

Ad Altare Dei Program Overview



The purpose of the Ad Altare Dei (to the altar of God) program is to help Catholic Boy Scouts and Venturing Crew Scouts develop a fully Christian way of life in the faith community. The program is organized in chapters based on the seven Sacraments: a primary means toward spiritual growth.

Program Objectives

The most important aspect of the program is that the scout grows in his/her spiritual experience of his/her relationship to God and the church.

Eligibility

- Registered Boy Scouts or Venturing Crew Scouts of the Catholic faith
- Designed for youth 13-18 years old
- Active members of the Troop/Crew for 6 months
- Completed the 6th grade before starting the program

Youth's Role

- Attend scheduled meetings
- Record all journal entries and written work legible and neat
- Work through the Ad Altare Dei Youth Manual with your Counselor, use the Bible when appropriate
- Review each chapter with your Counselor as it is completed
- Attend a retreat or day of collections while working on the Ad Altare Dei program
- Prepare to share your experiences at the Board of Review

Counselor's Role

- Religious Emblems Counselors should be approved in advance by their Pastors, the Scout Chaplain or the Catholic Committee on Scouting.
- All Religious Emblems Counselors must have current BSA Youth Protection (Boy Scout and Venturing) and local Diocesan Youth Protection Training
- Hold regular meetings, 60-90 minutes long, with the Ad Altare Dei group
- Facilitate the general discussions, keep it on track and moving forward
- Refer to the Counselor's Guide for integral information and necessary resources
- Review each chapter with the youth, sign and date the certification of completion
- Consider inviting your parish priest or deacon to come share or attend an ordination

Process to earn Ad Altare Dei Emblem

- Find a Religious Emblems Counselor through the Catholic Diocese of Richmond Office for Evangelization of Youth and Young adults at evangelizerichmond.org/youth.
- Purchase the Ad Altare Dei Youth Manual at the Tidewater BSA Store.
- Complete the Application to Begin Working on the Ad Altare Dei Emblem in the front of the Youth Manual. Make sure you get all the necessary signatures—Parent, Counselor, Scoutmaster and Pastor. Do NOT remove the application from the Youth Manual.
- After all the requirements have been completed, contact the Office for Evangelization of Youth and Youth Adults at scouting@richmonddiocese.org or 804-622-5159 to arrange the Ad Altare Dei Board of Review.
 - * The Diocesan Chair or Chaplain should lead the Board of Review. The panel should consist of one priest, one lay person and two youth who have previously received the Ad Altare Dei Religious Emblem.
 - * The Board of Review should last approximately 10-15 minutes. In that time, the panel can determine whether the Scout is ready for the emblem.
 - * After a successful Board of Review, members of the panel should sign the Application for Review and Presentation Ad Altare Dei Emblem certifying that the Scout passed the review and is recommended for the award.
- Make a copy of the completed application for your records.
- Forward the completed Application, Order Form and payment for the religious emblem to:

Office for Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults
Catholic Diocese of Richmond
7800 Carousel Lane
Richmond, VA 23294
- The Religious Emblems Order Form can be found at evangelizerichmond.org/youth under Scouting.
- Scout mails the Participant Evaluation Form to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting at the address in Irving, TX on the evaluation form.
- The presentation of the emblem is done at the parish. Scouts are encouraged to attend the Annual Diocesan Scout Mass where they will be recognized. If the scout plans to attend the Diocesan Mass, allow at least one month lead time to process that application prior to the Mass.
- Scouts who earn this Religious Emblem are also entitled to wear a BSA Religious Knot over their left pocket. If the Scout already earned the knot, there is a device for subsequent emblems. The knot/device should be presented at a Court of Honor or Troop/Crew meeting.

For more information, visit:

Catholic Diocese of Richmond, Office for Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults
evangelizerichmond.org/youth

National Catholic Committee on Scouting
nccs-bsa.org under *Religious Emblems*