

# RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM



## Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Published for  
The Community by  
Scouts Canada and  
Girl Guides of Canada

### RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM

Membership in the Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada is open to all girls and boys, youth, and adults who wish to make the promise, regardless of race, colour or creed. The purpose of the *Guide/Scout* programs is to assist girls and boys in character development by encouraging them to be responsible citizens of their country. An important part of the program is to assist in the spiritual growth of each *Scout or Guide* and to encourage them to participate actively in their own religious community. Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada uphold the principle that specific religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious authorities.

#### THE EMBLEM

The Emblem consists of a great circle, the symbol of eternity. In the circle are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, *Alpha* and *Omega*, the symbol of God; a reminder that the worship and service of God form an essential part of life's program from beginning to end.

#### REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for the program differ in each faith and denomination, and are prepared nationally by the churches or religious bodies to suit their particular needs.

#### INSTRUCTION

The instruction of a candidate desiring to qualify for an Emblem is the responsibility of the candidate's own spiritual leader or his or her appointee.

#### STAGES

The Religion in Life program is in five progressive stages, colour-coded and adapted to the age groups concerned.

- Stage 1 — Grey Border (typical ages 8, 9 and 10)
- Stage 2 — Green Border (typical ages 11, 12, 13 and 14)
- Stage 3 — Blue Border (typical ages 15, 16 and 17)
- Stage 4 — Red Border (18-26)
- Stage 5 — Tan Border (18+)

Candidates may start at any stage appropriate to their age and capabilities. Only one emblem — the latest stage earned -- is worn.

#### WHERE OBTAINABLE

The emblems are obtained through regular badge channels.

#### WHERE WORN

Girl Guides of Canada — see *Policy, Organization and Rules*.

Scouts Canada — see *By-Law, Policies and Procedures*.

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#### OBJECTIVE

This program is intended to encourage Quaker *Scouts/Guides*, Guiders and Scouters to learn more about the history, faith, and practice of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and to complement the religious education provided by parents, Meetings, and First Day schools. The badge may be seen as symbolic of a Friend learning about religion, participating in religious observances and the practicing of faith in daily life.

## INTRODUCTORY NOTES

- 1) Youth and adult persons who are members of the Religious Society of Friends and are involved in Scouting or Guiding should be encouraged to qualify for this Emblem.
- 2) This program is intended for Quaker *Scouts/Guides* located in Canada regardless of Yearly Meeting affiliation and, where appropriate, the term "Monthly Meeting" includes "Church" and, if applicable, a Quaker minister/pastor may play an important role in this process.
- 3) The candidate or his or her parent should approach the Monthly Meeting's Religious Education Committee or the Meeting for Business where no such committee exists so that an appropriate Friend may be appointed to act as spiritual advisor to ensure that the candidate meets the intent of these guidelines. The spiritual advisor should be a weighty Friend who is committed to the faith journey of the candidate and has an interest in religious education. Lone Friends should contact Friends Committee on Scouting and/or Canadian Yearly Meeting's Home Mission and Advancement Committee (HMAC) for assistance in this regard.
- 4) The candidate's Monthly Meeting may adapt the guidelines for this badge, as appropriate, for the needs of candidate or the local meeting. The opportunity for encouraging the spiritual growth of a Friend is considered to be more important than the specific details outlined here. However, the spiritual advisor is cautioned that the guidelines should be respected as much as possible so that the badge has real meaning for those who wear it. Adapted guidelines should still serve the principles of this badge and encourage the candidate's:
  - a) Involvement in learning about the Christian faith and Quakerism in particular;
  - b) Discovery of her or his wider spiritual heritage;
  - c) Participation in the life and work of the Meeting;

- d) Application of faith through activities or projects that give expression to the idea of Quaker service.
- 5) The Religion in Life Emblem may be presented to a candidate when he or she has met the standards of the appropriate stage of the program. It is recommended that this presentation take place at a regular session of the Meeting for Worship. The candidate's Scout or Guide group or a representative of the group should be invited to attend the presentation whenever possible.
- 6) While the guidelines for stages 4 and 5 are identical, adults pursuing stage 5 are expected to demonstrate a deeper knowledge and understanding of Quaker faith and practice and show a commitment to the encouragement of the faith journeys of young Friends.

