

Quaker Faith Journey

Religious Study Activities for Young Friends
In Scouting or Guiding Programs
Outside of the United States and Canada



Friends Committee on Scouting
www.quakerscouting.org
Friends World Committee for Consultation

Eighth Month 2012

Mission

Scouts and Guides promise “to love God,” “to serve God” or do their “duty to God.” This *Quaker Faith Journey* religious study activities packet is intended to assist and encourage Friends involved in Scouting/Guiding programs to fulfill their promise by examining the history, faith and practices of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) through word, worship and witness.

Many of the Scouting/Guiding programs have activities/badges which allow Scouts/Guides to explore their faith. The *Quaker Faith Journey* religious study activities packet is meant as an aid to assist Scout/Guide Friends to work on their organization’s activities/badges. It is further intended to encourage:

1. Discovery of his/her wider spiritual heritage;
2. Participation in Meeting;
3. Application of his/her faith through activities and projects in the Quaker testimony of service.

This packet is intended to assist the Scouts/Guides while working on their badges with activities that encourage spiritual growth, reflection and participation. Scouts and Guides are encouraged to complete all the activities, for their age level, in the packet in order to make the journey more rewarding. The activities listed are divided into age levels much like the Scouting/Guiding badges/awards. The ages given at each Level are only guidelines, please feel free to adjust according to the ages/grade levels used in your local Scouting/Guiding program.

General Guidelines

Scout/Guide Friends are strongly urged to work with an adult (family member or member of their local Meeting/Church) on these activities and record their thoughts in a journal in a manner similar to early Quakers. The complexity and depth of each individual’s journal depends on the Scout/Guide Friend’s age and ability, and should reflect his/her attempt to put into words what he/she believes in their faith journey. This journal is personal and need not be shared with anyone, unless the Scout/Guide wishes to do so.

Younger Scout/Guide Friends should, according to their age and ability, be able to discuss:

1. How their Scout/Guide promise and law relates to Quaker faith and practice.
2. The Quaker belief in the Inner Light (“that of God in every person”).
3. The role of Quaker faith and practice in one’s daily life.

Older Scout/Guide Friends should be able to discuss:

1. The Quaker testimonies, especially those regarding peace, simplicity, vocal ministry, equality and oath-taking.
2. The work and structure of yearly meeting as well as half-yearly, quarterly, monthly and preparative meetings and some of the committees attached to these meetings (e.g. Peace and Social Action, Native American Affairs, Committees for Clearness, etc.).

All Scout/Guide Friends should:

1. Attend Meeting for Worship regularly.
2. Take an active role in Meeting for Worship. If appropriate, attend Meeting for Business.
3. Attend First Day School, if available or appropriate.

The Friends Committee on Scouting is interested in your reaction to this activity packet.

Please send your comments, suggestions and resources you found helpful to:

clerk@quakerscouting.org

WORD

Level 1: Ages 5-7

1. Explain in your own words who the following Friends were, and why are they important to Quakerism: George Fox, Margaret Fell, John Woolman and Elizabeth Fry.
2. Read three Bible verses. Memorize one the Bible verses and explain what it means to you. (You may use any translation of the Bible that you wish for this. These need not be long verses, parents or other members of the Meeting/Church could be helpful in helping to find verses that are age appropriate here. Suggestion that you might try to find verses that are meaningful to Quakers.)
3. Read, or have read to you a book or story (printed or electronic) about a Quaker, Quakerism, or one on a topic that relates to one of the Quaker testimonies (peace, simplicity, vocal ministry, equality or oath taking). Talk about what you learned with the adult working with you on these activities.

Level 2: Ages 8-10

1. Explain in your own words how Quakerism came to your country.
2. Name one important figure and what that person did to influence Quakerism in your country.
3. Read a book, story or article (printed or electronic) about a Quaker, Quakerism, or one on a topic that relates to one of the Quaker testimonies (peace, simplicity, vocal ministry, equality or oath taking). Talk about what you learned with the adult working with you on these activities.

Level 3: Ages 11-14

1. Select a book (printed or electronic), watch a movie or listen to a presentation about your Quaker faith. Write in your journal your thoughts on what you have just read, seen or heard. Discuss with an adult what you understand from the reading, the movie, or the presentation.
2. Learn about the Quaker queries. What are queries and why do you think Quakers use them? Pick one query, and answer the questions, by writing your answer(s) in your journal. If you need help finding queries, check with the Clerk or Pastor of your Meeting/Church. Most Yearly Meetings have queries as do some Monthly Meetings.

Level 4: Ages 15-21

1. Learn about the Quaker testimonies, especially those regarding peace, simplicity, vocal ministry, equality and oath taking. Pick one and explain how it applies to your life.
2. Research the history of Quakerism in your country. Where did it come from? How did it get there? Who are the important persons involved in bringing the faith to your country.
3. Make a presentation of what you have learned, and share it with your Monthly Meeting.

WORSHIP

Level 1: Ages 5-7

1. Attend Meeting for Worship regularly for three months.
2. Read or share a prayer at an appropriate time (such as meal time or bed time).

Level 2: Ages 8-10

1. Attend Meeting for Worship regularly for six months.
2. Take part in a Scout/Guide ceremony at your Monthly Meeting (e.g. Scout Sunday). Use songs, stories, drama, mime or music to make a presentation about Guides/Scouting and your Quaker faith.
OR
3. Write a prayer or poem about keeping your Scout/Guide Promise. Present it at a suitable event at your Monthly Meeting.

Level 3: Ages 11-14

1. Attend Meeting for Worship regularly for nine months.
2. Attend at least one Meeting for Business. Discuss at least one business item with your Clerk.
3. List some examples of how you live the Promise daily to your Clerk/Pastor or other adult. Explain how doing this is important to your life, and how it may influence who you are.

Level 4: Ages 15-21

1. Attend Meeting for Worship regularly for one year.
2. Attend at least three Meetings for Business. Write a short report on one of the business items discussed. Share this with your Clerk.
3. Attend one session of a Meeting committee, and discuss with the Clerk of that committee your impressions.

WITNESS

Level 1: Ages 5-7

1. Describe a Good Turn you have done. Explain how it helped you to understand your Promise.
2. Find out about a Quaker organization that helps other people, though out the world.
3. Make and display a poster or drawing showing what you learned about the Quaker organization.

Level 2: Ages 8-10

1. Describe a Good Turn you have done. Explain how it helped you to understand your Promise.
2. Learn about one Quaker organization. Use songs, stories, drama, mime or music to show others what you have learned about what it is that they do.
3. Learn about at least one Quaker testimony. Make a poster or collage, take photographs or write a story or poem showing what you have learned.
4. Make a presentation to Monthly Meeting about something you have learned in First Day School.

Level 3: Ages 11-14

1. Learn about Quakers in another country. Find out how many countries on your continent or region have Quaker meetings. Describe what you have learned to your Clerk/Pastor.
2. With the help of an adult or Clerk/Pastor of your Monthly Meeting, plan and carry out a service project. This project should be for your Monthly Meeting.

Level 4: Ages 15-21

1. Learn about one international Quaker organization. Give a presentation to your Monthly Meeting about what you have learned, why you chose this organization, and why it is important to Quakers worldwide. This presentation can be in electronic format or any other media you may choose.
2. With the help of an adult and the Clerk/Pastor of your Monthly Meeting, plan and carry out a service project. This project should be for your Yearly Meeting or wider Quaker community.