

Religious Awards

What?

What are religious awards?

- Religious awards programs are created by the various religious groups to encourage girls to grow stronger in their faith.
- GSUSA recognizes these programs and allows the recognition to be worn on the official uniform, but each religious organization develops and administers its own program.
- Religious awards are optional programs for girls to complete with the help of their families and religious leaders.
- Adult religious awards are by nomination only.

Why?

Why promote religious awards?

Religious awards help girls fulfill their promise *To Serve God*.

- The religious awards programs share many of the values that are integral to Girl Scouting, e.g., service to the community, intergenerational relationships, friendship-making skills, and positive self-esteem.
- The religious awards programs provide opportunities for girls to reinforce and internalize the values they have learned in Girl Scouting and to relate them to their faith.

Religious awards can increase community sponsorship

- The religious awards programs (the curriculum and recognition items) are created by the national religious organizations, not by the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. This allows councils to initiate dialogue with local congregations about one of their own resources created by their faith community to serve their youth.
- The religious awards programs can help a congregation embrace Girl Scouting not as an outside group that meets in its building, but as an integral part of their ministry with youth. Local congregations will not only be providing religious instruction through the religious awards programs, but they will also be strengthening the spiritual component of the Girl Scout program.
- The religious recognitions programs can be presented not only as opportunities for religious education, but also for ministry and outreach. For example, a faith community that offers the God and Country Mentor program