## THE GUIDELINES

### GENERAL STANDARDS

- 1) All candidates should, according to their age and ability, be able to discuss:
  - a) How his/her *Scout/Guide* promise and law relate to the Bible and Quaker faith and practice.
  - b) The Quaker testimonies, and, in particular, the testimonies regarding peace, simplicity, creeds, vocal ministry, and oath-taking.
  - c) The Quaker belief in the Inner Light ("that of God in all people").
  - d) The work and structure of their yearly meetings and their constituent half-yearly, quarterly, monthly, and preparative meetings and the major committees attached to these meetings.
  - e) The role of the Bible in the candidate's Quaker faith and practice.
- 2) In preparing for and responding to the guidelines for this badge, the candidate should record her or his thoughts in a journal in keeping with Quaker tradition. The complexity and depth of this journal depends on the candidate's age and ability but should reflect the candidate's faith journey and attempt to put into words what they believe. This journal need not be shared with the spiritual advisor unless the candidate so wishes.

- 3) All candidates should have satisfactory attendance at and participation in their local First Day school (if available) and their Meeting for Worship.

## WORD

### Stage 1

- 1) Become familiar with the Bible as a book and be able to:
  - a) Identify your favourite Bible Story;
  - b) Find such passages as Psalm 23 & 100, Matt. 6:9-13, John 1:2-6, and I Corin. 13;
  - c) Tell someone how many books are in the Bible, its main divisions and how they differ from each other.
- 2) Read and discuss a book like *Thee Hannah* by Marguerite De Angeli or another similar book, appropriate for the candidate's age, from the Canadian Quaker Book Service or from the catalogue of books available from Friends General Conference or Friends United Meeting.
- 3) Learn who the following famous Friends are: George Fox, Margaret Fell, John Woolman, and Elizabeth Fry.

### Stage 2

- 1) Give a report on George Fox, the founder of Quakerism. Share it with other Friends in your Meeting.
- 2) Tell, in your own words, how you try and follow the teachings of Christ as recorded in the Sermon on the Mount.
- 4) Read and discuss "The Story of Quakerism" by Efrida Vipont Foulds or another similar book, appropriate for the candidate's age, from the Canadian Quaker Book Service or from the catalogue of books available from Friends General Conference or Friends United Meeting.
- 3) Become familiar with your Yearly Meeting's "Advices and Queries."
- 4) In what ways do you think God speaks to human beings today?

### Stage 3

- 1) Read the Gospel of St. John and know the major themes.
- 2) Discuss why Quakers refuse to adopt creeds.
- 5) Read "Friends for 300 Years" by H. Brinton, "The Quakers in Canada: A History" by Arthur Dorland, or another similar book, appropriate for the candidate's age, from the Canadian Quaker Book Service or from the catalogue of books available from Friends

General Conference or Friends United Meeting.

- 3) Give a brief biography of ten of the following people, and describe their contribution to Quakerism:

Joseph John Gurney, John Woolman, Rufus Jones, Arthur G. Dorland, Anthony Benezet, Elizabeth Fry, Isaac Pennington, William Penn Robert Barclay, Stephen Grellet, Lucretia Mott, John Wilber, Margaret Fell, Elias Hicks, James Naylor, Mary Dyer, John Greenleaf Whittier, Timothy Rogers, Sutherland P. Gardner John T. Dorland, Laura Smith Haviland, David Willson, William Allen.

### Stage 4

- 1) Read and discuss the Journals of George Fox.
- 2) Participate in or organise a Quaker Bible study group in your Meeting.
- 3) Write down and discuss your feelings about:
  - a) The Quaker belief in equality
  - b) Quaker marriage practices
  - c) The Quaker response to death.
  - d) The Quaker relationship between science and faith, and, in particular, ideas like evolution and creationism.
  - e) The Inner Light

## WORSHIP

### Stage 1

- 1) Through discussion, answer the following questions:
  - a) What does Meeting for Worship mean to me?
  - b) Is meeting in a particular building important?
- 2) Talk about the importance of prayer in your life; consider sharing a prayer with your Meeting or First Day School.
- 6) Describe how you feel about being a Quaker.
- 3) Discuss what do you think about God, love, peace, nature, family, faith, Jesus, and the Inward Light.

### Stage 2

- 1) Through discussion, answer the following questions:
  - a) What does Meeting for Worship mean to you?
  - b) Why is it important for you to belong to your Meeting?
  - c) Why is it important for Quakers to gather together in worship?

- 2) Explain Quaker worship to non-Quakers such as your own Guiding or Scouting Unit or invite some friends to attend a Quaker Meeting for Worship and ask some adult members to meet with them.
- 4) Discuss why and how people receive gifts from God and consider whether these gifts should be shared.
- 5) Discuss how do you prepare for Meeting for Worship:
  - a) Read inspirational literature?
  - b) Sit in silence and think about God?
  - c) Talk with others about Meeting?

