

**“This has been a Duty to God moment.”**



***A four-year collection of monthly one-minute reflections on the Scouting Movement to open District Roundtables and maintain the 12th Point of the Scout Law - A Scout is Reverent- moving forward.***

**Curated by the Greater Saint Louis Area Council  
Religious Relations Committee**

**Presented to National Council of Scouting America  
On 8 February 2025**

**To Commemorate 115 Year of Service  
In Transforming the Youth of Today into the Leaders of Tomorrow**

# Introduction

Greetings from the Greater St. Louis Area Council Religious Relations Committee. We believe doing one's Duty to God is central to Scouting. The Scout Oath begins with Duty to God; the Scout Law ends with Reverence. As Scouting founder Robert Baden-Powell said, *"There is no religious 'side' of the movement. The whole of it is based on religion, that is, on the realization and service of God."*

In 2021, the GSLAC Religious Relations Committee was searching for ways to both promote more youth and adult Scouts to earn the Religious Emblems of their faith and find a way to keep the Scouting Movements "Duty to God" at the forefront of our words, actions, and deeds from unit to district to council. The idea of creating a series of monthly one-minute messages to be read at the start of District Roundtables was moved on by the committee, a yearly theme was adopted, individual members made contributions with script and symbol, and the tagline "This has been a Duty to God moment" was born. A second series was started in 2022 in a similar fashion.

By 2024, multiple requests for additional series were made by Key Three members from across the 24 Districts of GSLAC in Illinois and Missouri, so as to keep "This has been a Duty to God moment" fresh but familiar. Another push to create to additional series for a full four-year cycle was mounted and competed. Each series has a central theme and is intended to begin with the start of the Scouting year in August; additionally, each month's selection builds upon that theme.

Here's a breakdown of the four-part series:

- Series One: Scouting Symbols of Reverence (*a primer on Religious Emblems, page 3-14*)**
- Series Two: The Trail to Eagle (*keeping the eye on the prize from Lion to Eagle, page 15-26*)**
- Series Three: A Wood Badge Journey (*reverence & leadership starts at the top, page 27-38*)**
- Series Four: GSLAC Year at a Glance (*we are blessed to pay forward regularly, page 39-50*)**

May this work enlighten your District Roundtable's and inspire the Scouting Movement for many years to come. Be well, do good work, and keep in touch... may peace be with you.

Yours in Scouting,

Jim Marchbank,  
*Committee Chair*

Bruce Levitt,  
*Vice Chair of Activities*

D.M. "Doc" Mills,  
*Vice Chair of Communications*

Mark Balbes,  
*Vice Chair of New Units*

Joe Shaver,  
*Vice Chair of Religious Emblems*

# Duty to God Series One: Scouting Symbols of Reverence

## August

**Theme: A Scout Is Reverent**

**Symbol: First Class Scout Badge**

**Resource: [Duty to God Program Information](#)**

**Script:**



This “Duty to God Moment” is the first of a series of Moments that the Religious Relationships Committee for the council plans to have at monthly Roundtables in every district. Duty to God Moments are short reflections to remind Scouters that every Scout has a Duty to God.

Robert Baden-Powell once said, “[d]evelopment of outlook naturally begins with a respect for God, which we may best term Reverence. Reverence to God and reverence for one's neighbour and reverence for oneself as a servant of God, is the basis of every form of religion.”

We see reminders of our Duty to God in various symbols used in Scouting, too. Whether it's the symbols that make up the First Class Scout Badge, a religious knot, or other religious award on a Scout's uniform, these symbols remind us that a Scout is Reverent. During these Duty to God Moments, we will unpack these various symbols that relate to the various themes throughout the year.

This has been a Duty to God Moment.

[Approximate Time: 0:51]

# Duty to God Series One: Scouting Symbols of Reverence

## September

**Theme:** Religious Emblems

**Symbol:** Religious Knot

**Resource:** [Religious Emblems of the BSA Video or Script](#)

### Script:

Robert Baden-Powell has said of the Scouting movement that “[t]here is no religious side to the movement. The whole of it is based on religion, that is, on the realization and service of God.” We see this connection in the 12th point of the Scout Law — a Scout is Reverent — and the “Duty to God” portion of the Scout Oath.

To emphasize one’s Duty to God, religious institutions have developed emblem awards that help Scouts learn more about their faith and to grow in appreciation of their family’s beliefs. The religious emblems are medals that can be worn for formal or spiritual occasions. Once a religious emblem is earned, the Universal Religious Knot, a silver square knot on purple cloth, may be worn on the official Scout uniform throughout one’s Scouting career.

To learn more, you can find a brochure about religious emblems by searching Duty to God at [scouting.org](http://scouting.org).

This has been a Duty to God Moment.

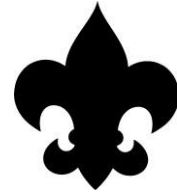
[Approximate Time: 0:50]



# Duty to God Series One: Scouting Symbols of Reverence

## October

**Theme:** Pointing in the Right Direction  
**Symbol:** Fleur-de-lis  
**Resource:** Map to illustrate a Compass Rose  
**Script:**



The Fleur-de-lis is a very recognizable symbol in the Scouting movement. Even outside of Scouting, the fleur-de-lis can be found in a variety of places from medieval heraldry, military insignia and even sports logos.

The fleur-de-lis has also been used as the compass rose of the face of the compass to indicate the cardinal direction of North. Without a reference, a compass is useless! By placing a fleur-de-lis on the face of the compass, the user knows how to orient the instrument so that it can be used effectively.

A Scout's Duty to God serves in a similar way as the fleur-de-lis. When a Scout attends to his or her Duty to God, the Scout uses their faith to orient their life accordingly.

As Scout leaders, we need to remind Scouts about their Duty to God. Lord Baden-Powell is quoted as saying, "[w]e never fail when we try to do our duty, we always fail when we neglect to do it." By encouraging Scouts to reflect on their own religious beliefs, we are reminding them to orient their lives based on those beliefs and helping them to do their duty.

This has been a Duty to God Moment.

