

Parent Guide for the Light of Christ Religious Emblem Program May 2012 (Updated April 2020)

The following guide is primarily designed for use by parents or other family members who will be working with a Catholic Cub Scout in the Light of Christ Religious Emblem program. If the youth's Cub Scout Pack has a Religious Emblems Coordinator, parents are encouraged to meet with that individual, if possible, before they begin, to review the requirements, purposes, methodology, etc., of the program. Parents should also consult this material during the course of the work with their Scout. For parents who have no trained Pack Religious Emblem Coordinator available to assist them, use this guide and refer to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting Religious Emblems Reference Manual, pp 22, 27-28, 37-40, found on-line at <http://www.nccsbsa.org/pdf/ReligiousEmblemsReferenceManual.pdf> , to understand how the program works.

It is critical that the parent or family member completely review the introductory material in the Light of Christ Activity Book prior to the Cub Scout starting the program.

You will also need a Bible to complete some of the requirements. A children's Bible is preferred. If you do not have a Bible, you can buy one at a Catholic religious articles store, borrow one from your parish religious education department, or use an online Bible, such as the one at <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/index.shtml>

Step 1 – Families

Requirement This could be a picture of just the immediate family or also include extended family members that the Scout sees regularly. Stick figures are OK, but encourage some distinguishing attribute for each person included in the picture. If you have a family picture the Scout might use that for ideas.

Requirement 2 The Gospel of Luke Chapter 2, verses 1-7 describes the birth of Jesus. This might be good to read before the Scout makes his/her drawing. The picture should include a young woman, a man, and a baby or young boy. Ask the Scout to tell you why he/she drew the picture the way that he/she did.

Requirement 3 Give the Scout the information necessary to fill in this section. Talk about who was there and anything interesting or memorable that happened. For example, was he/she immersed in the baptismal font or did he/she have Holy Water poured over him/her. If he/she doesn't know his/her godparents, tell him/her about them and plan for him/her to meet with them.

Requirement 4 Read the verses from the Gospel of Matthew described in the Activity Book and explain to the Scout that Jesus was baptized even though He is God to show how important this sacrament is. Find out from your parish office or bulletin when Baptisms are held. If there are none scheduled in the near future, check with other nearby parishes.

Requirement 5

The Sign of the Cross: "In the name of the Father (touch the fingers of the right hand to the forehead), and of the Son (touch the heart), and of the Holy (touch the left shoulder) Spirit (touch the right shoulder). Amen.

Glory Be to the Father: “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.”

Completion of Step 1: Have the Scout date and sign on the appropriate lines, then sign on the parent’s/guardian’s line.

Step 2 – God’s Call

Requirement 1 There is no specific requirement here. Explain to the Scout some of the things that his/her parents do for him/her so that he/she can have a good home, learn about his/her faith, and do well in school.

Requirement 2 Some of the ways that the Scout can learn about his/her faith are:

1. From his/her parents, grandparents, and other relatives.
2. Reading about the saints.
3. Paying attention to the prayers, readings, and homily during Mass.
4. Attending religious education classes in his parish.
5. Saying the Rosary and bedtime prayers as a family.
6. Being read to from the Bible.

Requirement 3 A way that the Scout can help at home is by doing one of the things listed in the Scout’s Activity Book.

A Scout of this age can help at church by

1. Bringing up the gifts during the Offertory at Mass.
2. Picking up trash left in his/her pew or around the church.
3. Getting his den or pack to do a service project.
4. Learning to be an altar server when he/she is old enough.

The Scout can help at school by keeping his classroom clean, by picking up trash on the school grounds, by doing his homework and being ready to answer questions during class, by including everyone in games at recess, and by being respectful to his teacher and other adults.

He can help at Cub Scout meetings by volunteering to do skits or songs at pack meetings, by helping clean up after den meetings, by working hard on fund raisers, and by paying attention when others are speaking.

Requirement 4 Tell the Scout a few of the things you do at your job (including homemakers), and how that helps others and makes / saves money. Teach the Scout something that you do at work: write a letter, use a computer, add some numbers, make a plan for a meeting. Then have the Scout write a few sentences about what he/she learned.

