

The Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting in the Archdiocese of San Antonio exists to promote and implement the religious recognition programs as part of the overall outreach in Youth Ministry.

## ARCHDIOCESAN RELIGIOUS AWARD PROGRAMS FOR GIRLS

-  **Sts. Joachim and Anne Award** (ages 5-6) – A program for Girl Scout Daisies on learning simple prayers used in our daily lives and to learn about Jesus' grandparents, Sts. Joachim and Anne.
-  **St. Agnes Award** (ages 7-9) - A program for Girl Scout Brownies on simple devotional practices for learning about the Catholic Church. St. Agnes is the patron saint of Girl Scouting.
-  **Salve Regina Award** (ages 9-13) – A program for Girl Scout Juniors and Cadettes based on knowledge of the role of Mary and the Church and the religious values mirrored in the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
-  **St. Anthony de Padua Award** – This program is open to all levels and ages of Girl Scouts including adults, with different requirements for each level and age. This program is to assist in becoming aware of this very special saint who is the patron of our city and of our Archdiocesan Catholic Church community.
-  **Our Lady of Guadalupe Award** – This program is open to all levels and ages of Girl Scouts including adults, with different requirements for each level and age. This program is to celebrate the reality of La Virgen de Guadalupe's promise and presence in our community and faith life.
-  **Divine Mercy Award** - This program is open to all levels and ages of Girl Scouts including adults, with different requirements for each level. This program teaches about the devotion of the Divine Mercy and St. Faustina.

## NATIONAL RELIGIOUS AWARD PROGRAMS FOR GIRLS

-  **Family of God** (ages 7-9) - a series developed to help Girl Scout Brownies, as members of their family and parish, explore a wide range of activities to discover the presence of God in their daily lives.
-  **I Live My Faith** (ages 9-11) - a program for Girl Scout Juniors 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.
-  **Mary, the First Disciple** (ages 12-15) - a program for Girl Scout Cadettes 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 Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors to discover 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.
-  **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal** (adults) – to recognize and honor those adults who serve in a role with Catholic Girl Scout programs for at least 3 consecutive years.
-  **St. Anne Medal** (adults) - the highest recognition for those who serve Catholic Girl Scouts. The St. Anne Award is for deserving adults with at least 7 consecutive years of service.

The Archdiocesan award requirements are free and available at the GSSWT Resource Center. The National award workbooks and facilitator guides are only available for purchase from the Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting (CCOS). Email CCOS at [catholicgs@gmail.com](mailto:catholicgs@gmail.com) or call (210) 764-1840. All archdiocesan and local awards can be purchased from CCOS. Awards can be presented at your local parish and/or be recognized at the annual Girl Scout Sunday Mass. See [www.girlscouts-swtx.org](http://www.girlscouts-swtx.org) for event information or contact CCOS.



**Archdiocese of San Antonio and Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas  
CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS RECOGNITIONS  
HISTORY**

Girl 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 1940s 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**

Girl Scouts, because its founding is based upon religious principles, is a valuable asset for the Church’s ministry with children and youth. Girl Scout troops 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.

Additional information on Catholic Girl Scouts or opportunities to volunteer, participate or lead may be obtained by calling the archdiocesan Office of Youth Ministry, at (210) 734-2620.

***Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting Chair***

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***Girl Scout Council Liaison***

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***CCOS meets at 6:30 p.m.  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the  
even numbered months at  
Sally Cheever GS Center.***

***Archdiocesan Liaison***  
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(210) 734-2620, ext. 1115