

# Catholic Faith Awards

## *Fast Fundamentals*



### Overview

We support girls from all backgrounds and beliefs. While Girl Scouts is a secular organization, we believe the motivating force for many girls is a spiritual one. We greatly value our longstanding partnership with religious organizations across many faiths that share the values of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Girl Scouts can grow stronger in their Catholic faith by completing awards specifically created by their national faith group. These awards are developed and implemented by parents, troop leaders, faith members, and clergy at their place of worship.

We have divided up the Catholic Faith awards into three areas to show progression through the awards and age levels. These areas include:

- My Promise
- My Faith and Catholic Girl Scout awards (Diocesan Awards and national awards).

Parental participation is essential element in the success of all award programs. The requirements to earn an award are completed by the Girl Scout under the guidance of the program moderator or troop leader with support from parents. A logbook must be maintained by the Girl Scout and submitted for approval to the Catholic Committee. Medals are awarded annually at a Diocesan ceremony. If you reside in the footprint area of Archdiocese of Cincinnati you will contact Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. For Diocese of Toledo area you will contact the Diocese directly.

### Pearl of Wisdom

The motivating force in Girl Scouting is spiritual. Girl Scouts of the USA makes no attempt to define or interpret the word “God” in the Girl Scout Promise. It looks to individual members to establish for themselves the nature of their spiritual beliefs. The ways in which members identify and fulfill their spiritual beliefs are personal and private.

### Activity 1 & 2 Instructions







**Facilitate a discussion using the questions below.**

- How can you incorporate this in your troop?
- What barriers might you come across?
- What faith partners can you use to facilitate these?
- How can you make this award girl led?
- How does this award connect/help with other faith awards?

## Activity 1: Catholic Awards for Girls

### Religious Recognitions for Catholic Youth in Girl Scouts

Administered by the Office for Youth Evangelization and Discipleship Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

 <p><b>God is Love</b></p>	<p>The God is Love program is designed for use with students in kindergarten or first grade. The program helps students discover an appreciation that God created, cares for, and loves us all. A parent's/leader's guide is included in the program book. The companion prayer card invites children to embrace God's love for them and the world, and to share that love with others.</p>
 <p><b>Family of God</b></p>	<p>The Family of God program is designed for students in grades 2-3. The program helps children discover the presence of God in their daily lives as members of their family and parish. A parent's/leader's guide is included in the program book. The companion prayer card encourages young people and their families to offer thanks for the blessing of family and church, and ask for continued strength and grace to grow and serve God.</p>
 <p><b>I Live My Faith</b></p>	<p>The I Live My Faith program is designed for students in grades 4-5. The program is designed around the themes of belief, sacraments, Catholic Christian living, and prayer. As the students work through the program, they will reflect on what we believe, how we celebrate those beliefs through sacraments, and how prayer fits into our lives. A parent's/leader's guide is included in the program book. The companion prayer card encourages young people and their families to seek God's guidance and help, while asking for greater understanding, grace and wisdom.</p>
 <p><b>Mary, the First Disciple</b></p>	<p>Mary, the First Disciple, is designed for students in grades 6-8. The program teaches them more about Mary, and about themselves. They will meet Mary in Scripture as a young teenager, follow her journey, and watch her grow into the woman known as the Mother of God. A step-by-step guide for adults contains detailed instructions for guiding students through the program. The companion prayer card encourages young people and their families to ask for Mary's intercession for openness to all the possibilities that God has in store for them. The Book of Mary-Prayers in Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a resource for the Marian medal program and is sold separately. The Marian Medal Award, Mary the First Disciple, helps the Scout grow in appreciation of Mary and in understanding herself.</p>
 <p><b>Spirit Alive</b></p>	<p>The Spirit Alive program is designed for students in grades 9-10. The program assists them in discovering how the Holy Spirit moves in their lives, calling them to greater participation in the church's ministry. A Spirit Alive Mentor Handbook is a step-by-step guide for adults that contains detailed instructions for guiding students through this program. The companion prayer card encourages young people and families to turn to the Holy Spirit for guidance, wisdom, and commitment to the Gospel message.</p>
 <p><b>Missio</b></p>	<p>Missio is designed for students in grades 11-12. The program invites young people to explore missionary discipleship and their own religious identity. Missio was jointly created by the Pontifical Mission Societies in the U.S. and the NFCYM. The guide for adults contains detailed instructions for aiding students through the program. A companion prayer card is also available. The Missio bilingual book and prayer card include text in Spanish as well as English.</p>

## National Catholic Faith Patches

Each patch is earned by youth completing four of the outlined activities.