Review the things that a parent does, from Requirement 1.

The picture can be simple, but the Scout should identify who is in it and write a sentence about what the person is doing.

Requirement 5 Try to surprise the Scout with something that he/she might never have thought of. You may need to review Requirements 1 and 4 to help the Scout decide what he/she likes best about being your son/daughter. Remind him/her of things that you do together, like going to movies, playing games, or taking trips.

Requirement 6 Teach the Scout about morning and evening prayers and saying grace before meals, even when the whole family is not there. Remind him/her to thank Jesus for good things that have happened and to ask Him for help when he/she is worried about something.

Completion of Step 2: Have the Scout date and sign on the appropriate lines, then sign on the parent's/guardian's line.

Step 3 – Forgiveness

Requirement 1 Read this story from Luke and then tell it to the Scout in your own words. Be sure to make the following points:

1. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were traveling with their extended family and that His parents thought He was with other family members when they left Jerusalem. You might give an example of your extended family, including cousins, aunts, or uncles, traveling together. If it was a trip with multiple cars used for transportation, how would you feel if you thought your son/daughter was in a different car and, after driving many miles, they all stop in a rest stop and you discover your son/daughter is not in a car with his/her cousins. How would you feel if they discovered your son/daughter was still at the last rest stop?

2. When Jesus says: "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" He is not being smart or sassy, but rather being obedient to the will of His Heavenly Father. Be sure to have the Scout write the answers to the two questions in his/her own words.

Requirement 2 Don't ask the Scout about the times that he/she didn't say "Yes", but you might have to remind him/her about this assignment occasionally. In helping the Scout to write about the experience, get him/her to think about the times that it was hard and whether it got easier as the week went on.

Requirement 3 If the Scout has received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, this will be familiar to him/her. In helping the Scout think of someone to forgive, it will be easier if it is a family member and the offense is small, but don't limit his/her thinking. Remind the Scout that forgiving means exactly that, not. "Well, I'll forgive you, but I won't forget." You may need to give the Scout a few days to think about this requirement. He/she doesn't need to write down what happened, but he/she should share with you how he/she felt after forgiving the person.

Requirement 4 Tell the Scout this short story in your own words. The single sheep that has gone astray symbolizes a person who is apart from God because of sin. We have the Sacrament of Reconciliation so that the sinner may return to God and become a full member of the Church (flock) again.

Requirement 5 This is the reverse of Requirement 3. The Scout may have done something like this in preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Again, you may have to give him/her a few days to do this requirement. Have him/her tell you how he/she did it and then let him/her write down what he/she told you.

Completion of Step 3: Have the Scout date and sign on the appropriate lines, then sign on the parent's/guardian's line.

Step 4 – Eucharist

Requirement 1 The Scout can easily find pictures of food in the newspaper or magazines or from the Internet.

Requirement 2 Families may have special meals on Independence Day, Easter, Christmas, and Thanksgiving. Some families celebrate ethnic holidays, such as St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, or Columbus Day.

Some examples of Grace (prayer before meals):

“Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Philmont Grace:

“For food, for raiment
For life, for opportunity
For friendship and fellowship
We thank thee, O Lord”

“Father of us all, this meal is a sign of Your love for us. Bless us and bless our food, and help us to give You glory each day. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!”

A benediction may be given after a meal. A benediction is a kind of blessing given to a group of persons who have gathered, as they prepare to depart. The benediction given at the end of Mass is an example.

It is entirely appropriate to start and end all prayers with the Sign of the Cross (see Step 1, Requirement 5).

Requirement 3 This is one of several Gospel descriptions of Jesus' miraculously causing a small amount of food to be multiplied to feed a large number of people. Jesus fed all these people so that they would know that He was the Messiah and because He was concerned with their well-being. Ask the Scout to explain why he/she circled the particular feelings that he/she chose.

Requirement 4 The meal described here is often called “The Last Supper” and we remember it on Holy Thursday, during the week before Easter. This meal is included in the Gospels of Matthew (26:17-29), Mark (14:16-25), and Luke (22:13-37). It is recommended that you read one of these with the Scout and to help him/her understand what is happening. Before you attend Mass with the Scout, take a missal, and read, with the Scout, the words that the priest will use during the Consecration, when the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus. He is repeating the words of Jesus from the Last Supper.

If the Scout has difficulty thinking of something in his/her life that shows Jesus' love, you can remind him/her that Jesus died on the cross for all our sins or that all good things in our life (family, home, friends, special talents or skills) come from God.

Requirement 5 Help the Scout compose his/her prayer by telling him/her that prayer is merely talking to God. The prayer that he/she composes doesn't have to have any fancy words, but just be him/her telling Jesus, his/her Friend, how he/she is happy to have a friend like Him. If he/she still has difficulty, your pastor or other parish priest, a deacon, or the religious education department in your parish can give you some models that he/she can follow in writing his/her prayer.

Completion of Step 4: Have the Scout date and sign on the appropriate lines, then sign on the parent's/guardian's line.

Step 5 – Family of God

Requirement 1 Help the Scout get the spelling of the church's name correct.

Requirement 2 Some churches are not open all day, so it would be good to call the parish office ahead of time to find out the hours you will be able to get in. If you are unsure of the identification or use of most of the symbolic items in the church, your pastor, deacon, or a religious education teacher may be able to help. Your parish or diocesan library may have books or pamphlets that explain the items and fixtures normally found in a Catholic church. You can also buy such a book or pamphlet at a Catholic religious articles store. If you use the Internet for information on this topic, be certain that it represents authentic Catholic teaching. If you get help from a member of the parish staff, ask them to show you other articles, not normally on display except when Mass or a ceremony is ongoing, such as the priest's or deacon's stole, a chalice, the Communion cups and ciboria, and corporal and purificator cloths. This will be helpful in Requirement 4 of this step.

Requirement 3 The Lord's Prayer can be found several times in the Gospels, but Matthew 6:9-13 is closest to the prayer said by Catholics. The Catholic Our Father is as follows:

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Requirement 4 If you did not get assistance from parish staff during Requirement 2 of this Step, you may need to have the Scout observe the use of some items during Mass or a Baptism.

Baptism: Baptismal font, candles, stoles.

Reconciliation: Confessional booths, stoles.

Eucharist: Altar, tabernacle, cups, ciboria, chalice, corporal, purificators.

Completion of Step 5: Have the Scout date and sign on the appropriate lines, then sign on the parent's/guardian's line.

Completing the Program

In order for the Scout to receive the Light of Christ emblem, the parent/guardian should follow these steps:

1. Fill out and sign the Light of Christ Emblem Application on the last page of the Light of Christ Activity Book.
2. Have the Scout sign the application in the designated location.

3. Obtain the signatures of the Pack Religious Emblems Coordinator (if the pack has a person in that position) or, if there is no pack RE Coordinator, the signature of the Scout's Den Leader.
4. Obtain the signature of the Scout's Cubmaster.
5. Arrange a meeting for the Scout with his/her Pastor, Parish Administrator, or the delegate for one of those persons.
6. See that the Scout attends the meeting scheduled in 5 above and takes his/her Activity Book with him/her. Ensure that the Pastor, Parish Administrator, or delegate signs the Light of Christ Emblem Application.
7. Contact your diocesan Scout Chaplain or Diocesan Scouting Committee for the proper procedure to submit the application. You should be able to obtain the necessary contact information through your diocesan chancery office or by visiting the National Catholic Committee on Scouting website at: <http://nccs-bsa.org/contacts/DiocesanContacts.php> and then selecting the Region that includes your state and then selecting your Diocese.
8. Submit the application and any fees as directed.
9. Go to <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/survey/> and fill out the Evaluation Form or mail the form in the back of the book to:
National Catholic Committee on Scouting
P. O. Box 152079
Irving, Texas 75015-2079

If the emblem is presented at the diocesan level, the diocesan contact will provide you with the necessary information. Otherwise, when the emblem is received, it should be presented at a parish ceremony, arranged by the person that met with the Scout in step 6 above.