#### Stage 3

- 1) Invite the adult members of the Meeting to have a worship service focusing on Youth.
- 2) Discuss why Quakers do not practice outward baptism.
- 3) Put into words your experiences in Meeting. How would you explain *centering down* to a friend who is not a Quaker?
- 4) Discuss your thoughts on vocal ministry and consider participating in your Meeting for Worship through vocal ministry.
- 5) Discuss how do you know when the Spirit is leading you?
- 6) Explain what it means to you to know God experientially.

#### Stage 4

- 1) Describe in writing and through discussion the particular value of the Quaker form of worship.
- 2) What do we mean by a Religious Society as contrasted with a political society?
- 3) For many Christians, the sacraments are fundamental to worship. How do you respond to this statement? What do Quakers mean when they say that everything in life is sacramental? Tell why the Religious Society of Friends does not use the sacramental rites as practiced by most Christian churches.
- 4) Attend your Monthly Meeting's Meeting for Business and discuss with your spiritual advisor:
  - a) How do Friends incorporate worship and business?
  - b) How do Friends reach decisions?
  - c) How consensus is different from Quaker decision-making.
- 5) Organise and lead an ecumenical "Scouts Own" or other such religious gathering at a *Scout/Guide* camp.

## WITNESS

### Stage 1

- 1) Tell how Guiding or Scouting and being a member of the Religious Society of Friends are related.
- 2) Take part in some project that helps people in your home, community or another part of the world.
- 3) Discuss the meaning and importance of the Quaker Star as a symbol of peace.
- 4) List the ways in which your Meeting cooperates with other faiths in your community.

### Stage 2

- 1) Participate, either alone or with others, in a project that helps directly some person or persons in your community.
- 2) How do you try to fulfill the *Scout/Guide* Law in your daily living?
- 3) Research and discuss the role of your Monthly Meeting, Yearly Meeting, and other organisations such as the Canadian Friends Service Committee, Friends General Conference, Friends United Meeting, Evangelical Friends International, and Friends World Committee for Consultation.
- 4) Consider the duties and obligations that arise from membership in the Religious Society of Friends.

### Stage 3

- 1) Make regular contributions of your time, your talents, or your money to help others at home or abroad, or take an active part in a community service project. Consider working with the Canadian Friends Service Committee.
- 2) Serve in a leadership capacity in your *Scout/Guide* group or assist in the delivery of your First Day School program.
- 3) Research and discuss the different streams of Quakerism: programmed, unprogrammed, and evangelical, and consider opportunities for an ecumenical response.
- 4) Serve on a Quaker committee at the Monthly or Yearly meeting level.

#### Stage 4

- 1) Participate in a Work Camp project administered by Quakers or other such activity.
- 2) Write down and then try to implement your ideas on the questions:
  - a) "Am I my brother's keeper?"
  - b) What are the most urgent needs of my friends and I?
  - c) What does it mean to "Love your neighbour as yourself" in the light of the first Commandment?
- 3) Participate in your Monthly or Yearly Meeting's religious education committee or with the Friends Committee on Scouting.
- 4) Explore other non-Quaker faith traditions and discuss your response to these traditions in light of Quaker faith and practice.

#### RESOURCES

*Christian Faith and Practice* — Britain Yearly Meeting.

*Organization and Procedure* — Canadian Yearly Meeting.

The Friends Committee on Scouting website:

<http://quakerscouting.org>

#### APPOINTMENT OF CHAPLAINS

Considering our belief in the priesthood of all believers, Monthly Meetings, acting as a sponsor of a Scout/Guide Group, may appoint an appropriate Friend to serve as a Chaplain to a local group sponsored by or otherwise associated with the Meeting. Friends Committee on Scouting may appoint at-large Chaplain(s) for Canada. For Scout Chaplains, reference should be made to Scouts Canada's pamphlet, "The Role of the Chaplain".

#### THE QUAKER ADULT SERVICE AWARD

Quaker Guiders and Scouters who give noteworthy service to their Meeting and Scouting/Guiding may be eligible for the Friends Committee on Scouting's *Friends Award*. More information on the award may be found at <http://quakerscouting.org>.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Responsibility for the development and management of Quaker religious education for Scouting and Guiding rests with the Friends

Committee on Scouting, an affiliated program of the Friends World Committee for Consultation - Section of the Americas.

The Committee may be contacted in care of the following address:

Friends Committee on Scouting  
Friends World Committee for Consultation -  
Section of the Americas  
1506 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19102, USA  
<http://quakerscouting.org>  
The Canadian representative:  
[quakerscouting@yahoo.ca](mailto:quakerscouting@yahoo.ca)

*N.B. Scout/Guide when printed in italics includes all section/units of both organizations.*