

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

**Emblem for Young Friends in the
Sixth through Twelfth Grades and Venture Scouts
Who are involved in Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA
or Camp Fire, Inc. Youth Programs
OR Junior Members/Attendees of a Friends Meeting/Church**



**Friends Committee on Scouting
Friends World Committee for Consultation
Section of the Americas**

Third Month 2017

Introduction

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA and Camp Fire, Inc. is to instill values in young people that may help them to make ethical choices during their lifetime. These values may be found in the Promise and Law. Inherent in these values is an adherence to religious principles, and an acceptance of the duties resulting therefrom. The goal of these educational programs is to offer these values to young people to help them develop character, citizenship and personal fitness.

Purpose

The purpose of the SPIRIT OF TRUTH religious emblem study program is to provide a vehicle for Young Friends involved in the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA or Camp Fire, Inc. youth programs to explore their faith. One of the program's goals is to assist the young person to attain a deeper awareness of his/her faith in its daily application, particularly in conjunction with the Promise and Law. The other goal is to encourage Young Friends to participate more actively in their faith. Some of the more specific objectives of the SPIRIT OF TRUTH religious emblem study program are:

1. To help Young Friends acquire information on their faith – its heritage, its testimonies and its application in daily living.
2. To provide a program that combines religious education and the spirit of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire youth programs.
3. To recognize the achievements of Young Friends in the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire youth programs and to support their recognition programs.
4. To prepare the Young Friend to take his/her place in life as a Quaker and a citizen.
5. To assist in developing self-confidence that comes through achieving a goal.

Description

The SPIRIT OF TRUTH religious emblem program is intended for Young Friends in grades 6 through 12 and Venture Scouts enrolled in either the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA or Camp Fire, Inc. youth programs. Friends Meetings/Churches are also welcome to use this material with their Junior Members/Attendees in their First Day/Sunday School programs. The program requires a balance between knowledge and action from the Young Friend.

The program is divided into three sections, each requiring a combination of reading, reflection and response. The program may be completed in a minimum of six months. The program is also to be flexible to the needs and time of the Youth and the counselor. Finally, the counselor has the prerogative to adjust the requirements when a handicapped Young Friend wishes to participate in the SPIRIT OF TRUTH study program. If any requirements are inappropriate for the Young Friends' local situation, the counselor may contact Friends Committee on Scouting, to arrange alternate requirements.

Eligibility

You are required to be a registered Boy Scout, Girl Scout or Camp Fire member in grades 6 through 12 and Venture Scouts to begin the program OR be a Junior Member/Attendee of a Friends Meeting/Church for at least one year before completing the requirements for the SPIRIT OF TRUTH emblem.

You must be a member or adherent of a Monthly Meeting/Friends Church. This shall include active participation in the life of Meeting/Church, regular attendance at worship and business meetings, as well as First Day/Sunday School (or religious instruction at a boarding school).

Procedure

1. Ask your Meeting/Church to appoint a qualified Friend to serve as your counselor. The counselor should be a person with whom you may consult in all stages of this study program. If you are a member or adherent of a Friends Church, the Pastor or someone appointed by him/her may serve. If you are a member or adherent of a Friends Meeting, you may apply directly to your Monthly Meeting (Overseers, Ministry & Counsel or Religious Education Committee) which will either appoint the counselor or authorize the appointment by the appropriate committee.
2. Your counselor can seek assistance or clarification from the Friends Committee on Scouting, when appropriate. If, during the course of the work and study, it develops that some substitute requirement is necessitated by some aspect of your personal situation, your counselor may authorize a substitution after first consulting Friends Committee on Scouting.
3. Your counselor should help you qualify for the award. He/she should explain its purpose and significance to you, and help you get any necessary source material. From time to time, your counselor should certify your progress by initialing each item of the requirements as it is fulfilled, and by signing and dating the completion of each section. Regardless of your rank or your age at the time you begin working on the SPIRIT OF TRUTH Award, you must complete all the requirements (including substitutions) before your completion of twelfth grade or your 20th birthday. It will take at least six months to complete the study and the projects outlined.
4. You are encouraged to keep a journal which contains your writing assignments, your record of hours and service projects and any personal thoughts and writings you wish to share with your counselor.
5. When, in the judgment of your counselor, you have completed the requirements, he/she will arrange for a review of your application by a committee from your Meeting/Church. Upon the committee's approval, the counselor will arrange for your emblem.
6. Upon completion, the application should be downloaded from the Friends Committee on Scouting website, filled out completely and sent it to Friends Committee on Scouting with the appropriate fees. Please check the Friends Committee on Scouting website, <http://quakerscouting.org> for the current address and fees.
7. Your counselor will then arrange a dignified presentation of the award at your Meeting/Church, in the presence of any Boy Scout, Girl Scout or Camp Fire officials and members who wish to be present.