[Approximate Time: 0:57]

# Duty to God Series One: Scouting Symbols of Reverence

## November

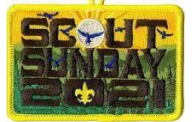
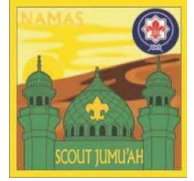
**Theme:** Celebrating Scout Jumu'ah/Sabbath/Sunday

**Symbol:** Scout Jumu'ah/Sabbath/Sunday Patch

**Resource:** [Calendar of various traditions for these celebrations](#)

### Script:

Robert Baden-Powell writes, “[i]t is expected that every Scout shall belong to some religious denomination, and attend its services.” It is fitting, then, that religious institutions host a celebration in conjunction with the anniversary of Boy Scouts of America in February to recognize their Scouts’ Duty to God. While the exact dates for these celebrations vary by institution, they are wonderful opportunities for Scouts to share with their faith communities that a Scout is Reverent.



For some, these celebrations include Scouts in the planning and presentation of an institution’s worship. Scouts could also attend worship in full uniform and even be recognized by their institution with any religious awards the Scouts have earned. The key is to coordinate with the leaders of your institution to create a celebration that is in harmony with that institution’s customs.

Scouts can also use these celebrations as a chance to give back to their faith communities. A formal “thank you” to the community that supports the unit can mean a lot to its members and leaders.

Start planning your celebration now, as February will be here before you know it!

This has been a Duty to God Moment.

[Approximate Time: 0:58]

# Duty to God Series One: Scouting Symbols of Reverence

December

**Theme:** Duty to God & Country, Duty to Others, & Duty to Self

**Symbol:** Points of the Fleur-de-lis

**Resource:** Printed Copy of the Scout Oath



## Script:

Robert Baden-Powell once said, “[d]evelopment of outlook naturally begins with a respect for God... Reverence to God and reverence for one's neighbor and reverence for oneself as a servant of God.” Each of these points is included in the Scout Oath and are symbolized in the three points of the fleur-de-lis.

When Scouts say the Scout Oath, they are promising to do their best to do their Duty to God and country, the first point on the fleur-de-lis. We see Scouts succeed with this point when they participate in religious and patriotic services as well as living the points of the Scout Law.

“A Scout is Helpful” is also included in the Scout Oath with a pledge to help other people at all times. Friendly, courteous, and kind service is a hallmark of the Scouting movement.

The third point on the fleur-de-lis reminds us of a Scout’s duty to self, the duty to keep oneself “physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.”

When a Scout is attentive to all three aspects of the Scout Oath, we are helping Scouts realize the vision of the Scouting movement to prepare young people to become responsible, participating citizens and leaders who are guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

This has been a Duty to God Moment.

[Approximate Time: 1:00]

# Duty to God Series One: Scouting Symbols of Reverence

## January



**Theme:** Freedom of Religion

**Symbol:** Eagle and Shield

**Resource:** <https://troopleader.scouting.org/information-duty-to-god/>

### Script:

The Eagle and Shield is an emblem of the United States of America which represents freedom and a Scout's readiness to defend that freedom. This freedom also includes the freedom of religion. In the Declaration of Religious Principle, we learn that "no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God." While nonsectarian in nature, the Boy Scouts of America affirms that religion is a fundamental aspect of good citizenship for its members.

Lord Baden-Powell tells us that "[t]he method of expression of reverence to God varies with every sect and denomination. What sect or denomination a boy belongs to depends, as a rule, on his parents' wishes. It is they who decide. It is our business to respect their wishes and to second their efforts to inculcate reverence, whatever form of religion the boy professes." By reminding Scouts of their Duty to God, then, we are partnering with parents and their wishes on the religious beliefs of their Scout.

This has been a Duty to God Moment.

[Approximate Time: 0:54]



# Duty to God Series One: Scouting Symbols of Reverence

## February

**Theme: Truth & Knowledge**

**Symbol: Stars**

**Resource: Poster with constellations**

**Script:**



The stars on the Scout logo represent truth and knowledge which help us find our way through life. By representing truth and knowledge as stars, we are reminded of the night sky and how the stars, just like truth and knowledge, also help us find our way.

Another way we navigate through life is through our Duty to God. Lord Baden-Powell once said that “[i]f you make listening and observation your occupation you will gain much more than you can by talk.” By observing our religious beliefs and being attentive to how these beliefs can be a guide, our Duty to God is like the stars in the night sky that point the way.

This has been a Duty to God Moment.

[Approximate Time: 0:35]

# Duty to God Series One: Scouting Symbols of Reverence March

**Theme:** Smile and Cheerful Service

**Symbol:** Scroll

**Resource:**

<https://troopleader.scouting.org/information-duty-to-god/>

**Script:**



“A Scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances” Lord Robert Baden-Powell once said. This smile and cheerful service is represented in the scroll found on the Second Class Scout Badge. We can see this smile and cheerful service at work in a Scout when we follow the Golden Rule, a philosophy that is common in many of the world’s religions - namely, helping others.

When we treat others the way we would like them to treat us, we are living our Duty to God because we are putting our faith into practice. This cheerful service can put a smile on a Scouts face as well as on the faces of others.

This has been a Duty to God Moment.

[Approximate Time: 0:35]

# Duty to God Series One: Scouting Symbols of Reverence

**April**

**Theme: Be Prepared**

**Symbol: Scout Motto**

**Resource: Scout Handbook**

**Script:**



“Be prepared for what?” someone once asked Robert Baden-Powell. “Why, for any old thing,” he replied. Baden-Powell wanted each Scout to be ready to meet any challenge. Whether these challenges are critical life-saving techniques through knowledge of Scout Skills or managing group behavior through the Patrol Method, being prepared is a guiding principle throughout Scouting.

In our Duty to God, we must also be prepared for “any old thing.” Our best laid plans can sometimes get spoiled by life’s circumstances leaving us with only our faith to be able to respond. Reminding Scouts to always be attentive to the faith practices of their families helps them be prepared when these practices are needed most.

This has been a Duty to God Moment.