- To participate, download the PDF activity sheet for the patch desired.
- Once the activities are completed and the patch earned, purchase the patch and accompanying booklets through NFCYM's (National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry) Online Store or through your local Diocese.

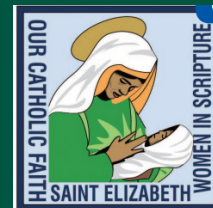
## Program Goals:

This series is designed for girls' grades 1-12.

- foster Catholic identity
- encourage youth to learn more about their faith
- encourage youth to serve their community
- encourage youth to grow in holiness

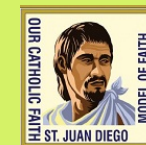
## WOMEN IN SCRIPTURE PATCHES:

The Women in Scripture series focus on individuals who lived lives of courage and faithfulness. These women often fanned the flame of faith in their families and communities and were the backbone of the church and faith since the very beginning of Jesus' ministry. Learn more about these strong faith-filled women.



## MODELS OF FAITH PATCHES:

Throughout the long tradition of the Catholic Church, women and men have been inspired by the Holy Spirit to stand up for the faith in the midst of great trials and at deep personal risk. Learn more about these great Models of Faith.



## SPECIAL PATCHES:



### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE:

The National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire, a constitutive member of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, invites youth in grades K-12 to learn more about the appearance and miracles of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico almost 500 years ago. Youth will also learn about Our Lady's powerful meaning to people of Mexican heritage and about her love and compassion for the whole world, [English Requirements](#).

## OUR LADY OF FATIMA PATCH:



In honor of the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima, the NCCGSCF presents this patch to help youth learn more about this amazing event! You can [download the patch activities here](#).



## Activity 2: Catholic Adult Awards

### Religious Recognitions for Adults

The ST. ANNE AWARD, ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON AWARD and CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION are given to adult leaders in Girl Scout organizations. Their purpose is to honor the outstanding services of leaders who have contributed to the spiritual development of Catholic youth in these programs.



**St. Anne Award**

The St. Anne Award is the highest national recognition for adults who serve Catholic youth through girls' organizations. Recipients must have contributed seven years of service, be a currently active registered leader, and exemplary person. No honorary awards will be given.

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award is a national recognition for adults who serve Catholic youth through girls' organizations. It will ordinarily be received before the St. Anne Medal is earned but is not a requirement for reception of the St. Anne Medal. Recipients must have contributed three years of service, be a currently active registered leader, and exemplary person. No honorary awards will be given.



**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award**

### Certificate of Recognition



The Certificate of Recognition is our own special recognition from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. In order to be eligible to receive this certificate, each individual must be recommended by an active member. The person recommended may be male or female. The candidate does not have to be active in Girls Scouts or American Heritage Girls at the present time. What is necessary is that the candidate has contributed service to one of these programs. These awards may be given to leaders registered in groups not under religious sponsorship.

*Contact your local Catholic Committee on Scouting to see how adults in your area may be nominated for an award.*

# S'more Info

## Girl Scouts of Western Ohio - Girls and Families Faith Information:



[gswow.org/faith](http://gswow.org/faith)



## Girl Scouts USA - Girl Scouts and Faith:



[girlscouts.org/faith](http://girlscouts.org/faith)

## GSUSA and Catholic Church Relationship:



[girlscouts.org/faith](http://girlscouts.org/faith) > Catholic Church



## Catholic Committee for Girl Scouting - Archdiocese of Cincinnati:



[archcincgirlscouts.org](http://archcincgirlscouts.org)

888.350.5090 | [gswow.org](http://gswow.org)  
[customer-care@gswow.org](mailto:customer-care@gswow.org)



In Partnership With:

