

An American Heritage Girl's PICKET



AHG's Guide to Religious Recognitions



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Servant of Youth Adult Recognition

The Servant of Youth Adult Recognition is awarded by the National Lutheran Association on Scouting [NLAS]. (This committee is formed by and responsible to the youth ministry departments of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [ELCA] and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod [LCMS].) It is given to acknowledge distinguished volunteer service by adults in ministry to young people through one or more civic youth agency programs. Self and spouse nominations will not be accepted. The adult award package contains a medal

that can be worn around the neck and an 8 ½" x 11" personalized color certificate.

Eligibility:

A Servant of Youth recipient should:

1. Be an active member of a Lutheran congregation OR be an active member of another Christian congregation who serves Lutheran young people through a civic youth agency affiliated with a Lutheran congregation.
2. Have a minimum of 5 years of service to the church.
3. Have a minimum of 5 years of service to one or more civic youth agencies.
4. Be one whose Christian lifestyle is a model for young people.
5. Encourage young people to participate in the spiritual growth opportunities in their congregations.
6. Promote the religious growth programs to young people.
7. Recruit adult volunteers, especially Lutherans, to give leadership to civic youth agency programs.
8. Be fully trained in his/her area of responsibility.
9. Reflect one's Christian faith and the position of his/her church body in discussions and meetings of the civic youth agency at every level at which he/she is involved.



NFCYM

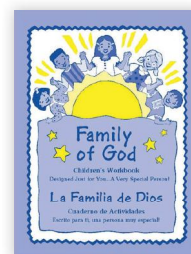


American Heritage Girls is pleased to partner with NFCYM to offer religious recognitions to its Catholic members. The Catholic religious recognition programs administered by the National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire (NCCGSCF), under the auspices of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), allow young people to explore and become more involved in their Catholic faith.

All programs are designed to support and complement the catechetical efforts of Catholic parishes and schools. In particular, the Family of God is an excellent supplement for children preparing for the reception of their first Eucharist. The Spirit Alive provides substantial and creative activities to augment preparation for the sacrament of confirmation.

The four recognitions available to AHG Girls include:

Family of God—grades 2-3

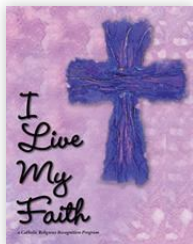


Family of God is the official religious recognition program of the Roman Catholic Church for children, in the second and third grades. Family of God is a bilingual activity series developed to complement the catechetical efforts of the parish and families with children in the second and third grades. Revised and transliterated into Spanish in July 2004, the program helps children discover the presence of God in their daily lives as members of their family and parish.

With six chapters:

- I Am Special to My Family
- I Am Special to God's Family
- I Belong to My Family
- I Belong to God's Family
- I Can Help My Family
- I Can Help God's Family





I Live My Faith—grades 4-6

The I Live My Faith program is designed to help Catholic Scouting members, fourth through sixth grades, appreciate more deeply the place that God and religion occupy in their daily life. The program is structured on the Catechism of the Catholic Church with the themes of: Belief, Sacraments, Catholic

Christian Living, and Prayer. Each theme provides a variety of opportunities for young people to explore the Catholic faith including art, technology, research, drama, and prayer. The book is divided into four chapters and includes an Introduction, Conclusion, and Leader's Guide. The chapters include, "Belief," "Sacraments," "Catholic Christian Living," and "Prayer." Within each chapter, the youth are challenged to Discover, Learn, and Connect Catholic Church teaching to their lives while incorporating Prayer throughout the process. I Live My Faith complements and supports the more formal religious education provided in Catholic schools and parish programs.



Mary, the First Disciple—grades 7-10

"My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit finds joy in God my Savior . . ." (Luke 1:46-47)

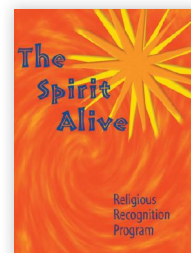
The Marian Medal program is written for young Catholics, seventh to tenth grades, to enable them to "proclaim the greatness of the Lord." This is accomplished by actively involving the participants in an understanding of Mary as a model of openness and spirituality—a woman of the church. Through various projects, discussions, and liturgical celebrations over a period of months, the participants are provided with a unique opportunity to develop new insights into their personalities, friends, parents, and the world around them.

The Marian program takes about 9 months to a year to complete depending on individual diocesan requirements. In order to preserve the time of the volunteer and maintain the integrity of the program, it is wise to only offer this medal program every other year. The Marian Program activities are specifically



designed to be earned within a group setting with a minimum of 3 girls. To increase the size of your group, try combining with another AHG Troop. This will then provide an ample number of girls for some of the activities, discussions and ceremonies. These Marian meetings are to be offered outside the regular meeting time in order to provide sufficient attention to the AHG Program as well as the medal program. Because each diocese may have their own additional medal requirements, prior to starting this or any other medal program, ask your diocesan authorized administrator about any additional requirements, training or ceremonies that they may have.

