



RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Friends Committee on Scouting



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 ethnicity or creed. The purpose of the *Guide/Scout* programs is to assist young people 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*.

OBJECTIVE

This program is intended to encourage Quaker *Scouts/Guides* and 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 their faith, participation in the work of the Society and practicing their faith in daily life.

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

- 1) 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.
- 2) The candidate or 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 for assistance.
- 3) 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) Discovery of her or his wider spiritual heritage;
 - b) Participation in the life and work of the Meeting;
 - c) Application of faith through activities or projects that give expression to the idea of Quaker service.
- 4) The Religion in Life Emblem may be presented to candidates when they have 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.
- 5) 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. Adults should demonstrate active involvement in the life of the Meeting and be regular volunteers with Scouting/Guiding.
- 6) If you have questions or concerns on any matters in respect to this badge please contact Friends Committee on Scouting for assistance.

GENERAL STANDARDS

- 1) All candidates should, according to their age and ability, be able to discuss:
 - a) How their *Scout/Guide* promise and law relate to Quaker faith and practice.
 - b) The Quaker testimonies, and, in particular, the testimonies regarding peace, equality, simplicity, and truth.
 - 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.

- 2) In preparing for and responding to the guidelines for this badge, candidates may wish to record their thoughts and progress on their badge in a journal in keeping with Quaker tradition. The complexity and depth of this journal depends on a candidate’s age and ability but should reflect their 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.

Stage 1 – Grey Border

(Typical Ages: 8 - 10)

Section 1: WORD

- 1) Become familiar with the Bible as a book and be able to:
 - a) Identify your favourite Bible Story and explain how it speaks to you;
 - b) Find such passages as Psalm 23 & 100, Matthew 6:9–13, John 1:2–6, and I Corinthians 13;
 - c) Identify the two main divisions of the Bible and explain why are they different.
- 2) Read and discuss a book like *Thee Hannah* by Marguerite De Angeli or another similar book, appropriate for your age and ability, from your local Meeting library, or from the catalogue of books available from quakerbooks.org or Friends United Meeting Bookstore.
- 3) Learn who the following famous Friends are: George Fox, Margaret Fell, John Woolman, and Elizabeth Fry.

Section 2: WORSHIP

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

Section 3: WITNESS

- 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 or community.
- 3) Identify the ways in which your Meeting cooperates with other faiths in your community.

Stage 2 – Green Border

(Typical Ages: 11-14)

Section 1: WORD

- 1) Learn about some of the Valiant 60 and share what you have learned with other Friends in your Meeting. Who is your favourite and why?
- 2) Find Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in the Bible and tell, in your own words, how you try to follow those teachings in your life.
- 3) Read and discuss a book, appropriate for your age and ability, from your local Meeting library or from the catalogue of books available from quakerbooks.org or Friends United Meeting Bookstore.
- 4) Become familiar with your Yearly Meeting's "Advices and Queries."
- 5) In what ways do you think God speaks to human beings today?

Section 2: WORSHIP

- 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. Consider inviting some friends to attend a Quaker Meeting for Worship and ask some adult members to meet with them.
- 3) What is a Leading? Have you ever felt Led? Did you share it?
- 4) Discuss how Friends prepare for Meeting for Worship:
 - a) Read inspirational literature?
 - b) Sit in silence and think about God?
 - c) Talk with others about Meeting?
 - d) Other ideas?

Section 3: WITNESS

- 1) Take the lead in a project that directly helps some person or people in your community.
- 2) How do you try to fulfill the Scout/Guide Law in your daily living?
- 3) Understand the structure of Friends in Canada and the relationship between your Monthly Meeting, Yearly Meeting, Canadian Friends Service Committee and other organizations such as Friends General Conference, Friends United Meeting, Evangelical Friends International, Friends World Committee for Consultation, and the Quaker United Nations Office.
- 4) What are your duties and obligations as a member of Friends both locally and in the wider body of Friends?

Stage 3 – Blue Border

(Typical Ages: 15-17)

Section 1: WORD

- 1) Read the Gospel of John and discuss how it relates to your beliefs as a Friend.
- 2) Discuss why Quakers refuse to adopt creeds.
- 4) Read *Friends for 350 Years* by H. Brinton, *The Quakers in Canada: A History* by Arthur Dorland, or another similar book, appropriate for your age or ability, from your local Meeting library, or from the catalogue of books available from quakerbooks.org or Friends United Meeting Bookstore.
- 3) Briefly describe the contributions of at least ten of the following Quakers:

William Allen	Robert Barclay	Anthony Benezet	Arthur G. Dorland
John T. Dorland Jr.	Mary Dyer	Margaret Fell	Mary Fisher
Ursula Franklin	Elizabeth Fry	Sutherland P. Gardner	Stephen Grellet
Joseph John Gurney	Laura Smith Haviland	Elias Hicks	Rufus Jones
Ruth Morris	Lucretia Mott	James Naylor	William Penn
Isaac Pennington	Timothy Rogers	Joseph Rowntree	Bayard Rustin
John Greenleaf Whittier	John Wilber	David Willson	John Woolman
You can also include one or two modern Quakers, chosen by you, who have made important contributions.			

Section 2: WORSHIP

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

Section 3: WITNESS

- 1) Make regular contributions of your time and your talents 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) Discuss the different branches of Quakerism: programmed, unprogrammed, and evangelical. What can you do to reach out to Friends in other branches?
- 4) Serve on a Quaker committee at the Monthly or Yearly meeting level.

Stage 4 – Red or Tan Border

(Typical Ages: 18-26 for Red, 26+ for Tan)

Section 1: WORD

- 1) Read the Journals of George Fox, John Woolman, or Barclay's *Apology*.
- 2) Participate in or organize a Quaker Bible study group.
- 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.

Section 2: WORSHIP

- 1) Through discussion, describe 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) Organize and lead an ecumenical "Scouts Own" or other such religious gathering at a *Scout/Guide* camp.

Section 3: WITNESS

- 1) Participate in a work project that benefits others administered by Quakers or by another faith-based organization.
- 2) Write down and then try to implement your ideas on the questions:
 - a) What are the most urgent Concerns of my friends and I?
 - b) What does it mean to "Love your neighbour as yourself"?
 - c) What does stewardship mean to you?
- 3) Serve in a Clerking position on a Quaker committee at the Monthly or Yearly meeting level or on Friends Committee on Scouting or with other similar Quaker organizations.
- 4) Explore other non-Quaker faith traditions and discuss your response to these traditions in light of Quaker faith and practice.

ABOUT FCS

Friends Committee on Scouting (“FCS”) serves to encourage and promote the faith, history, and testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends through the development and management of religious education programs for Quaker Scouts/Guides throughout the world. It is an affiliated programme of Friends World Committee for Consultation – Section of the Americas and draws representatives to its committee from all branches of Quakerism.

RESOURCES

Faith and Practice – Canadian Yearly Meeting

Organization and Procedure — Canadian Yearly Meeting

Christian Faith and Practice — Britain Yearly Meeting

The Friends Committee on Scouting website: www.quakerscouting.org

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 www.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”.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Committee may be contacted in care of its website: www.quakerscouting.org.

To reach the Committee by post:

Friends Committee on Scouting
c/o Friends World Committee for Consultation – Section of the Americas
1506 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19102, USA

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



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