[Approximate Time: 0:40]

# Duty to God Series One: Scouting Symbols of Reverence

## May

**Theme:** Do A Good Turn Daily

**Symbol:** Knot

**Resource:**

<https://www.scoutshop.org/do-a-good-turn-spinner-coin630805.html>

**Script:**

Doing a good turn daily is something Robert Baden-Powell envisioned from the beginning of the

Scouting movement as part of one's Duty to God. To quote Scouting's international founder, "Religion very briefly stated means: Firstly— recognizing who and what is God. Secondly— making the best of the life that He has given one and doing what He wants of us. This is mainly doing something for other people."

The knot below the scroll on the First Class Scout Badge is there as a reminder to do a daily Good Turn. These good turns help other people and are also a reminder that a "Scout is Helpful," one of the points from the Scout Law.

Being helpful by doing a good turn daily makes our Duty to God to light.

This has been a Duty to God Moment.

[Approximate Time: 0:42]



# Duty to God Series One: Scouting Symbols of Reverence

June

**Theme:** Bring the 12th point of the Scout Law to Light

**Symbol:** Chaplain and Chaplain Aide Emblems

**Resource:** [Manual for Chaplains and Chaplain Aides](#)



## Script:

Lord Baden Powell once said that we should “[t]each Scouts not how to get a living, but how to live.” Part of living a balanced life is attending to our spiritual needs. A Unit Chaplain and a Chaplain Aide can be wonderful resources for helping Scouts be more attentive to our spiritual wellbeing.

A Chaplain is typically a religious leader from a faith-based charter organization. If the unit is not chartered by a religious institution, a Chaplain can be chosen from local institutions who can meet the spiritual needs of unit members.

The main role of the Chaplain is to provide a spiritual element for unit activities with the help of a Chaplain Aide. One opportunity could be the religious observances held during Scout Week in February. Other opportunities for spiritual growth can be developed in conjunction with the Unit Committee.

Duty to God doesn’t happen by accident. Leadership in the key roles of Chaplain and Chaplain Aide can help a unit participate more fully in a Scout’s Duty to God.

This has been a Duty to God Moment.

[Approximate Time: 0:55]

# Duty to God Series One: Scouting Symbols of Reverence July

**Theme:**Facilitating Duty to God

**Symbol:**Religious Emblems Coordinator Emblem

**Resource:**<https://www.praypub.org/rec-info>

**Script:**



Robert Baden-Powell once said, “[a]n individual step in character training is to put responsibility on the individual.” The Unit Religious Emblems Coordinator can help Scouts with their responsibility toward their Duty to God by encouraging Scouts to earn the religious emblems of their faith.

The Unit Religious Emblems Coordinator serves on the Unit Committee and acquaints Scouts with the religious emblems programs that are available. Working with district and council leaders as well as local faith institutions, the Unit Religious Emblems Coordinator helps Scouts find the right resources for Duty to God.

Whether Scouts in the unit are of the same faith tradition or if they represent a variety of beliefs, the Unit Religious Emblems Coordinator plays a vital role in promoting Duty to God.

This has been a Duty to God Moment.

[Approximate Time: 0:45]

## **Duty to God Series Two: The Trail to Eagle**

### **August Theme - Completeness**

**Symbol: Tiger Circles: Duty to God**

**Script:**



Among the many adventures for a Tiger Scout is the Tiger Circles: Duty to God. The Boy Scouts of America believes that faith, as expressed by the Scout's family, is an important part of each person's identity. Just as each member of a Scout's family circle brings something special to their lives, faith brings something special, too.

A circle represents completeness as there is no beginning or end. Just as our family circle doesn't seem complete when someone is not able to make it to a special celebration or holiday festival, so, too, are our lives incomplete when we do not tend to our Duty to God.

Every faith tradition offers opportunities for Scouts of all ages to tend to their Duty to God. All units are encouraged to have an adult designated as the Unit Religious Emblems Coordinator to help the Scouts in that unit find Duty to God resources in their specific faith tradition. The district and council can also help Scouts celebrate their Duty to God by providing information and resources through the District and Council Religious Emblems Coordinators respectively.

This has been a Duty to God moment.

Estimated Time: 55 seconds

## **Duty to God Series Two: The Trail to Eagle**

### **September Theme - Discipleship**

**Symbol: Footsteps**

**Script:**



The Duty to God Adventure for a Wolf Scout is symbolized as footprints. Footprints tell us someone or something has traveled along a certain path. We travel many paths in life and some of these paths are helpful while others are not. As Akela, a wise leader, we find ourselves in a position to help our Scouts follow in our footsteps and travel good paths.

Scouts are also challenged to follow a path of faith, following the footprints of others to learn the customs and traditions that make one's faith come alive. The Boy Scouts of America affirm these customs and traditions through the Duty to God programs available for all faith practices.

Whether it is through earning a religious emblem or participating in a religious award program of one's faith, all Scouts can attend to their Duty to God while participating in the Scouting program. To learn more about religious emblems and activities, contact your District Religious Emblems Coordinator or leaders in your faith community.

This has been a Duty to God moment.

Estimated Time: 56 seconds



## Duty to God Series Two: The Trail to Eagle

### October Theme - Faith Community

**Symbol: Fellowship**

**Script:**



In the Bear Duty to God Adventure, we learn the Golden Rule, a proverb that many faith traditions teach – treat others the way you want to be treated. By following this simple rule, we grow closer together as friends through fellowship and closer to a faith community by practicing this simple maxim.

The Golden Rule as taught by the Scout's faith community can also be a way for a Scout to attend to his or her Duty to God. Whether it is through learning about people who followed the Golden Rule in their faith community or practicing this rule daily, a Scout demonstrates reverence, the twelfth point of the Scout Law.

These Duty to God moments are meant to remind us that reverence and Duty to God have always been a part of Scouting values. While Boy Scouts of America is completely nonsectarian, Scouting's founder, Lord Baden Powell, reminds us that, when we do a good turn daily, we are following the Golden Rule.

This has been a Duty to God moment.

