

Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith!



Faith Program Toolkit

Updated: 10/1/24

Girl Scouts and Faith

Celebrating Spirituality and Faith

Everything in Girl Scouting is based on the [Girl Scout Promise and Law](#), which include many principles and values that are common across religions. Because we understand that religious instruction is at the center of many families and communities, we invite Girl Scouts to take spiritual journeys via the My Promise, My Faith Awards and their faith's religious recognitions. Girl Scouts is welcoming and inclusive to members of all faiths.

Girl Scouts of the USA has longstanding traditions of celebrating with faith communities during Girl Scout Week. Faith events are celebrations to recognize Girl Scouts at their house of worship, thank faith partners for their support throughout the year, and honor Girl Scout volunteers. Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith events can include participation in worship services, pre- and post-worship events, and service projects.

Plan a Faith Event

Girl Scouts can use the Faith Program Toolkit to plan a faith event any time of year. Girl Scout Week, celebrated annually during the week of Girl Scouts' Birthday on March 12th, is a time when we shout our Girl Scout pride from the rooftops! It's also a time when many Girl Scouts/troops celebrate the connections between Girl Scouts and their faith, learn more about other faiths, and thank faith partners for their support throughout the year. Girls can celebrate Girl Scout Week Faith Days annually or any time they choose throughout the year.

Whether a Girl Scout(s) participate in a worship service, plan an activity before or after the service, or organize a service project, they can honor meaningful connections in lots of ways! Check out the Celebrate Faith Event resources (linked below) to help Girl Scouts plan, promote, and carry out a faith event with your faith leaders. *Note: Resources are available in English and Spanish.*

About the Faith Program Toolkit

The Faith Program Toolkit provides resources for girls and adults to plan, promote, and host faith events. Girl Scouts are encouraged to earn MPMF Awards, plan events to connect with faith communities, and celebrate faith on Girl Scout Sunday, Jummah and/or Shabbat during Girl Scout Week and throughout the year!

Learn more

Visit [Faith](#) at www.girlscoutsoc.org, [Faith](#) and [Celebrate Faith Event](#) at www.girlscouts.org, and [Girl Scouts of the USA](#) at <https://www.praypub.org/>.

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Girl Scouts and Faith: An Inclusive Approach

Faith can be intensely personal and specific—two people can share the same religion but practice it very differently. Girl Scouts enables girls to honor their spiritual journey in a way that's authentic to their faith, while working together as a troop/group or on their own and/or with their family to earn My Promise, My Faith Awards by exploring the Girl Scout Law all Girl Scouts share. Girl Scouts of all faiths, as well as those who do not belong to a faith community can honor their spirituality and embrace the diversity of the Girl Scout Movement.

Faith Partners



Team Up with Faith Partners

Girl Scouts partner with and celebrate faith communities – during Girl Scout Week and throughout the year, to recognize Girl Scouts in their place of worship, share the benefits of Girl Scouting with faith families, and thank faith partners for their support. Celebrations with faith partners support membership, programming, and community engagement goals.

Celebrations can be hosted by girls and adults, especially faith-based troops, and celebrated with any faith partner during Girl Scout Week (the week of March 12th annually) or at any mutually agreeable time of year.

Christian and Buddhist partners typically celebrate on Girl Scout Sunday, Muslim partners celebrate on Girl Scout Jummah, and Jewish partners celebrate on Girl Scout Sabbath or Girl Scout Shabbat.

GSOC Girl Scout Week celebration dates in 2025 include:

- **Girl Scout Sunday:** Sunday, March 9, 2025
- **Girl Scout Birthday:** Wednesday, March 12, 2025
- **Girl Scout Jummah:** Friday, March 14, 2025
- **Girl Scout Sabbath/Shabbat:** Friday, March 14 – Saturday, March 15, 2025

Faith Partner Relationships

Faith partners have been working with Girl Scouts since 1912 to reach out to communities and serve girls and families. Some ways that faith partners can work with Girl Scouts include hosting a troop, engaging Girl Scouts in service opportunities, and helping girls earn their My Promise, My Faith pin and religious recognitions.

