



National Lutheran Association on Scouting

January 2018

Scout Sunday is Coming!

CELEBRATE SCOUT SUNDAY IN YOUR CHARTERED ORGANIZATION

Scout Sunday is the perfect time to say “Thank you” to your Chartered Organization and strengthen your partnership.

**Boy
Scout
Sunday**



Sunday February 4 is the BSA-designated Scout Sunday for 2018. Scout Sunday is usually observed as the last Sunday before Scouting’s anniversary, February 8, but it can be observed on any Sunday that is most convenient to the chartered congregation. Regardless of when Scout Sunday is observed, it should be a meaningful occasion. Think of it as a way for the unit(s) to say “Thank you” and to maintain strong relationships with the chartered organization. It is a means of outreach and ministry between the congregation and the Scouting units, and thus into the community.

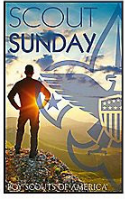
Here are some ideas to support this recognition and outreach:

- Invite Scouts and leaders to wear their uniforms to the worship service.
- Encourage Scouts to participate in as many elements of the worship service as are age appropriate. Scouts could serve as ushers, greeters, scripture readers, gift bearers, and flag and cross bearers. Older Scouts or leaders might deliver simple homilies or reflective meditations.
- Announce a service project beforehand, such as collecting food for a local food pantry.
- Recognize or present religious emblems to Scouts, Venturers and adults who have earned them during the past year.
- Set up a display or slide show of Pack, Troop, and Crew activities in the narthex for the social time between services and Sunday School – you know, near the coffee pot! This is also an opportunity for the congregation to invite participants in other youth serving agencies that they support – Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls, 4-H, Campfire – to participate.
- Host coffee hour to express appreciation to the congregation for its support.

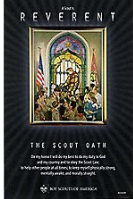
BSA Resources

BSA offers the following resources to support Scout Sunday:

Scout Sunday recognition [emblem](#) and [pin](#)



Scout Sunday [bulletin cover](#)



Scout Sunday [bulletin insert](#)

Share Your Photos!

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church Recognizes Siblings

Check out this photo of the Zakoski siblings. Each of them earned all four of the P.R.A.Y. awards and were recognized with the Four Star Award by Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, MN.



NLAS invites you to submit photos of your Scout Sunday celebration to post on its [Facebook page](#). Photos should include a caption containing unit number, chartered organization and celebrating congregation. You may send to wstuckey.nlas@gmail.com for posting in the main news feed. Posts are public. Please avoid including identifying information for youth.

Why share photos? To encourage others in their Scouting ministry and to encourage Scouts to earn their religious emblems!

Here's the story behind the Zakoski photo:

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church began its P.R.A.Y. ministry 16 years ago. They faithfully offer all four levels of the P.R.A.Y. program to Scouts and siblings who attend churches throughout the area, regardless of denomination. A team of dedicated counselors has presented over 600 awards through the years, of which 16 were Four Star Awards, of which 4 were the Zakoski siblings. The Zakoski family explains the impact of the P.R.A.Y. Program:

Mrs. Zakoski said "Kevin and I are both very proud of our four children for persevering and dedicating themselves to the P.R.A.Y. program, and each earning their Four Star Award. This is a wonderful program that showed our children that their faith is interwoven throughout their entire lives."

Share your photos ... share your testimony! Help grow Lutheran Scouting!

EARN YOUR PRAY RELIGIOUS EMBLEM

Showcase the Lutheran Award



Although BSA has integrated “Duty to God” into the rank requirements, the religious emblems are introduced as an “option” alongside other Duty to God activities. While these other activities meet the Duty to God requirement, they do not qualify the Scout to receive the religious square knot. Only by earning a P.R.A.Y. Award – God and Me, God and Family, God and Church, God and Life – does a Lutheran Scout qualify for the religious square knot. Encourage your chartered organization to offer the P.R.A.Y. Program so that your Scouts have the opportunity to earn their religious square knot and proudly wear their Lutheran award.

Click on the appropriate program for more information:

[God and Me, grades 1-3](#)

[God and Family, grades 4-6](#)

[God and Church, grades 6-8](#)

[God and Life, grades 9-12](#)

[Need help getting started? Visit the PRAY Resource Library.](#)

Council Journey to Excellence Recognizes Duty to God Activity

Along with an increasing emphasis on a Scout’s duty to God through rank requirements and other corresponding merit and service recognitions, a Duty to God bonus item was approved for the Council Journey to Excellence (JTE) program beginning in 2018. To earn these points, councils are required to conduct a substantial council or multi-council wide Duty to God activity or event that includes a diversity of member beliefs.

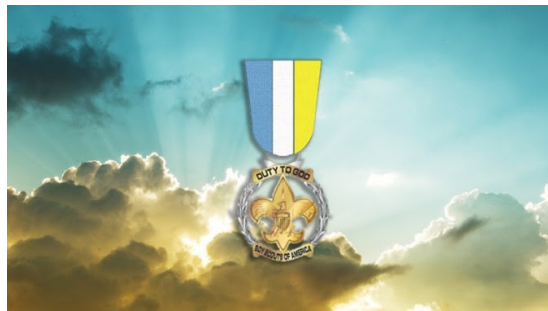
An example is to conduct a Ten Commandment Hike or to sponsor an interfaith retreat. You’ll be glad to know that P.R.A.Y. has posted [detailed resources](#) to help you organize your own event. Ten Commandment Hikes (sometimes called “Religious Diversity Hikes”) are interfaith and cross-cultural events. Hikers visit ten different houses of worship to hear a brief talk about that faith, its worship space, and an explanation of one of the Ten Commandments.

Interfaith retreats are typically weekend camping events, planned and executed by a youth staff (similar in concept to an NYLT youth staff) with diverse religious activities. Participants gain greater understanding of other faiths and are introduced to the religious awards program for their faith.

Host a council-wide hike or an interfaith retreat in 2018 and earn bonus points in your Journey To Excellence scorecard.

National Duty to God Award

Applications are now open for the National Duty to God Award. The Boy Scouts of America’s National Duty to God Award, introduced in 2016, recognizes adult volunteers who go above and beyond to help young people better connect with their faith and who have demonstrated a history of leadership in supporting and promoting the spiritual foundation of Scouting. It distinguishes persons who selflessly work to prepare youth for life by perpetuating the principle of a Scout’s Duty to God. The award is presented to up to four individuals per year at the BSA National Annual Meeting’s Duty to God Breakfast.



Nominations are open to currently registered, active adult members from all faiths and religious groups chartered by the Boy Scouts of America with ten or more years of leadership and national and/or international service to Scouting and the nominee's faith tradition. Click here for a [nomination form](#). Nominations will be accepted through close of business on February 28.

Blessings on your Scouting ministry!