

What are religious award programs?

- Religious award programs are optional opportunities for girls to complete age-appropriate recognitions with the help of their families and religious leaders.
- Programs are created by various religious groups to encourage girls to grow stronger in their faith. Each religious organization develops and administers its own program.

Why promote religious award programs?

- **Religious award programs help girls fulfill their promise "To Serve God."** The religious award programs share many of the values that are integral to Girl Scouting, such as service to the community, friendship-making skills, intergenerational relationships and positive self-esteem.
- **Religious award programs can increase community sponsorship.** The religious award programs can also be used for ministry and outreach. For example, a faith community that offers a religious award class might be reaching out to girls who do not have membership in a religious institution but are interested in earning their religious award.
- **Religious award programs can increase adult membership.** Adults active in a congregation may volunteer as counselors for the religious award programs because they see that as a direct extension of their congregation's ministry. The religious award programs may be their first exposure to the Girl Scout program. Also, long-time Girl Scout volunteers might see this as a way to get involved in the congregation.

How to promote religious award programs?

- **To Serve God Brochure** - Full-color photos of all religious recognitions available for girls and adults. Includes a Quick Reference Chart with contact information for the various organizations. Available through GSEIWI (see below).
- Understand that promoting religious award programs means providing information, not religious instruction. Religious instruction comes from the family and religious community.



For more information about Religious Awards or the Girl Scout Program contact:

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