African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church

The Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts (AAMES) has been chartered to encourage every AME Church to organize and support a Girl Scout and a Boy Scout Unit. Learn more and get involved at amescouts.org

Catholic Church

GSOC partners with the Diocese of Orange: Office of Family Life and encourages girls to check out [Catholic Connections: Religious Awards, Recognitions and Patches](#) and to contact the Diocese for more information.

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) is proud of its 100-year relationship with the Catholic Church and is pleased that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has the following resources: [Questions and Answers About Girl Scouts of the USA and About Catholic Scouting](#); [Background on Girl Scouts of the USA and USCCB Conversations](#). Learn more at <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/footer/faith/catholic-church.html>

Jewish Community

The National Jewish Committee on Girl Scouting, Inc. (NJCGS) is a non-profit organization which exists to promote the Jewish Girl Scout award programs and religious services in Girl Scout Councils, assist Girl Scout Councils in extending Girl Scouting in the Jewish Community, and encourage cultural exchanges. Learn more at <https://www.njcgcs.org>.

Islamic Community

The Islamic Committee on Girl Scouting (ICGS) presents Girl Scouts of the Islamic Faith their Religious Recognition Awards. The committee has developed a program that includes a booklet of Islamic activities and medals for various awards. Learn more at <https://www.nicgs.com>.

Protestant and Independent Christian Community

Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) is a not-for-profit organization which seeks to "foster the Christian growth of children, youth, and families through churches and youth serving agencies" through collaborations between churches and agencies, and the P.R.A.Y. program for children in grades K-12 to develop a deeper relationship with God. Learn more at <https://www.praypub.org/gsusa>.

Note: The Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) works with many religious groups to bring religious recognitions to girls from different spiritual backgrounds.

New Troops and Meeting Places

Are you starting a new troop and looking for a meeting place? Consider reaching out to local churches. P.R.A.Y. and its denominational partners have developed resources to help cultivate potential partners to connect youth and faith through Girl Scouting.

When Girl Scouting is viewed as youth ministry, congregations experience outreach, leadership development and growth.

Use the general [Religious Recognitions \(To Serve God\) brochure](#) to help clergy start or expand programs.

Remember: Religious Emblems are created and administered by various religious groups.

P.R.A.Y. promotes religious recognitions through the brochure linked above and develops the religious emblems curriculum and recognition program for Protestant and Independent Christian churches.

Visit the [P.R.A.Y. website](#) for additional resources, to search by faith, and to explore the resource library.

- [P.R.A.Y Awards Brochure](#)
- [P.R.A.Y. General Resources](#)

Note: Additional GSOC Faith Recruitment Resources are available on request including:

- Faith Flyer: Catholic
- Faith Flyer: Christian
- Faith Flyer: Islamic
- Faith Flyer: Jewish
- Faith Partners One Pager
- Guidance for Making Connections with Faith Partners

Contact customercare@girlscoutsoc.org and use "Faith Awards" as the subject line to request resources.

Faith Event Planning Guide



How to Plan a Faith Event

Girl Scouts of Orange County encourages girls to hold faith events to connect with their faith community! Girls will deepen their faith, strengthen relationships, and gain event planning skills! Events can happen during Girl Scout Week in March or any time of year! Girls and adults use the Faith Program Toolkit to plan a faith event.

Use the questions below to start planning!

Who will plan the faith event?

Girl Scouts and adults should decide the following:

1. **Who** will participate in the faith event? **Who** will take the lead in planning the faith event?
2. **What** will the faith event include?
3. **When** will the faith event take place?
4. **Where** will the faith event be held?
5. **How** will the faith event be organized?
6. **Why** is the faith event important?

Faith Event Planning Guide

Who will participate in the faith event?

Girls can plan an event for Girl Scout members, families, or the larger faith community.