Estimated Time: 48 seconds

## **Duty to God Series Two: The Trail to Eagle November Theme - Personal Responsibility**

**Symbol: Yourself**



**Script:**

A Webelos Scout learns about Duty to God and You as one of the Adventures for this rank. As Scouts get older, they learn to take more responsibility for themselves and for their experience of the Scouting program.

This personal responsibility is evident in the Scout Oath. When Scouts promise to do their best for their Duty to God, Scouts are making a promise to themselves. As leaders, we can help our Scouts stay true to this promise by actively promoting their Duty to God.

Encouraging your Scouts to earn a religious emblem is one example of how we can be supportive.

While each faith tradition maintains their own program requirements, Scouters can point their Scouts to these resources even when our faith traditions differ. Your District Religious Emblems Coordinator can be a helpful resource for these endeavors.

This has been a Duty to God moment.

Estimated Time: 43 seconds

## **Duty to God Series Two: The Trail to Eagle December Theme - Engagement**

**Symbol: Action**



**Script:**

Helping other people at all times is a phrase we say every day in the Scout Oath. When a Webelos Scout is ready to work on their Arrow of Light award, this phrase takes on a new meaning because their Duty to God Adventure is all about action.

This action comes in many forms. We act when we serve others, and we act when we pray or meditate as taught by our families or faith communities. Earning a religious award is another way a Scout acts on his or her Duty to God. The Arrow of Light Adventure on Duty to God provides a variety of other suggestions for action, too.

You can find information about religious emblems on the Boy Scouts of America website, [scouting.org](http://scouting.org) and searching for Duty to God. Or contact your local faith community for information specific to that organization.

This has been a Duty to God moment.

Estimated Time: 46 seconds

## **Duty to God Series Two: The Trail to Eagle**

### **January Theme - Welcoming & Beginning a Journey**

**Symbol: Scout Rank Emblem**



**Script:**

When a Scout earns the Scout Rank emblem, we acknowledge that a new Scout has come to our troop and that an amazing journey has begun. We don't always know what lies ahead on this journey but the destination to the rank of Eagle Scout is known.

Life is a journey, too, in which our faith points us to our destination. Just as a new Scout learns about all the requirements that need to be accomplished on the journey to Eagle, our spiritual communities provide us with a roadmap for life's final destination. The Scouting program can assist Scouts on their respective faith journeys by being mindful of a Scout's Duty to God.

Whether it is earning a religious emblem or participating in faith-based activities, Scouts who participate in their Duty to God honor the twelfth point of the Scout Law – A Scout is Reverent. If you are not familiar with any of the religious programs available, please contact your District or Council Religious Emblems Coordinator.

This has been a Duty to God moment.

Estimated Time: 48 seconds

## Duty to God Series Two: The Trail to Eagle February Theme - Apprenticeship

**Symbol: Tenderfoot Emblem**



**Script:**

When a new Scout is active in the unit, the Scout enters a period of apprenticeship with the older Scouts to learn certain skills and traditions that make the unit what it is. As skills are practiced the Scout earns the rank of Tenderfoot, an early signpost on the way to becoming an Eagle Scout.

Our Duty to God is also an apprenticeship where we learn from other members of our faith communities the skills and traditions that make that community what it is, too. This apprenticeship is part of a well-rounded approach for personal and spiritual growth. As the Scouts BSA Handbook explains, “The BSA believes that you can’t grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing your duty to God”<sup>1</sup>

As leaders in the Scouting movement, we play an important role in helping our Scouts grow into the best kind of citizens they can be. We need to ensure that a Scout’s Duty to God is an important part of that growth.

This has been a Duty to God moment.

Estimated Time: 46 seconds

## **Duty to God Series Two: The Trail to Eagle March Theme - Growing in Wisdom**

**Symbol: Second Class Emblem**

**Script:**



Cheerful service when a Scout does a good turn daily is exemplified in the inverted scroll that represents a smile on the emblem for Second Class in Scouts BSA. When a Scout reaches the Second Class rank, we recognize that he or she is growing as a Scout and is progressing toward his or her goal of becoming an Eagle Scout.

Just as a Scout demonstrates growth in their wisdom of Scout skills by reaching the rank of Second Class, a Scout grows in wisdom of their faith when they pay attention to their Duty to God. Nearly every faith tradition offers resources for Scouts to help them with their spiritual development. Your District or Council Religious Emblems Coordinator can help you identify the right resources for the Scouts in your unit.

This has been a Duty to God moment.

Estimated Time: 40 seconds

## **Duty to God Series Two: The Trail to Eagle**

### **April Theme - Leadership**

**Symbol: First Class Emblem**

**Script:**



Achieving the rank of First Class means that a Scout is ready to provide more leadership and responsibility in the Troop. Having demonstrated a number of Scout skills and participated in a variety of Scouting activities, First Class members of the Troop are eager for more adventures on their way to becoming an Eagle Scout.

Just as the First Class rank represents a transition for a Scout from apprentice to journeyman in the Scouting program, many faith traditions mark a transition in the faith journey through various rituals and celebrations. Scouts who are actively engaged in their Duty to God eagerly await these celebrations as they grow in leadership and responsibility in their faith communities.

Duty to God activities can be an invaluable asset for Scouts as they prepare for these transitions. Having an active Religious Emblems Coordinator in the unit can be one way to assist your Scouts in their Duty to God. For more information about the role of the Unit Religious Emblems Coordinator, contact your local Scouting professional.

This has been a Duty to God moment.

Estimated Time: 51 seconds

## **Duty to God Series Two: The Trail to Eagle May Theme - Serving Others**

**Symbol: Star Emblem**



**Script:**

Service to others is a key component of advancement when a Scout reaches the rank of Star. Whether it is a service project organized by the Troop or simply remembering to Do a Good Turn Daily, Star Scouts demonstrate very well that a Scout is Helpful.

Service to others can also be a part of our Duty to God. Your faith community may have special projects that are appropriate for Scouts, or your service to others may simply be respecting customs and traditions of other faith communities that are different from our own.

