

CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas

The Catholic Committee on Girl Scouts in the Archdiocese of San Antonio exists to promote and implement the religious recognition programs as part of the overall outreach in Youth Ministry. Briefly summarized, these programs are:

ARCHDIOCESAN RELIGIOUS AWARD PROGRAMS FOR GIRLS

- ☪ [Sts. Joachim and Anne Award](#) (ages 5-6) - a program for Girl Scout Daisies. Girls will learn simple prayers that are used in our daily lives and focus on the relationship of children and grandparents.
- ☪ [St. Agnes Award](#) (ages 7-9) - a program for Girl Scout Brownies. Simple devotional practices will be learned as a way to grow in the Catholic faith.
- ☪ [Salve Regina Award](#) (ages 9-11) - a program for Girl Scout Juniors. This award develops knowledge of the Sacraments, especially the Holy Mass
- ☪ [St. Anthony De Padua Award](#) – open to all levels and ages of Girl Scouts including adults, with different requirements for each level and age. This program teaches about the life and devotions of this very special saint who is the patron of our city and our Archdiocesan Catholic Church community.
- ☪ [Our Lady of Guadalupe Award](#) – open to all levels and ages of Girl Scouts including adults, with different requirements for each level and age. This program celebrates the reality of Mary's presence and power in our community and faith life.
- ☪ [Divine Mercy Award](#) - open to all levels of Girl Scouts, including adults. The program teaches the history and graces received from this beautiful devotion to the heart of Jesus.

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS AWARD PROGRAMS

For Girls:

- ☪ [Family of God](#) (ages 7-9) - a series developed to help girls, as members of their family and parish, explore a wide range of activities to discover the presence of God in their daily lives.
- ☪ [Live My Faith](#) (ages 9-11) - a program for Junior Girl Scouts emphasizing the place of God and religion in daily life, self-development throughout relationships with family and friends, and her place in the Church and community.
- ☪ [Marian Medal](#) (ages 12-15) - a program for Cadette Girl Scouts to enable them to "proclaim the greatness of the Lord." It features active involvement in understanding Mary as a model of openness and spirituality, a woman of the Church.
- ☪ [Spirit Alive](#) (ages 15-17) - a program for Senior Girl Scouts in discovering how the Holy Spirit moves in their lives, calling them to greater participation in the Church's ministry. This program uses the Bible and Vatican II documents.

Adult Service Awards:

- ☪ [St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal](#) - for those who have served serve Catholic youth for at least 3 consecutive years.
- ☪ [St. Anne Medal](#) - The highest recognition for those who serve youth. The St. Anne Award is for deserving adults with at least 7 consecutive years of service.

The Archdiocesan religious program booklets may be obtained by using the links above. To obtain copies of the national award booklets, please contact the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas, (Shop or Resource Center) at: (210) 349-2404, or the Office of Youth Ministry, Archdiocese of San Antonio, at (210) 734-1625



GIRL
SCOUTS

San Antonio Area Council of Girl Scouts
CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS RECOGNITIONS PROGRAM



GIRL
SCOUTS

HISTORY

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts have long been supported by the Catholic Church in the United States as a form of youth ministry.

“Since 1912 when Cardinal Gibbons first endorsed the work of Girl Scouts, Girls Scouts and the Catholic Church have had a mutually beneficial history. The National Conference of Catholic Bishops wishes to reiterate its ongoing support for the outstanding work Girl Scouts of the USA does for young people.”

An excerpt from a letter to the Girl Scouts of the USA by Archbishop John L. May, president emeritus of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/ United States Catholic Conference.

In the Archdiocese of San Antonio, both Boy Scout and Girl Scout Programs received a strong impetus for growth in the 1940’s during the early years of Archbishop Robert E. Lucey’s episcopacy. Msgr. Robert Schmidt was assigned the responsibility of forming and directing the two initial Catholic Committees on Scouting.

In 1947, when the Office of Youth Ministry was founded, the scouting programs along with the CYO Sports Program became the first two services provided by the newly created office. From the beginning to the present, the Office of Youth Ministry and its directors have a history of setting a strong foundation and challenge to continued growth in the best interest of young people.

SCOUTING AS YOUTH MINISTRY

BOTH Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, because of their emphasis on religious principles, are valuable assets for the Church’s ministry with children and youth. They are excellent vehicles for: evangelization as an outreach ministry; leadership development for both adults and young people; service to church and society; the development of meaningful relationship in a caring community; and fostering growth in the Catholic faith through religious recognition programs.

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We encourage all Catholic Girl Scouts, their leaders, and parents, to earn both the local and national Girl Scout Religion awards.