Possible options include:

- Girl Scout Troop, Sister Troops, or Service Unit
- Girl Scout Region or Council
- Church, Mosque, Temple, or other congregation
- School Community
- Other Audience

Note: Planning Large Events Training is for any volunteer who is running an event for their Service Unit, a group of troops (over 4 troops) or Council-wide. A large event is broadly defined as any event organized by Girl Scouts generally for Girl Scouts. This training is also useful for Service Unit team members who are helping to coordinate Service Unit events.

Who will take the lead on planning the faith event?

Girls can take the lead on planning using the “girl led” process with the guidance of adults to plan a faith event. Those planning can include:

- Girl Scouts
- Troop Leader or other Girl Scout Adult
- Faith leaders

What will the faith event include?

Girls can help determine what the faith event will include depending on when, where, and how it will be organized. Some examples include:

- Girl Scout Faith Awards Event
 - Activities to earn My Promise, My Faith Awards OR Religious Recognitions
 - Snack
 - Guest Speaker Panel representing different faith backgrounds
 - Ceremony
- Faith Worship Service/Girl Scout Week Faith Observance: Girl Scout Sunday, Jummah, Shabbat (see Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith Flyers and PPT Slide Inserts)
 - Activities before the service (see Pre- and Post-Service Ideas)

Faith Event Planning Guide

- Girl Scouts participation in service (see Sample Service Ideas)
- Honoring Girl Scouts and volunteers who make the world a better place
- Special blessing led by a faith leader (see Sample Prayers including Girl Scout Speech and Girl Scout Promise and Law)
- Girl Scout photo in uniform with faith leader
- Award presentation (My Promise, My Faith Awards and/or Religious Recognitions)
- Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith Event
 - Opening Ceremony to learn about a faith holiday
 - Craft
 - Snack
 - Closing Ceremony

Faith Event Patches: Make your Faith Event something to remember—with a patch! Patches are available at the [GSOC Shop](#) for any faith celebration or faith event, including interfaith events.

When do Girl Scouts plan a faith event?

Girls can hold a faith event any time of year! Possible times include:

- Girl Scout Week
 - Girl Scout Birthday
 - Girl Scout Sunday
 - Girl Scout Jummah
 - Girl Scout Shabbat
- Buddhist Holidays
 - Buddhist New Year
 - Vesak
- Christian Holidays
 - Christmas
 - Easter
- Hindu Holidays
 - Maha Shivratri
 - Holi
 - Rahsha Bandhan
 - Krishna Janmashtami
 - Ganesha Chaturthi
- Navratri
- Dussehra
- Diwali
- Islamic Holidays
 - Ramadan
 - Eid Al-Fitr
 - The Hajj
 - Eid Al-Adha
 - Al-Hijra
 - Mawlid al-Nabi
- Jewish Holidays
 - Hannukah
 - Passover
 - Shavuot
 - Rosh Hashana
 - Yom Kippur
 - Sukkot

Faith Event Planning Guide

Where will the faith event be held?

- Church, Mosque, Temple, or other place of worship
- School
- Park
- Beach
- Other location

How will the faith event be organized?

A faith event can be planned as:

- a workshop for current and/or new Girl Scouts
- a celebration during Girl Scout Week: Girl Scout Sunday, Girl Scout Jummah, Girl Scout Shabbat
- an opportunity for Girl Scouts to share their faith and/or learn about the faith traditions of others (ie. Girl Scouts Celebrate Hanukkah, Open Mosque Day, etc.)
- a part of a worship service at a place of worship
- a prayer service or Girl Scout's Own ceremony
- an interfaith celebration (see the virtual Interfaith Event Series linked on GSOC's [Faith](#) page for inspiration)
- a reception to thank faith leaders for providing meeting space and/or support

Why host a faith event?

Girls can hold a faith event to:

- earn the Girl Scout My Promise, My Faith Awards OR religious recognitions for specific faiths
- celebrate Girl Scout Week in March during the week of Girl Scout Birthday, March 12th
- celebrate a religious season or holiday
- invite new members to join Girl Scouts
- share an achievement or community service project and/or present an award
- build relationships by sharing how they live the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- support Girl Scouts and troops of any faith tradition
- reach faith communities and non-member families at places of worship

Faith Event Planning Tool

Use the template below to start planning!

