

## Catholic Scouting Religious Emblems

I am the Council Committee Chairman for Catholic Scouting. I am writing to the Key three of each organization in Suffolk County Council because just like every Scout deserves a good program...Every Scout has a duty to God...and it's our responsibility as adult leaders to help them grow in faith and demonstrate that duty.

I'm pretty sure I know what you're thinking if you don't already have an RE program. I don't have time to take on another program with all the campouts, advancement and service we do as a unit. As a former Scoutmaster of Troop 1 in Babylon, I initially had that same thought. But then I realized that I didn't have to do it because there is a new unit committee position called the Religious Emblems Coordinator who could help me. Their job is to make sure the Cubs, parents and Scouts know about the different REs and how to get them. Every faith has an award, and most are done between the Scout, their parents and their pastor. (<https://www.scouting.org/awards/religious-awards/>)

Except Catholic Scouting awards...these are a little harder. In Cubs, Light of Christ and Par Vuli Dei, they are still earned by the Cub working with their parents and pastor. But in Scouts, we need trained adults to help guide groups (4-8) through the awards (Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII). AAD is generally taken in a Scouts 2nd year and prior to the confirmation. PPXII is normally taken a year after they are confirmed. The CCOS provides training for adults that want to offer AAD and PPXII to Scouts in their Troops or District in the summer...usually 1 class in June, July and August. Then groups start off no later than October. There is a requirement to attend one of 2 retreats for AAD (in Fall and Spring) or an overnight retreat for PPXII in March. Boards of review are conducted in June of each year and a convocation for those candidates that successfully complete their awards is held with the Bishop at St Agnes in Rockville Center in September.

For Scout Troops...Please try to identify some trainers for the next Scouting year that we can get trained and ready to lead your Scouts through their REs. Nothing looks better than an Eagle Scout with 1-4 RE Awards in addition to that beautiful silver Eagle.

Speaking of Eagles...Did you know you can send an email to [Scouting@DRVC.org](mailto:Scouting@DRVC.org) and request a special certificate from the Bishop to commemorate your Eagle's accomplishment? Just provide the Scout's name, date of their Eagle Ceremony and where the certificate should be sent in the email at least a month in advance.

Also...did you know that there is an opportunity for 1 or 2 Scouts from Suffolk County Council to go to Philmont for just the cost of transportation there? Its called the Saint George Trek and Scouts that are active in their Catholic Faith and Scouting can be nominated to go on a standard trek with Scouts from across the country with either a Priest or Deacon as part of their Crew.

For Cub Packs...Please consider making a special effort in October to build up Cub Scout religious emblems of all faiths so that families can get them done in time for Pastors to present them at Services and Masses on Scout Sunday.

Bottom Line...I am here to help you and your unit offer a successful Catholic RE program and will be glad to help where I can on other faiths' religious emblems as well. Just let me know how I can help.

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