Service may also be an important requirement for a religious award. When a Scout embarks on the journey to earn a religious emblem of his or her faith, Scouters should be ready to assist a Scout in achieving this goal.

This has been a Duty to God moment.

Estimated Time: 40 seconds



## **Duty to God Series Two: The Trail to Eagle June Theme - Teaching Others**

**Symbol: Life Scout Emblem**



**Script:**

Those who advance to the rank of Life Scout know well that providing leadership is an important part of earning the rank. Various leadership roles allow the Scout to teach others important skills as they participate in the

Troop's adventures. The Chaplain's Aide, for example, is there to remind the Troop members that a Scout is Reverent.

The Chaplain's Aide can also help fellow Scouts with their Duty to God by reminding peers that there are religious awards and emblems a Scout can earn. Scheduling a presentation from a faith community or inviting the District Religious Emblems Coordinator may be ways to teach others about the options Scouts have available for their Duty to God.

Resources for the Chaplain's Aide are available on [Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org) as well as various committees that represent faith traditions in the Scouting program.

This has been a Duty to God moment.

Estimated Time: 43 seconds

## Duty to God Series Two: The Trail to Eagle July Theme - Lifelong Discipleship

**Symbol: Eagle Scout Emblem**



**Script:**

The rank of Eagle Scout is a recognition of a significant milestone. Many requirements have been practiced, tested, documented and recognized throughout the career of the Scout. Some may feel that earning the rank of Eagle Scout is the end of a journey, but most recognize that being an Eagle Scout is an honor that one keeps for life.

Our Duty to God is also a call for a lifelong commitment to the principles and practices of one's faith. Just as an Eagle Scout acquires skills and knowledge about being a Scout, our Duty to God allow us to travel a similar journey for acquiring the skills and knowledge of a faith tradition.

Each of the points in the Scout Law are important in the life of the Scout. These points remind us that a Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave clean, and reverent. Even after one earns the rank of Eagle Scout, the lessons learned in the Scout Law are still relevant throughout life. When we are faithful to our Duty to God, reverence will be a lifelong virtue.

This has been a Duty to God moment.

Estimated Time: 55 seconds

## Duty to God Series Three: A Wood Badge Journey

**August Theme:**

**Starting as Cub Scouts**

**Symbol:**

**Old Style Cub Scout Cap**

**Resource:**

**GSLAC Religious Relations Committee**



**Script:**

"Scouts, as we come together for this year-long Wood Badge Journey, let's pause to reflect on a foundational part of Scouting—our Duty to God. In Cub Scouting, we teach young boys and girls to do their best and to help others, but we also remind them of the importance of faith and reverence.

Whether they are learning how to tie knots or hiking through the beautiful woods of the Greater St. Louis Area Council, we want each Scout to carry the values of faith in their hearts. Just as we guide our Cubs to grow in character, we also guide them to look up, to find strength and purpose through their Duty to God.

As we begin another Scouting year, let's remember that in all we do as leaders, we serve not just our Scouts, but a higher calling that inspires the best in each of us. Amen."

**Tagline:** *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*

## Duty to God Series Three: A Wood Badge Journey

September Theme:

Achieving Arrow of Light

Symbol:

AOL Metal Badge



Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee

Script:

"Scouts, as we consider the Arrow of Light, a symbol of the highest achievement in Cub Scouting, we are reminded of its deeper meaning—one that points us toward our ultimate guide: God. In John 8:12, Jesus says, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' Just as the arrow points straight and true, we are called to live lives directed by God's light, reflecting Christ's example in all we do.

On this Wood Badge Journey, the Arrow of Light reminds us that our journey doesn't end with achievement; it continues as we grow in faith, serve others, and strive to be a light in the world. Let us always look to God, trusting Him to guide our path, just as that arrow seeks its true course. Amen."

**Tagline:** *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*

## Duty to God Series Three: A Wood Badge Journey

October Theme:

Journey to First Class

Symbol:

First Class Pin

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



Script:

"As Scouts, the journey to First Class is a significant milestone, symbolizing growth, learning, and commitment to living the Scout Oath and Law. Just as the path to First Class teaches essential skills like first aid, knots, and leadership, it also strengthens our faith. In the spirit of Duty to God, we are reminded that our journey is more than just badges or ranks—it's about being of service to others and walking humbly with God.

In Missouri, we are blessed with the beauty of the Ozarks and the grandeur of the rivers. These natural wonders remind us of God's presence in our lives and the importance of stewardship. Just as we care for the land, let us care for our spiritual journey, seeking wisdom and guidance as we strive toward First Class and beyond.

May we continue to grow in strength and service, honoring our Duty to God as we walk this path. Amen."

**Tagline:** *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*

## Duty to God Series Three: A Wood Badge Journey

November Theme:

Leading a Patrol of Peers

Symbol:

Patrol Leader Patch

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



Script:

“Scouts, as Patrol Leaders on this Wood Badge Journey, each of you holds a position of trust and responsibility, guiding your patrol with integrity and care. Much like President Abraham Lincoln, who grew up in Illinois and led our nation during some of its most difficult times, you are called to lead by example. Lincoln once said, ‘Whatever you are, be a good one.’ As leaders, we are reminded that our duty extends beyond ourselves, to our patrol, to our community, and to God.

Let us strive to lead with the same honesty, humility, and faith in a higher purpose that Lincoln embodied. Just as he led our country through the trials of his time, may you lead your patrol with honor and a sense of duty, trusting in God to guide your steps. Amen.”

**Tagline:** *“This has been a Duty to God Moment.”*

## Duty to God Series Three: A Wood Badge Journey

December Theme:

The Trail to Eagle

Symbol:

The Original Type 1 Eagle Scout Patch

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



Script:

“Scouts, as we journey on the Trail to Eagle, we are reminded of the deep connection between scouting and the wisdom of the land’s first inhabitants, Native Americans. Their reverence for nature and Creator shows us the importance of balance, humility, and respect for all creation. A Cherokee proverb says, ‘When you were born, you cried, and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries, and you rejoice.’

Just as the Eagle flies high with vision and purpose, may we strive to serve God, others, and our world, with that same clear intent and commitment. Amen.”

