



Guidelines

Official Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting Website
http://www.diogh.org/pastoral_cathcommscouting.htm#Girl_Scouting

Purpose

The purposes for which this committee has been formed are:

- 1) To extend Girl Scouting as one of the youth programs endorsed by the Catholic Church.
- 2) To carry out a program of spiritual activities according, to the policies of the Archdiocesan Office of Youth Ministry.
- 3) To act as a liaison group between the Girl Scout Councils in the Archdiocese and the Archdiocesan Office of Youth Ministry.
- 4) To provide resource material helpful to Girl Scout Leaders in their efforts to help girls put the teaching of their faith into practice.

Membership

The Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting consists of **all volunteers** within the Archdiocese who work with Catholic Girl Scouts who are earning their religious recognition medals.

Program Medals

THE FAMILY OF GOD - 2nd, 3rd Grades

The Family of God Medal is the only medal that can be received in the parish (and must be done during a religious ceremony) or at the Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting - Religious Recognition Ceremony.

I LIVE MY FAITH - 4th, 5th, 6th Grades

MARY, THE FIRST DISCIPLE – A Marian Medal program - 7th, 8th, 9th Grades

THE SPIRIT ALIVE - 10th, 11th, 12th Grades

I Live My Faith, Mary, The First Disciple and The Spirit Alive Medals can only be received from the Archbishop at the Religious Recognition Ceremony.

Please Note - These medals are of great value and accomplishment. . If an emergency or conflict comes up, then the individuals should contact the Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting – Chairperson. The circumstances will be reviewed individually by the Executive Board. The Chair will consult with the parent directly on the outcome. Under no circumstances is anyone to contact the Archbishop of the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese or the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council about the programs or about receiving medals if they can not attend the ceremony. They do not govern the guidelines for these programs.

Program Coordinators and Moderators

Archdiocesan Program Coordinators and moderators are adults who: 1) Have been Virtus trained through the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese, 2) Attended appropriate level moderator training from the Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting, and 3) Are working with Catholic Girl Scouts and Non-Catholic Girl Scouts.

Moderators must attend the orientation before they can start the program with their troops or individual participants even if they are troop leaders, DRE, or Catechist trained.

Moderator Level Training - is given during the Spiritual Awareness Day – SAD (October) and/or Spiritual Awareness Retreat Weekend (February) events. If you are not able to attend either of these events please contact the Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting – Chairperson (See website for name.).

VIRTUS Training - All adults working with the youth through the Archdiocese must take the VIRTUS training offered through the Archdiocese and can register at www.virtus.com. This is mandatory for all adults who work with any and all youth in the Archdiocese.

Events held by the Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting are:

1) Spiritual Awareness Day (SAD) Event

SAD is held in Fall of each year, usually at the Girl Scout Center in Houston Southwest Freeway location. At this time all levels will be introduced to the programs and work on chapters in the books. Guidelines for continuing the chapters in the books will be given at the end of class. T-Shirts, patches and books can be purchased at the event.

2) Spiritual Awareness Retreat Weekend Event

Spiritual Awareness Retreat Weekend is held in Spring of each year usually at Girl Scout - Camp Casa Mare in Kemah, Tx. All levels will be welcomed on Saturday and only Mary, The First Disciple and The Spirit Alive programs will stay for the weekend. At this time, those who are close to completion of their program will be guided to do so. Guidelines for Book Review Day will be given at the end of the sessions. T-Shirts, patches and books can be purchased at the event. Participants working on the Cadette and Senior program levels, please bring a 3 ring binder.

Please Note: For Spiritual Awareness Day (S.A.D.) and Spiritual Awareness Retreat - participants will need to bring pencil/pen, paper, program book and workbook. The workbook will consist of a two inch three ring binder, (white or blue for Marian program; white or red for The Spirit Alive), one packet of 5 tab dividers and paper. The participant will show all of their work in the workbook.

When the participant is finished with her program book/workbook, she will have her book reviewed at Book Review Day.