Who will take the lead on planning the faith event? (list contacts)

Who will participate in the faith event?	What will the faith event include?
When will the faith event take place?	Where will the faith event be held?
How will the faith event be organized?	Why is the faith event important?

To Do Checklist

- ☐ Identify potential locations.
- ☐ Contact faith leaders/guest speakers.
- ☐ Schedule a date and time.
- ☐ Plan your event schedule.
- ☐ As needed, create an event flyer to help promote the event. (see Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith Flyers and PPT Slides)
- ☐ Invite girls, families, and/or council staff.
- ☐ Review GSOC's [Faith](#) page and Faith Program Toolkit for available resources.
- ☐ Submit the [Girl Scout Faith Event Notification Form](#) to share your plans to celebrate and get council resources and support for your faith event.
- ☐ Help girls complete and/or be recognized for earning My Promise, My Faith Awards and/or religious recognitions.

OC Girl Scouts, parents and/or troop leaders submit the [Girl Scout Faith Awards Report Form](#) to help GSOC recognize girls who have earned Girl Scouts' national My Promise, My Faith Awards and religious recognitions for specific faiths. Submit one form per girl.
- ☐ Take pictures at your event!

Tips for Planning a Memorable Event during Girl Scout Week and beyond!

Girl Scout Week is celebrated In March! Girl Scouts worldwide celebrate our mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, and to salute all those who help make that possible. This is the week to show off your Girl Scout pride! It can also be a time to celebrate Girl Scouts and Faith!

Girl Scout Week is celebrated the week of Girl Scouts' Birthday, March 12, and includes Girl Scout Sunday, Girl Scout Jummah, and Girl Scout Shabbat/Sabbath. Partnering with faith communities during Girl Scout Week exposes more people in the community to the benefits of Girl Scouts, affirms relationships with faith leaders and adult volunteers, and builds the Movement's diversity [Click here to view this year's info.](#)

1. **Work closely with your faith partner.** Teaming up will help event planning and promotion go smoothly and deepen the connection between your troop and your faith partner.
2. **Start early.** Houses of worship will appreciate the extra time to incorporate your event into their worship schedule!
3. **Include pre- and post-activities.** Events before and after the worship service are a great way to share the benefits of Girl Scouting with faith families and give back to your faith partner. You might host a cookie booth and/or cookies and punch reception after the service or do a service project—check out the activities tip sheet for ideas.
4. **Promote your event.** Spread the word through social media and neighborhood channels. Ask your faith partner to promote the event in their newsletters or bulletins. And give your local council a heads up too: they may amplify through their channels.
5. **Thank your faith partner after the event.** Faith partners will appreciate a note of thanks after your event, especially one they can share with their community.

My Promise, My Faith Awards & OC Faith Awards: OC Faith Mentor and OC Faith Explorer



What are the My Promise, My Faith (MPMF) Awards?

Girl Scouts of the USA developed the MPMF Awards in 2011. Girl Scouts of all grade levels can earn the MPMF Awards, which complement religious recognitions and allow girls to further strengthen the connection between their faith and Girl Scouts.

Learn more about the MPMF Awards:

[My Promise, My Faith Awards \(English\)](#)

[Mi promesa, mi fe \(Español\)](#)

[Lời Hứa Của Tôi, Đức Tin Của Tôi \(Tiếng Việt\)](#)

Who can earn the MPMF Awards?

All Girl Scouts in grades K-12 can earn the My Promise, My Faith (MPMF) Awards regardless of faith background or having no faith affiliation. Girl Scouts can earn one award pin per year by exploring the Girl Scout Law. MPMF Awards complement [Religious Recognitions](#) for specific faiths and help Girl Scouts to strengthen their faith/spirituality through their Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

OC Faith Awards

GSOC presents certificates to Girl Scouts who earn multiple MPMF Awards.