Tagline: *“This has been a Duty to God Moment.”*

## Duty to God Series Three: A Wood Badge Journey

January Theme:

Guiding the Troop

Symbol:

Troop Guide Patch

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



Script:

“In Scouting, we often talk about duty—duty to country, to others, and of course, Duty to God. As Troop Guides, your role carries a special significance, for you guide others not just in the skills of Scouting, but in their growth as individuals—spiritually, morally, and ethically.

Whether we call God by different names or express our spirituality in diverse ways, all faith traditions share a core belief: that we are called to guide others in a spirit of service, compassion, and integrity. As Troop Guides, you become mentors and examples, teaching not only by instruction but by the way you live your lives. In guiding others, you fulfill a higher purpose—helping your fellow Scouts discover their own path to service and spiritual growth.

As you guide others in this Wood Badge experience, remember that your leadership is more than just about Scouting skills. It is an act of service, fulfilling your Duty to God by helping others grow in character, faith, and service to humanity. May each step you take as a Troop Guide be one that lights the path for others, drawing them closer to their fullest potential and to the divine purpose within them. Amen.”

**Tagline:** *“This has been a Duty to God Moment.”*



## Duty to God Series Three: A Wood Badge Journey

February Theme:

Leading a Troop

Symbol:

Late Model Senior Patrol Leader Patch

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



**Script:**

"Scouts, as we gather here, let's take a moment to reflect on the vital role of the Senior Patrol Leader and how it connects to our Duty to God.

In Judaism, leadership is not merely about authority; it's about service and responsibility. The Torah teaches us that true leaders are those who guide with compassion and wisdom. As SPLs, you embody this principle by fostering a spirit of collaboration and respect among your patrol members.

Think of the Hebrew word *tikkun olam*, meaning 'repairing the world.' As SPLs, you have the unique opportunity to influence not only your patrol but also your troop and the wider community. By promoting values like kindness, integrity, and teamwork, you can inspire your scouts to live out their own responsibilities to God and others.

So, as you lead, remember that your actions reflect not just on you but on the values we cherish. Embrace the role of Senior Patrol Leader as a chance to model the essence of *tikkun olam* and to lead with a heart full of service and faith. Amen."

**Tagline:** *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*

## Duty to God Series Three: A Wood Badge Journey

**March Theme:**

**Supporting the Scoutmaster**

**Symbol:**

**Assistant Scoutmaster Patch**

**Resource:**

**GSLAC Religious Relations Committee**



**Script:**

"Scouts, let's take a moment to reflect on our Duty to God, a cornerstone of our Scouting values. Imagine standing on a crisp morning in the Midwest, the forest floor crunching beneath your boots, the air filled with the smell of campfires and fresh pine. As Assistant Scoutmasters on this Wood Badge Journey, we have a unique opportunity to guide our youth not just in outdoor skills, but in life lessons rooted in faith and character. Think of the Scout Oath, where we pledge our honor to do our best.

In the heart of the Midwest, where community bonds run deep, we must also connect our Scouts to their spiritual journeys. Share stories of how nature speaks to us, how a campfire can spark meaningful conversations about our beliefs, and how each Scout can find their own path to understanding a higher power.

Let's commit today to nurture this spiritual growth in our Scouts, fostering a community where faith is not just a concept, but a lived experience in every adventure we embark on together. May we inspire our youth to recognize their Duty to God as an integral part of their personal Scouting journey. Amen."

**Tagline:** *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*

## Duty to God Series Three: A Wood Badge Journey

April Theme:

Leadership Starts at the Top

Symbol:

BSA Campaign Hat

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



Script:

"Scouts, in Islam the concept of leadership is deeply rooted in serving others, exemplifying humility, and upholding justice. As Scoutmasters, we have the unique opportunity to guide our Scouts not only in skills but also in character.

The Quran teaches us that every leader is a guardian. As Scoutmasters, we must embody this guardianship by nurturing our Scouts' spiritual, emotional, and physical growth. This means being role models in our actions, demonstrating integrity, and instilling values such as respect, compassion, and teamwork. In Surah Al-Imran, it is mentioned, 'And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided.' This is a reminder that our role is to foster unity, not just among our Scouts but in the community.

On this Wood Badge Journey, let us approach our roles with the intention of serving as positive influences, guiding our Scouts on their paths, helping them build a strong moral foundation. Remember, our actions today shape their future. Amen."

Tagline: *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*

## Duty to God Series Three: A Wood Badge Journey

May Theme:

Working Tickets to Earn Wood Badge

Symbol:

Wood Badge Logo

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



Script:

“Scouts, as we gather here at Gilwell, a place that symbolizes our commitment to leadership and service, let’s take a moment to reflect on our Duty to God.

On a Wood Badge Journey, we have the opportunity to work on our tickets—personal goals that enhance our growth and service in Scouting. Each ticket represents not just a task but a chance to deepen our connection with our faith and the values we uphold.

As we embark on this journey, remember that fulfilling our tickets is a sacred duty. It allows us to serve others, honor our commitments, and strengthen our relationship with God.

Let’s commit to working our tickets with integrity, ensuring that each step we take aligns with our spiritual values and contributes to our development as leaders. Together, let’s honor our Duty to God as we carry the spirit of Gilwell forward in all that we do.”

**Tagline:** *“This has been a Duty to God Moment.”*

## Duty to God Series Three: A Wood Badge Journey

June Theme:

Wood Badge Beading

Symbol:

Beads on Gilwell Neckerchief

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



Script:

“Scouts, as we gather here in fellowship, let's take a moment to reflect on the values that unite us as Scouts and leaders. Earning beads on this Wood Badge Journey represents not just personal growth, but also our commitment to the principles of Scouting, including our 'Duty to God.'

In the Greater St. Louis Area Council, we are blessed to be part of a rich tradition that encourages spiritual growth and service. Each bead symbolizes our journey of leadership, reminding us of our responsibility to guide others and live our faith in action.

Wood Badgers wear beads with pride and remember the Scouts we serve and the values we uphold. Let's carry the spirit of 'Duty to God' into our communities, embodying the Scout Oath and Law every day.