Additional information on earning the Marian Medal can be found on AHG's website at www.americanheritagegirls.org/religiousrecognitions.



The Spirit Alive—grades 9-12

This program is designed for Catholic youth in high school (grades ninth through twelfth) who are in the advanced level of their Scouting program. It assists them in discovering how the Holy Spirit moves in their lives, calling them to greater participation in the church's ministry.



The four chapters cover:

- The Holy Spirit Alive in Scripture
- The Holy Spirit Alive in the Catholic Church
- The Holy Spirit Alive in Prayer
- The Holy Spirit Alive in Your Life

Activities are an integral part of The Spirit Alive process. Because different people have different learning styles, there are four categories of activities to choose from for chapters 1-3: written, artistic, interactive, and digital. The activity in Chapter 4 is the service component of the process.

Before You Begin:

Prior to starting any Religious Recognition Award program, contact your arch/diocese Scouting or Youth Ministry department. The administrator will inform you of any additional requirements or training. They will also explain any special diocesan procedures for the ordering and awarding of religious recognition medal/patches.

Religious recognition policies and requirements may vary in different dioceses. A list of authorized administrators can be found on the NFCYM website at <http://www.nccgscf.org/programs/index.htm>.

Conducting the Meetings:

A Catholic Troop Leader or another Catholic parent volunteers to guide the girls through the program. This person should be someone that would be recommended by their parish priest, deacon or director of religious education. It is important to consult with your local arch/diocese when selecting a facilitator, as many require additional trainings, etc. to fulfill this role.

Once you have contacted your Scouting or Youth Ministry department and have received your books, you are now ready to begin your meetings. Conduct all meetings according to the AHG guidelines. Open your meetings with a prayer and then begin to guide the girls through the booklet, making sure that all work is completed and any additional requirements are met.

Applying for Medals:

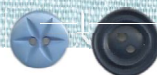
Once you have finished the program, complete the application form found in the back of the book. Make a copy for your records and send the original to the diocese or diocesan authorized administrator (http://www.catholicreligiousrecognitions.org/Authorized_Purchaser_8_12_2013.pdf) according to their requirements. Medals may not be ordered from the NFCYM. Medals must be ordered from the diocesan authorized administrator.

Please allow 3-6 weeks for delivery of medals/patches. After ordering your medals, follow your diocesan requirements for the conferring of medals/patches. Unless it is required for you to participate in a diocesan-wide ceremony, the only requirement by the AHG National Catholic Committee is that uniformed participation in the Mass, with veneration to Mary, should precede the Marian Medal Ceremony. For further information regarding the Marian Ceremony, please consult

the Marian Guidelines and the Sample Marian Ceremony forms on the AHGSource. If you have any further concerns or questions about the ordering or conferring of medals/patches, please contact the AHG National Catholic Committee at catholiccommittee@ahgonline.org.

The NFCYM administers these medal programs, through its constitutive member, the National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire, NCCGSCF. The girl medal programs and adult religious recognitions were developed through this partnership. Because of this collaboration, on many of the applications for medals you may see NCCGSCF listed. All medals and religious recognitions are available to AHG members. In some dioceses, the diocesan authorized administrator may be a Girl Scout Representative. If you should encounter any difficulties in dealing with this representative or have any questions regarding the availability of medals in your diocese, please contact the AHG National Catholic Committee at catholiccommittee@ahgonline.org.

Frequently Asked Questions - Catholic Medals



May I photocopy the workbooks? No, the workbooks are copyrighted. A workbook should be purchased for each participant.

What grade corresponds to each workbook? The following are the suggested grades

- Family of God workbook—grades 2-3
- I Live My Faith workbook—grades 4-6
- Mary, the First Disciple workbook—grades 7-10
- The Spirit Alive workbook—grades 9-12

How long does it take to complete a workbook? On average it takes:

- A minimum of three to six (3-6) months to complete the Family of God workbook
- A minimum of three to six (3-6) months to complete the I Live My Faith workbook
- A minimum of one school year to complete the Mary, the First Disciple workbook

- A minimum of one school year to complete The Spirit Alive workbook

Does the workbook come with a leader's guide? The leader's guide is part of the workbook (not a separate document) for the Family of God and I Live My Faith workbooks. A separate document is available for the Mary, the First Disciple and The Spirit Alive workbooks respectively. The separate leader's guide (Mary and The Spirit Alive) is shipped free with an order at a ratio of one (1) free leader's guide per every five (5) workbooks purchased. Otherwise, the leader's guide may be purchased at an additional cost. You may also order the leader's guide through your diocese. Please contact them for their current charges.

