

## RELIGIOUS RECOGNITION PROGRAMS TIPS

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After you have ordered the religious recognition program materials for your youth, carefully read through the program before you begin. Remember these programs are not to be like school and therefore, it is best to set a reasonable time frame for completion. Here are some other practical suggestions that may help.

1. Choose a program that fits the grade or ability of the youth with whom you work.
2. Be sure that the group is ready for this type of program. Timing is everything.
3. Be sure to read through all the required books and guides to become familiar with what is involved.
4. Line up some extra adult resources such as; a priest, sister, or religion teacher, who can help you with some of the requirements, if necessary.
5. Some programs will have workbooks and others require that the work be done in a journal by each youth.
6. Prepare ahead questions to help you with the discussions that are required in some of the programs. Be prepared as some youth may have other questions, which will promote further discussion on specific topics.
7. Although most of the requirements are specific, there is some freedom for originality in some of the programs. If you are in doubt though please check with your diocesan medal contact.
8. Look for timesavers.
  - **Example:** If you are working on a requirement for the sacrament of reconciliation, see if your parish is offering one in the near future, instead of planning your own.
  - **Example:** Sacrament of baptism, check when your parish holds baptism services and ask to attend.
9. If your parish or diocese has a library, check for available resources that may be loaned out or purchased.
10. The final step to all programs is to complete all the necessary paperwork and forward them and all other required papers or journals to the diocesan contact. Make sure that you are aware of all deadlines and allow time for the paperwork to arrive.