Emblem

The SPIRIT OF TRUTH emblem incorporates an eight-pointed star, known as the *Quaker Star*, with a scriptural quotation central to Quaker beliefs, *A light that shines in the dark*. The red and black Quaker star dates back to relief work performed by English Friends during the Franco-Prussian War in 1872. It has long been associated with Quaker service worldwide. The scriptural passage comes from the first chapter or the Gospel of John, the fifth verse. It refers to the light of God which shines in all humanity. The name of the SPIRIT OF TRUTH emblem comes from the writings of George Fox.

Presentation Suggestions

The counselor should consult the Clerk/Pastor of the local Friends Meeting/Church to determine the best manner for presenting the SPIRIT OF TRUTH emblem. This presentation may take place during monthly meeting for business, weekly meeting for worship, First Day/Sunday School or during another Meeting/Church event in which a large number of the membership are present.

The local Friends Meeting/Church may also wish to present or recognize the successful nominee during an appropriate Boy Scout, Girl Scout or Camp Fire event such as a Court of Honor/Court of Awards. A brief write-up about the recipient should be submitted to the local organization publication and any other newspaper of local interest. Copies of any printed accounts should be forwarded to the Friends Committee on Scouting.

Presentations should be brief and simple in nature. Other Young Friends should be encouraged to explore their faith and heritage through their family and Meeting/Church.

Friends Committee on Scouting has a few sample presentations that can be used as a basis for creating a presentation that would be meaningful for your Scout and Meeting.

Contact Friends Committee on Scouting

<http://quakerscouting.org>

clerk@quakerscouting.org

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PROGRAM

PART I

Word

- _____ 1. Summarize the contents of one book of the Bible and tell why that book seems to be important.
- _____ 2. Tell the story of one Old Testament personality and one New Testament personality:
How did God act through these persons' lives?
- _____ 3. In what ways do you think God speaks to human beings today?

Worship

- _____ 1. Participate in regular attendance at Meeting for Worship/Church.
- _____ 2. Put into words your experiences in Meeting/Church. How would you explain *centering down* to a friend who is not a Quaker?
- _____ 3. Explain what it means to you to know God experimentally.

Witness

- _____ 1. List twelve countries in which there are organized meetings of Friends.
- _____ 2. Name and locate at least six Friends colleges in North America.
- _____ 3. List the ways in which your Meeting/Church cooperates with other faiths in your community.

Signature _____
Counselor

_____ Date

PROGRAM

PART II

Word

- _____ 1. What are Queries? How are they used in your Meeting/Church? Write a query that may help you in your daily life.
- _____ 2. Read a chapter of your Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* (or *Book of Discipline*). Describe what it means to you.
- _____ 3. Give a brief biography of ten of the following people, and describe their contribution to Quakerism:

Susan B, Anthony	Margaret Fell	Elizabeth Hooten	Betsy Ross
Anthony Benezet	George Fox	Rufus Jones	Elton Trueblood
Robert Barclay	Elizabeth Fry	R.J. Macy	John Geenleaf Whittier
Daniel Boone	Stephen Grellet	Lucretia Mott	John Wilber
Henry Cadbury	Nathaniel Greene	James Naylor	John Woolman
Levi Coffin	Joseph John Gurney	William Penn	
Mary Dyer	Elias Hicks	Isaac Pennington	

Worship

- _____ 1. Continue your attendance at Meeting for Worship/Church.
- _____ 2. Attend your Monthly Meeting's Meeting for Business:
a) How do Friends incorporate worship and business?
b) How do Friends reach decisions?
- _____ 3. Explain in your own words, *that of God in every one*.

Witness

- _____ 1. Show in an outline the organization of the Religious Society of Friends, indicating the position of your own Monthly, Quarterly and Yearly Meeting. Describe the functions of several committees in each of these meeting.
- _____ 2. Tell how you think you may best fulfill your own responsibilities in your Monthly, Quarterly and Yearly Meeting.
- _____ 3. Identify opportunities for service, outreach or personal growth which are available to you. Discuss with your counselor how you can be of service and make plans to participate in a suitable project over the course of a three month period.

Signature _____
Counselor

Date

PROGRAM

PART III

Word

- _____ 1. Describe the major Friends testimonies:
a) Their historic expression
b) Your understanding of them and application your own life
- _____ 2. Be able to give an account of the history and activities of your Meeting/Church or prepare a brief paper on some phase of the history of Quakerism in North America.
- _____ 3. Select and read a book by a Quaker author or on Quakerism. Discuss with your counselor the material you have read. Explain the following to your counselor:
a) Why you chose the book in terms of your interest
b) Something about the book in relation to yourself

Worship

- _____ 1. Continue to attend Meeting for Worship/Church.
- _____ 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.)

Witness

- _____ 1. Find out what the following groups are:
a) American Friends Service Committee d) Friends General Conference
b) Evangelical Friends International e) Friends United Meeting
c) Friends Committee on National Legislation f) Friends World Committee for Consultation
- _____ 2. Attend one session at Yearly Meeting. Report to your counselor about two important business items considered. (If distance prevents attendance at Yearly Meeting, your counselor may suggest an alternative.)
- _____ 3. Complete the project you have planned in Part II. Upon completion of the project, evaluate it with your counselor then describe your experiences to your Monthly Meeting/Church.

Signature _____
Counselor

Date