How do I order the workbooks? Books may be ordered through the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) at www.nfcym.org. Click on Online Store at the top of the page and place your order by using your Visa, MasterCard, or Discover credit card (American Express is not accepted). If paying by check follow the steps of the online store until you reach the page that gives your billing and shipping addresses and the total for your order that includes the shipping costs. Print this page and mail it to the NFCYM along with your check. You may also order books through your diocese. Please contact them for their current ordering policies. Please allow 3-6 weeks delivery for all orders. It is important to contact your local archdiocese prior to ordering books to ensure all appropriate guidelines are being followed.

How do I purchase the medals and patches?

Only authorized diocesan purchasers are allowed to purchase the medals and patches. Contact your diocesan Catholic committee or diocesan office of youth ministry for this information. The diocesan offices of youth ministry and links to them are located at <http://www.nfcym.org/about/membership.htm>

Where do I send the medal application forms? The medal application forms are to be completed by the youth and adult advisor. Once completed, they should be sent to your diocesan office of youth ministry or diocesan authorized representatives. Do not mail to the NFCYM office; this slows down the awarding of the medals.



What Catholic Medals are accepted for the Dolley Madison required Religious Recognition? Both the Marian Medal (Mary, the First Disciple) and the Spirit Alive meet this requirement, as long as the medal is earned during the 9-12th grades.

Additional Catholic Medal Resources available at www.americanheritagegirls.org/religiousrecognitions:

- Guidelines for the Marian Medal Ceremony
- Catholic Adult Recognitions

For further details regarding the Religious Recognition programs, contact:

- Your parish
- Your diocesan committee on Catholic scouting and Camp Fire
- Your diocesan office of youth ministry
- Your regional representative on the National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire (NCCGSCF). The regional representatives, their telephone number, and an email link (if given to the NFCYM) for them are located on the NFCYM website.
- The AHG National Catholic Committee,
catholiccommittee@ahgonline.org

Information for this section obtained in part from www.nfcym.org and www.catholicreligiousrecognitions.org.



NFCYM Adult Recognitions

Recognitions are not just for youth! Adults who work tirelessly and without pay to mentor young people deserve special acknowledgment as well. Two medals are specially designed with the adult religious recognition moderator in mind. The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal recognizes any adult who serves Catholic youth through national organizations like Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., Camp Fire USA, and American Heritage Girls. The St. Anne Medal is the highest recognition for adults. These recognitions are not given based upon completion of a program, but are awarded by the diocese to adults who model the highest ideals for young people. In February 1982, the National Subcommittee on Girls Organizations (predecessor to NCCGSCF) developed the following guidelines. They are not national requirements; rather, they are offered for your consideration in a spirit of service to diocesan committees and leaders. **For specific requirements and guidelines, please contact your local diocese.** These suggestions pertain to the two national adult recognitions, the St. Anne and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton medals.



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Inaugurated in 1980 to recognize the meritorious contributions of adults who serve Catholic youth. This medal affirms the work of those who help youth develop their spiritual lives within the context of AHG. It will ordinarily be received before the St. Anne Medal is earned, but is not a requirement for receiving the St. Anne Medal.

The Nominee:

- (1) has given a minimum of three years active service to youth as an adult member.
- (2) participates in activities which contribute to the spiritual development of Catholic members of national organizations serving girls; e.g., retreat weekends, days of recollection, Scout Sunday observances, etc.
- (3) promotes the religious recognition programs available to Catholic members in the diocese and/or serves as a counselor.
- (4) participates actively in adult spiritual motivation days.
- (5) is responsible for Catholic members fulfilling their responsibility to Mass while camping.

(6) encourages the true spirit of ecumenism as well as parochial responsibility and Catholic leadership within the girls' organization served.

(7) contributes other service to the parish and community.



St. Anne Medal

The St. Anne Medal is the highest national recognition for adults who serve Catholic youth. The recognition was inaugurated in 1957 and redesigned in 1980. The purposes of the St. Anne recognition are to honor the outstanding services of adults who contribute to the spiritual development of Catholic young people and further Catholic adult leadership in youth ministry through national youth-serving organizations.

The Nominee:

- (1) has given a minimum of seven years active service to youth as an adult member.
- (2) promotes the Religious Recognition programs for Catholic members and/or serves as a counselor. Encourages non-Catholic members to participate in the Religious Recognitions of their faith.
- (3) gives notable service in promoting Catholic activities and service projects for the church and shows willingness to serve on like committees.
- (4) participates actively in the adult spiritual motivation program, retreats or days of recollection. Is instrumental in having others participate.
- (5) gives outstanding service in promoting and participating in Scout Sunday observances.
- (6) gives notable service in extending the national organizations to more members under Catholic auspices.
- (7) assists parishes and Catholic organizations in recruiting adults for key leadership positions.
- (8) is fully trained in the skills of the organization and is outstanding for his/her sense of responsibility, humility, and good example.
- (9) is responsible for Catholic members being transported to Mass at camporees and summer camps and provides for spiritual needs