

NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMITTEE FOR GIRL SCOUTS AND CAMP FIRE

National Policies for Religious Recognitions

Religious recognition programs are available to Roman Catholic dioceses in the United States. In a diocese, these programs are administered and supervised by an authorized official: the diocesan director of youth ministry, diocesan Girl Scout/Camp Fire chaplain, diocesan Catholic committee chairperson, or diocesan designee. For further information contact your authorized official.

Religious recognitions were developed for use by the members of Girl Scouts USA, Camp Fire USA, and Junior Daughters of America. Other youth organizations may make use of these programs, medals, and patches. Patches are not to be substituted for the medals as the official recognition of the program. The patches may be used in conjunction with the religious medals.

The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) does not mandate prerequisites for participation in these programs. However, the diocesan administrator may set up diocesan requirements for the administration of the recognitions such as application deadlines, review boards, or application procedures.

- It is strongly recommended that counselors for all the recognition programs receive appropriate training before beginning the programs. The National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire (NCCGSCF) recommends that the diocese uses the online training manual (<http://www.nccgscf.org/adults/RelRecogModTrainingManualApril302004.pdf>), adapting as necessary. This model includes the eight components for Catholic youth ministry.
- Medals should be presented at a diocesan-level ceremony. If a ceremony is not offered on a diocesan level, they may be presented at a parish ceremony at an appropriate time (i.e., Girl Scout/Camp Fire/Youth Sunday).
- The NCCGSCF does not require a youth to be Catholic to participate in these programs; however, the committee does encourage all youth to earn the religious recognition of their own faith.
- The religious recognition programs may be modified to include youth with special needs.
- Religious recognition program meetings must be held separate from regular troop/club meetings.
- All adults working with youth in these programs must follow their diocesan requirements for Protecting God's Children.