

Counselor's Guide for the Ad Altare Dei (AAD) Religious Emblem Program

AAD Program Theme – Provide the opportunity to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each Scout by encouraging them to actively live out their Catholic Christian faith.

AAD Program Layout – Organized in chapters based on the Sacraments

Time Frame for Getting Started

1) Attend a training session provided by The Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting.

May – June

- 2) Read the **Counselor's and Review Board Guide** for the AAD emblem (available at the Scout Center).
- 3) Photocopy the form on the first page of the **Counselor's and Review Board Guide**. Have the Pastor sign the copy and then mail it to the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting. Retain the original master in the manual for future use.
- 4) Inform the Troop Committee / Scoutmaster of your intentions to begin the AAD program.
- 5) Talk to the Scouts at a Troop meeting. Also suggest the Protestant God & Country program or any other appropriate religious emblem program for non-Catholic Scouts.
- 6) Put notice in parish bulletin for Catholic Scouts in other Troops that may be interested. The AAD program is not to be conducted as a one-on-one parent-son activity. The program is to be presented within a discussion group of Scouts.
- 7) Set date for interested Scouts to have the AAD book and the "Application to begin..." signed by them, along with their parent's approval signature. They are not to remove the application form from the book. You [the Counselor] also sign the application, indicating your commitment.
- 8) The Pastor and unit leader signs the application certifying that the Scout meets the requirements to start. The requirements are; the Scout is Catholic, a register member with BSA, in the Troop for 6 months, and completed 6th grade before starting the program.
- 9) Suggested Program Schedule:
 - Meet every 2 weeks for 1&1/2-2hrs in home or like location. Pre-select time and location so you and the Scout understand the commitment. You may want to invite parents to the first meeting. Arrange for at least one other adult to be present at all times to ensure the BSA standard of "two deep leadership".
 - Cover one of the eight chapters each session.
 - Require from the Scouts a minimum 2 hours of prep work before each session.
 - Incorporate the Catholic Scout Retreat, generally the last weekend in September. A retreat is suggested in the AAD Scout Manual (p. 10).
 - Remind the Scouts to have the Scoutmaster sign off the "...spirit growth discussion..." in their AAD book at their next Scoutmaster Conference.

- Have the Scouts set-aside time over a one-month period for the chapter 6 requirement to help someone. If possible, have the Scout attend and participate in a Catholic Baptism as soon as they get the chance.
- Arrange ahead for the Scouts to “Assist in one of the Parish ministry projects” (p. 52)

July – August - Scouts should read through the AAD Scout Manual.

Late August – December

- 12) Start program following the schedule set in June.
- 13) Attend a Scout Retreat [The Diocesan Scout Retreat is the last full weekend in September].
- 14) Complete all requirements.

December – January

- 13) Review of book and sign certification.
- 14) Attend a Board of Review. To request a Board of Review, contact any member of the Catholic Committee. Generally, two Board of Reviews will be scheduled at Becket Hall on Gregory Street, one in December and another in January.
- 15) Send the signed / approved application and money for the emblem to the Diocese.

February

- 16) Attend Scout Sunday at home parish. Generally Scout Sunday is the 1st Sunday in February.
- 17) Attend Scout Recognition Service at Sacred Heart Cathedral with Bishop Clark.