3) Book Review Day Event

Book Review Day will be held in Spring after Spiritual Awareness Retreat Weekend usually at the Girl Scout Center in Houston Southwest Freeway location. All participants must have their program book and workbook reviewed and signed to make the Religious Recognition Ceremony.

Only **Family of God Program** can be reviewed throughout the year by contacting the Family of God Program Coordinator.

Required Signatures on Books for Book Review Day:

Family of God - Adult Moderator and Archdiocesan Representative

I Live My Faith - Adult Moderator and Archdiocesan Representative

Mary, The First Disciple - Adult Moderator, Parish Pastor, Associate Pastor, or Deacon, and Archdiocesan Representative

The Spirit Alive - Adult Moderator, Parish Pastor, Associate Pastor or Deacon, and Archdiocesan Representative

***Please Note** - If moderators/girls are not able to have their books reviewed on or before Book Review Day the Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting will not be able to guarantee their name in the Religious Recognition Ceremony program book. They will, however, still be able to attend Religious Recognition Ceremony and receive their medal.*

4) Religious Recognition Ceremony

Religious Recognition Ceremony will be held in Spring after Book Review Day, usually just before or after Easter. The location of the event varies within the Archdiocese. All level programs will receive their medals from the Archbishop. The Family of God girls who have already received their medals in their parish are invited to attend the Religious Recognition ceremony and will be asked to stand up and be recognized. Their names will also be printed in the program. All participants will line up by their attending parishes and not by the parish in which they completed the program book, if there is a difference.

A reception will follow the ceremony where parents can take pictures of the recipients with the Archbishop. We ask that all girls participating donate to the Community Service Project that will be mentioned on the flyer announcing the Religious Recognition Ceremony.

***Please Note** - Parishes having their own Girl Scout Sunday may ask the Pastor to **recognize** the girls who have received The Family of God, I Live My Faith, Mary, The First Disciple and The Spirit Alive medals received from the Archbishop. Parish Representatives, parents or moderators must contact the Chair for the proper guidelines for the ceremony within their parish.*

Medals

All Program Level Medals will be awarded at the Religious Recognition Ceremony in the spring of each year. The **only** medal that can be awarded in local parishes is the **Family of God Medal**. If a recipient can not attend Religious Recognition Ceremony they must wait until the following spring to receive their medal. For emergencies, contact Chair as soon as possible. They will not have to start the program all over again because they could not attend the ceremony.

Family of God Medal - in Parish Ceremony

No **Family of God Medal** will be granted unless the book(s) has been reviewed and signed by the appropriate Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting Program Level Coordinator. They must give the exact date of the ceremony and allow 4 weeks prior to when the parish will present the medal(s). Once the appropriate signatures on the **Family of God** book(s) have been completed, the order for the medals will be placed. When the Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting Religious Recognition chairperson receives the medals, she will notify the moderator the medals can be picked up or it is the Moderator's responsibility to tell the Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting they would like to have their medals mailed to their parish.

Purchasing Program Level Books

Religious Recognition Books are only mailed to trained moderators, youth ministers, CCE instructors; DRE'S who have been properly trained to teach religious education classes, and are familiar with our Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting Program and Guidelines.

Program books can be purchased at the day of the events (i.e. Spiritual Awareness Day – SAD or Spiritual Awareness Retreat Weekend) or they can contact the Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting - Religious Recognitions Coordinator. To purchase more than one book and not attending the event (i.e. Moderators) *must* give the committee 8 weeks notice to insure we have books on hand. Those who wish to have books mailed to them, please remember to add the cost of shipping and handling.

Please Note: No one can begin the program until they have been Moderator trained by the Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting.

Other Faith Communities

Sometimes girls of other Faith Communities will ask to participate in the Catholic programs, usually because of a friend who is doing so or for many other reasons. They should be notified of the programs available for members of their own faith and encouraged to seek information on these programs, available through the Council Religious Relationships Coordinator. If, however, the girl and/or her parents insist on pursuing this effort, we must have a letter from her parent(s), (not the troop leader or moderator) with the registration form stating that it is their wish for their daughter to participate in the Archdiocesan Committee on Girl Scouting Religious Recognition Medal Program. They should also indicate what their faith is, for our records.