

**Covenant**
Explain what the word “Covenant” means.

**Administration**
Know what a Local Spiritual Assembly is (how many persons and how chosen).

**All Religions**
Explain simply what is meant by the term “Manifestation of God”.

Name one other Manifestation of God, apart from Bahá'u'lláh and the Bab, and tell when and where He lived.

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**Stage 2**

**History**
Give the Station of the four principal figures of Bahá'í Faith.

Give the date of the year of the Declaration of the Bab, and to whom He first declared Himself.

Give the date of the year of the Declaration of Bahá'u'lláh, and where this took place.

**Principles**
Know and explain five of the Twelve Principles.

**Laws**
Know at least two obligatory Laws and when they are observed.

**Prayer**
Know by heart the Healing Prayer, and one other not learned in Stage 1.

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**Stage 3**

**History**
Explain the relationship of the Stations of the four principal figures of the Bahá'í Faith to each other.

Give the calendar dates of the Declaration of the Bab and Bahá'u'lláh.

Name the city where Mulla Husayn met the Bab and the city where the Bab was martyred.

Give the day and the year of His martyrdom.

**Principles**
Know and explain simply eight of the Twelve Principles.

**Laws**
Know at least three obligatory Laws and when they are observed.

**Prayer**
Know by heart the Prayer for Canada and one other not learned in Stage 2.

**Covenant**
Who is the Centre of the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh? In which of the Writings is this fact found?

**Administration**
From where does the Universal House of Justice get its authority?

**All Religions**
Name five Manifestations and some of the countries to which Their teachings spread.

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**Stage 4**

**History**
Give a short account of the life of Bahá'u'lláh,
including some knowledge of His family background, early childhood, and the events of His life in exile.

**Principles**

Know and explain the basic meaning of the Twelve Principles.

**Laws**

Know at least four obligatory Laws and why they must be obeyed.

**Prayer**

Know by heart the Tablet of Ahmad and one other prayer not learned in prior stages.

**Covenant**

Explain how the Covenant provides protection for the Bahá’í Faith.

**Administration**

Explain the method of election for the three levels of Assemblies in Bahá’í. Tell briefly the function of each.

Explain what is meant by the term “Hand of the Cause” and tell what their functions are.

Give a brief explanation of the Continental Boards of Counsellors and Auxiliary Board Members.

**All Religions**

Name six Manifestations, the religions They founded and why it was necessary to have more than One.

Explain why Bahá’u’lláh is known as “The Promised One of All Ages’.

**Stage 5**

**History**

The history of the Faith involves ages and epochs. Give a brief account of those stages which this Faith has passed through so far and explain its ultimate goal.

**Principles**

The Twelve Principles cover some, but not all, of Bahá’u’lláh's social teachings. Name five others and explain their importance.

**Laws**

The Most Holy book sets forth the laws and ordinances of Bahá’u’lláh’s Dispensation. Show how it is more than a “mere code of laws”. Explain what benefits will be gained by humanity from the observance of God’s commands.

**Prayer**

Bahá’u’lláh has set forth the law of prayer. What exactly is it, and what guidelines has He given concerning its observance? What is the wisdom of prayer?

**Covenant**

There are two forms of Covenant mentioned in Bahá’í literature - describe each. What is meant by firmness in the Covenant? Tell what is unique about Bahá’u’lláh’s Covenant.

**Administration**

Describe the role of Shoghi Effendi in the development of the Bahá’í administrative order.

**All Religions**

Explain how all the great world religions have a common foundation.

What did Bahá’u’lláh mean by ‘the Cause of God’? Describe His vision of the future of religion and its implication to human society.