Thank you for your commitment to this journey and for inspiring the next generation of leaders. Let's continue to lead by example! Amen.”

**Tagline:** *“This has been a Duty to God Moment.”*

## Duty to God Series Three: A Wood Badge Journey

July Theme:

Paying Forward in Scouting

Symbol:

The World Crest

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



Script:

“Scouts, as we gather here, reflecting on our Wood Badge journey, let’s take a moment to consider the profound responsibility we hold as leaders, grounded in our faith. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus teaches us, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

This calls us to action, inviting us to pay forward the blessings we have received. In our Scouting roles, we can embody this spirit of service. It may be as simple as mentoring a young scout, volunteering at a local charity, or sharing our experiences with others to inspire their journey. All things considered, we are called to “think global and act local” as part of the world Scouting Movement.

Let’s remember that each act of kindness, however small, reflects the love of God and builds a community rooted in compassion. Today, I encourage each of you to think of one way you can pay it forward, nurturing the faith and spirit of those around you. Together, let’s make a lasting impact! Amen.”

Tagline: *“This has been a Duty to God Moment.”*

## Duty to God Series Four: GSLAC Year at a Glance

August Theme:

Fall Recruitment

Symbol:

GSLAC Marketing Motto

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



Script:

“Scouts, as we focus on recruiting new members this fall, we are reminded of our Duty to God and the importance of sharing the gift of Scouting with others. Scouting is more than outdoor adventures—it’s a path to building character, serving others, and living with integrity so that all youth can reach their maximum potential and exclaim “ I CAN DO THAT!” from their Scouting experience.

By inviting new Scouts to join, we’re helping them grow into leaders who will honor their Duty to God and community. Each new member strengthens our ability to make a positive impact on the world.

Let’s remember that recruitment is not just about numbers; it’s about offering young people the chance to live by the values of Scouting and to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others. Amen.”

Tagline: *“This has been a Duty to God Moment.”*

## Duty to God Series Four: GSLAC Year at a Glance

September Theme:

Fall Camporee

Symbol:

Toasted Marshmallows over Fire Patch

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



**Script:**

"Scouts, as we prepare for fall camporees, let's take a moment to reflect on our Duty to God. In the beauty of the outdoors, we can see the wonders of His creation all around us—the changing leaves, the crisp air, and the peacefulness of nature.

The camporee is a time not only to challenge ourselves and grow as a team, but also to strengthen our connection to the world God has made. Through fellowship, service, and respect for nature, we honor God by living out the values of Scouting.

As we camp, hike, and explore, let's remember that every step we take is an opportunity to show gratitude, help others, and fulfill our duty to God. Amen."

**Tagline:** *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*



## Duty to God Series Four: GSLAC Year at a Glance

October Theme:

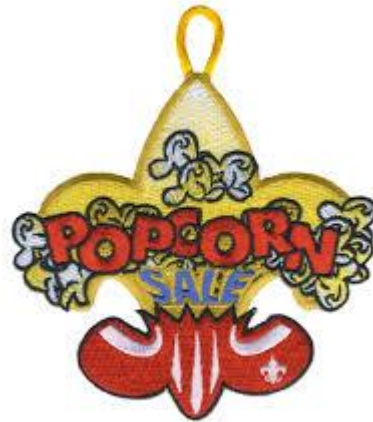
Fundraisers Raise Future Leaders

Symbol:

Scout Symbol Popcorn Patch

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



Script:

"Scouts, as we sell popcorn to raise money for our activities, we are reminded of our Duty to God through hard work, responsibility, and service. Fundraising isn't just about the money we collect—it's about the lessons we learn along the way. Each sale we make teaches us about perseverance, honesty, and doing our best.

By earning money for our activities, we're taking ownership of our Scouting journey and showing gratitude for the opportunities we've been given. The funds we raise help us experience adventures, learn new skills, and serve our communities—all ways we fulfill our Duty to God.

As we go out to sell, let's remember that we are not just selling popcorn—we are representing the values of Scouting and making it possible for ourselves and others to continue to grow in character and faith. Amen."

Tagline: *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*

## Duty to God Series Four: GSLAC Year at a Glance

November Theme:

We Can Stop Hunger at Home

Symbol:

Scouting for Food Patch

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



**Script:**

"Scouts, today as we gather food for the greater St. Louis region on both sides of the Mississippi River, we're living out a key part of our Scout Oath — our Duty to God. In many faiths, service to others is seen as one of the highest forms of worship. By collecting food for those in need, we're not only helping feed hungry families, but we're also honoring the values God calls us to: compassion, generosity, and kindness.

Every can or box we gather is more than food — it's a message of hope and care.

Today, let us remember that through this act of service, we are fulfilling our promise to do our Duty to God and to help those in need, making our community a stronger and better place for all. Amen."

**Tagline:** *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*

## Duty to God Series Four: GSLAC Year at a Glance

December Theme:

Everyone Has Reason to Celebrate

Symbol:

Winter Holiday Sweater Greeting Logo

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



Script:

"Scouts, as we enter the holiday season, we are reminded of our Duty to God and how people from different faiths and traditions celebrate this special time of year.

For Christians, Christmas is a time to reflect on love, peace, and the spirit of giving. In the Jewish faith, Hanukkah celebrates the miracle of light, reminding us of hope and perseverance. Kwanzaa, rooted in African heritage, honors community, culture, and unity.

And as we look ahead to the New Year, many people take time to reflect on the past and commit to being better in the future. No matter what we celebrate, this season reminds us to live our Scout values: showing kindness, giving to others, and striving to make the world a better place. In doing so, we fulfill our duty to God and help spread light and joy to those around us. Amen."

Tagline: *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*

## Duty to God Series Four: GSLAC Year at a Glance

January Theme:

Chartering New Units

Symbol:

Fleur de Lis with Recharter Reminder

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



Script:

"Scouts, part of our Duty to God is to share the opportunities we've been given with others. As we look to charter new units and grow Scouting in the St. Louis community, we're not just expanding a program — we're creating a space for more young people to learn, grow, and serve.

