



Religion In Life Program

Orthodox Church



Published for the Church by Scouts Canada

Religion in Life Program

Membership in Scouts Canada is open to all who wish to make the promise, regardless of race, colour or creed. The purpose of the Scout program is to assist children 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 child and to encourage them to participate actively in their own religious community. Scouts Canada upholds the principle that specific religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious authorities.

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.

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 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*.

Stage 1

Basic Annual Requirements

1. Be recommended by your priest and Scouter.
2. Regular and satisfactory attendance at Sunday Divine Liturgy during the year.
3. Make regular contributions to the work of the church from allowance or earnings.

Yearly Requirements

First Year

1. Explain how the Promise and the Law can help you become a better Christian.
2. Tell the story of one of the heroes of the Old Testament such as Joseph, Moses, Samuel, or David (This might be told first at home, then to your Leader or Section).
3. Know from memory and show that you understand the Lord's Prayer.
4. Demonstrate the correct method of making the sign of the cross and explain the significance of each movement.

Second Year

1. Give satisfactory evidence to your Leader and parent(s) that you are trying to practice the spirit of the Promise and Law.
2. Tell in your own words the Parable of the Prodigal Son.
3. Know the meaning of and repeat from memory Psalm 23.
4. Name five autocephalous jurisdictions and show where they are located on a map.

Third Year

1. Give satisfactory evidence to your Leader and your parents(s) that you are trying to practice the spirit of the Promise and Law.
2. Explain why we should pray and how we should pray.
3. Using a map tell the story of one of the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys.
4. Give evidence of possessing a Bible.

Stage 2

Basic Annual Requirements

1. Be recommended by your priest and Scouter.
2. Regular and satisfactory attendance at Sunday Divine Liturgy during the year.
3. Give systematically to the local parish.
4. Give evidence of possessing a Bible and a prayer book approved by the diocese of the jurisdiction to which you belong.

First Year

1. What is a Sacrament? How many Sacraments in the Orthodox Church?
2. Name and explain the Ten Commandments.
3. Choose and fulfill in a period of six months, one service project which is acceptable to the parish.

Second Year

1. What is the greatest Holy Day in the Orthodox Church? Explain why it is so.
2. Know from memory and give evidence of understanding the Beatitudes.

3. Choose and fulfill in a period of six months one service project which is acceptable to the parish.

Third Year

1. Name and explain the services of the Orthodox Church.
2. Explain our Lord's summary of the law.
3. Choose and fulfill in a period of six months one service project which is acceptable to the parish, and participate in their choir.

Stage 3

Basic Annual Requirements

1. Be recommended by your priest and Scouter.
2. Regular and satisfactory attendance at Sunday and one Patron's (preferably the family Patron Saint) Divine Liturgy during the year.
3. Give evidence of possessing a Bible and a prayer book approved by the diocese of the jurisdiction to which you belong.

First Year

1. Participation in the choir.
2. Explain the Sacrament of baptism.
3. Give systematically to the local parish.
4. What is the Rudder? Explain why it is so.

Second Year

1. Indicate on a map the location of a seminary of your jurisdiction.
2. Explain the sacrament of unction.
3. Sketch and identify the interior of an Orthodox Church indicating the three principal parts. Indicate on the sketch the position of the iconostasis.

Third Year

1. Know the name of your Bishop in Canada and where the Episcopal seat is located.
2. Explain the sacrament of Holy Orders.
3. Recite from memory the Original Creed as formulated by the Seven Ecumenical Synods.

Stage 4

Basic Annual Requirements

1. Be recommended by your priest and Scouter.
2. Regular and satisfactory attendance at Divine Liturgy (must attend Sunday and St. George Day).
3. Give tithe to the local parish.
4. Give evidence of possessing a Bible, a prayer book, and liturgical texts approved by the diocese of the jurisdiction to which you belong.

First Year

1. Identify the different vestments used during the Divine Liturgy.
2. Indicate using a map, where the autocephalous jurisdictions are in the Orthodox Church.
3. Select two acceptable service projects to be fulfilled within a period of six months.

Second Year

1. Identify the different articles used during the Divine Liturgy.
2. Report on your (or one) autocephalous jurisdiction's work in Canada.
3. Select two acceptable service projects to be fulfilled within a period of six months.

Third Year

1. Identify the various aspects of Orthodox monasticism appropriate to your sex.
2. Report on an appropriate monastery. This should be complete, including map(s), accommodation(s), and building(s). A personal visit would be appropriate.
3. Select one acceptable service project approved by a monastery to be fulfilled within a period of six months.

Adult Stage

To be renewed annually

1. Be recommended by your Bishop.
2. Regular and satisfactory attendance at Divine Liturgy.
3. Give tithe to the local parish.

4. Give evidence of possessing and using your Bible in a systematic study.
5. Give evidence of possessing and using systematically a prayer book.
6. Give evidence of possessing and using regularly the appropriate liturgical texts.
7. Give evidence that you observe all fasts and feasts of the Church.

Resources

Christian Education and Scouting — Booklet.

Role of the Chaplain — Pamphlet.

Your leader or priest will be able to recommend other useful resources.



It starts with Scouts.

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