By helping more youth join Scouting, we give them the chance to develop their character, live out the Scout Oath, and discover their own duty to God and community.

As we grow together, we can lift up our neighborhoods by fostering leadership, service, and kindness. Let us remember that every new unit we help charter is an opportunity to make a lasting impact and bring more light into the world. Amen."

Tagline: *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*

## Duty to God Series Four: GSLAC Year at a Glance

February Theme:

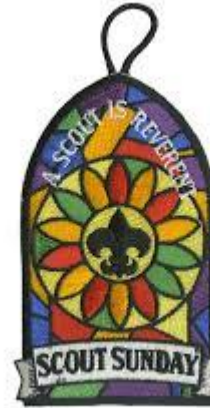
Scout Sunday / Scout Sabbath

Symbol:

A Scout is Reverent Patch

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



**Script:**

"Scouts, each year we come together to celebrate Scout Sunday and Scout Sabbath, special times where we honor our Duty to God. These days remind us that Scouting is more than adventure and skills—it's also about faith and service.

On Scout Sunday, Christians reflect on how their faith and Scout values work together. During Scout Sabbath, Jewish Scouts focus on their relationship with God through rest and reflection.

These moments give us all a chance to pause and remember that no matter our faith tradition, we are called to serve others, strengthen our character, and honor God in all that we do. As Scouts, let's carry this spirit of reverence with us, not just on these special days, but throughout the year. Amen."

**Tagline:** *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*

## Duty to God Series Four: GSLAC Year at a Glance

**March Theme:**

**Camp Card Sales**

**Symbol:**

**GSLAC Camp Card Leaders Logo**

**Resource:**

**GSLAC Religious Relations Committee**



**Script:**

"Scouts, as we begin our Camp Card sales, let's take a moment to reflect on our Duty to God and the importance of our efforts. Selling camp cards is more than just a fundraiser; it's an opportunity to practice valuable skills like communication, teamwork, and responsibility.

Each card sold helps us raise funds for our activities, allowing us to experience the adventures that shape us as Scouts. But beyond the money, we are also serving our community by providing great deals to our neighbors and friends. Through this process, we embody the values of Scouting—honesty, hard work, and service.

As we go out to sell these cards, remember that we are not just raising funds; we are building character and living out our commitment to our duty to God, ensuring that we all have the chance to grow and thrive in our Scouting journey. Amen."

**Tagline:** *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*

## Duty to God Series Four: GSLAC Year at a Glance

**April Theme:**

**Spring Camporee**

**Symbol:**

**Skills Acquired Patch**

**Resource:**

**GSLAC Religious Relations Committee**



**Script:**

"Scouts, as we prepare for spring camporees, let's take a moment to reflect on our Duty to God and the opportunities this event provides. Spring is a season of renewal and growth, reminding us of the beauty of creation and the importance of being good stewards of the earth.

At the camporee, we will not only challenge ourselves through new skills and adventures but also bond with our fellow Scouts in fellowship and teamwork. Each activity will teach us valuable lessons about leadership, resilience, and respect for nature. As we gather around campfires and share stories under the stars, let's remember to express gratitude for these moments and the friendships we are building.

By participating fully, we honor our duty to God by embracing the spirit of adventure and service, nurturing our hearts and minds while deepening our connection to the world around us. Amen."

**Tagline:** *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*

## Duty to God Series Four: GSLAC Year at a Glance

**May Theme:**

**Court of Honor to Show Progress**

**Symbol:**

**Scout Salute before Trail to Eagle**

**Resource:**

**GSLAC Religious Relations Committee**



**Script:**

"Scouts, as we gather for Courts of Honor, let's take a moment to reflect on our Duty to God and the significance of this occasion. Courts of Honor are not just about recognizing achievements and advancements; they are a celebration of our commitment to the values that guide us in Scouting.

Each badge earned, each skill learned, is a testament to our hard work and perseverance. But beyond personal accomplishment, we must remember that these moments are also opportunities to express gratitude—for the support of our families, our leaders, and our fellow Scouts.

As we honor each other tonight, let's also honor God by committing ourselves to continue living the Scout Oath and Law in our daily lives. May we strive to serve others, embrace kindness, and reflect the principles we've learned through Scouting, carrying this spirit of honor and duty with us beyond this gathering. Amen."

**Tagline:** *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*



## Duty to God Series Four: GSLAC Year at a Glance

June Theme:

Summer Camp Adventures

Symbol:

Triple High Adventure Patch

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



Script:

"Scouts, attending summer camp is more than just fun in the outdoors—it's an opportunity to grow in body, mind, and spirit. As we explore nature, we experience the beauty of God's creation first hand. Each hike, campfire, and challenge we face helps us build confidence, learn new skills, and form lasting friendships. But summer camp also gives us a chance to reflect on our Duty to God.

Away from the busyness of life, we can appreciate the peace and quiet of nature, reminding us to be grateful for the world we've been given. At camp, we learn to serve others, care for the environment, and grow closer to the values that guide us as Scouts.

In this way, summer camp helps us fulfill our duty to God in joyful and meaningful ways. Amen."

Tagline: *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*

# Duty to God Series Four: GSLAC Year at a Glance

July Theme:

Cub Launch Starts the Cycle Again

Symbol:

GSLAC 2024 Cub Launch Logo

Resource:

GSLAC Religious Relations Committee



Script:

"Scouts, as we gather tonight, we want to remember our fall Cub Scout launch events, we are reminded of our Duty to God and the opportunity we have to welcome new members into the Scouting family. This event isn't just about introducing fun activities or learning new skills—it's about sharing the values that Scouting is built upon, values that reflect our commitment to God, to others, and to ourselves.

By helping new Cub Scouts begin their journey, we are planting seeds of leadership, service, and character. As they grow, these young Scouts will learn to honor their duty to God by caring for their communities and living with integrity.

Let us remember that today, we're not just starting their Scouting adventure—we're also inspiring them to live with purpose and make a difference in the world. Amen."

**Tagline:** *"This has been a Duty to God Moment."*