- OC Faith Mentor: Girl Scout earns *7 or more* MPMF Awards and helps younger Girl Scouts to earn them
- OC Faith Explorer: Girl Scout earns *all 13* MPMF Awards

Can a Girl Scout(s) earn the MPMF Awards if all Girl Scouts are not from the same faith or may have any faith affiliation?

Yes! ALL Girl Scouts can complete the award steps.

Example: Step 1 of the MPMF Awards asks Girl Scouts to find a story, song, or poem from their faith that relates to a line of the Girl Scout Law they choose to explore. Girl Scouts with no faith community can choose any story, song, or poem that relates to the line of the Girl Scout Law they choose to explore.

Note: The purpose of the MPMF activities is to give Girl Scouts an opportunity to share in the way that is most meaningful to them and to listen to others as they share and make connections to their faith (if applicable, or the stories, songs and poems they are familiar with) and the shared values of the Girl Scout Law.

Religious Recognitions

Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) is a non-profit organization that provides religious recognition programs for youth and families. P.R.A.Y.'s mission is to help children and youth grow in their Christian faith through collaboration between churches and youth agencies.

P.R.A.Y.'s programs include:

- Religious emblems - Programs that help youth earn religious recognitions that can meet requirements for organizations like Girl Scouts of the USA.
- P.R.A.Y. Webstore - A store that sells curriculum, awards, and other resources

Note: P.R.A.Y. provides the Religious Recognitions (To Serve God) Brochure which provides basic information about Religious Recognitions for specific faiths.



My Promise, My Faith Awards Step 5 – Keep the connection strong.

Girl Scouts who work to earn the Girl Scouts' My Promise, My Faith Awards learn about Religious Recognitions for specific faiths when they complete step 5 of the MPMF Awards.

Share the Religious Recognitions (To Serve God) Brochure pictured at left and available at <https://www.praypub.org> with Girl Scouts and families to complete step 5, and encourage Girl Scouts to reach out to faith leaders for more information.

Girl Scouts can contact faith leaders to find out more information on how to earn and receive Religious Recognitions.

Faith Event Resources

Websites

- [Faith](#) (GSOC) at www.girlscoutsoc.org
- [Faith](#) (GSUSA) and [Celebrate Faith Event](#) (GSUSA) at www.girlscouts.org
- [Girl Scouts of the USA](#) (PRAY) at <https://www.praypub.org>

GSUSA Resources

The following resources are available on GSUSA's [Celebrate Faith Event](#) page:

1. **Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith Fliers:** Add your event details to these customizable fliers and ask your faith partner to share in their newsletter or bulletin.

Girl Scout Sunday (PDF)

Girl Scout Jummah (PDF)

Girl Scout Sabbath (PDF)

Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith (PDF)

2. **Order of Service Ideas:** Encourage your girls to play an active role in your house of worship's service! Work with your faith partner to select the best options for your event.

Sample Service Ideas (PDF)

3. **Activities Tip Sheet:** Try one of these activities before or after the worship service and during Girl Scout Week (check out the tips below for more!). As always, team up with your faith partner to find an option that works for everyone.

Pre-and Post-Service Ideas (PDF)

4. **PowerPoint Inserts:** Customize these sample PowerPoint slides and ask if your faith partner can include them in a worship service slide show to promote your event. (Spanish slides available).

PowerPoint Slides Inserts (PPTX)

5. **Prayers:** Share these sample Girl Scout-focused prayers and sample speech with your faith partner.

Sample Prayers (PDF)

GSOC Faith Forms

Share faith recognition, events, and volunteer using the GSOC Forms described below!

Recognize Girls

Girl Scout Daisies to Cadettes: start earning My Promise, My Faith Awards this year to receive a GSOC Faith Award certificate as a Cadette, Senior or Ambassador! Girl Scouts Faith Award recipients in attendance are honored at the annual Recognition Event.

- **OC Faith Mentor** – award certificate is presented to Girl Scouts who earn 7 or more My Promise, My Faith Awards and help Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors earn the My Promise, My Faith Awards for their level
- **OC Faith Explorer** – award certificate is presented to Girl Scouts who earn all 13 My Promise, My Faith Awards

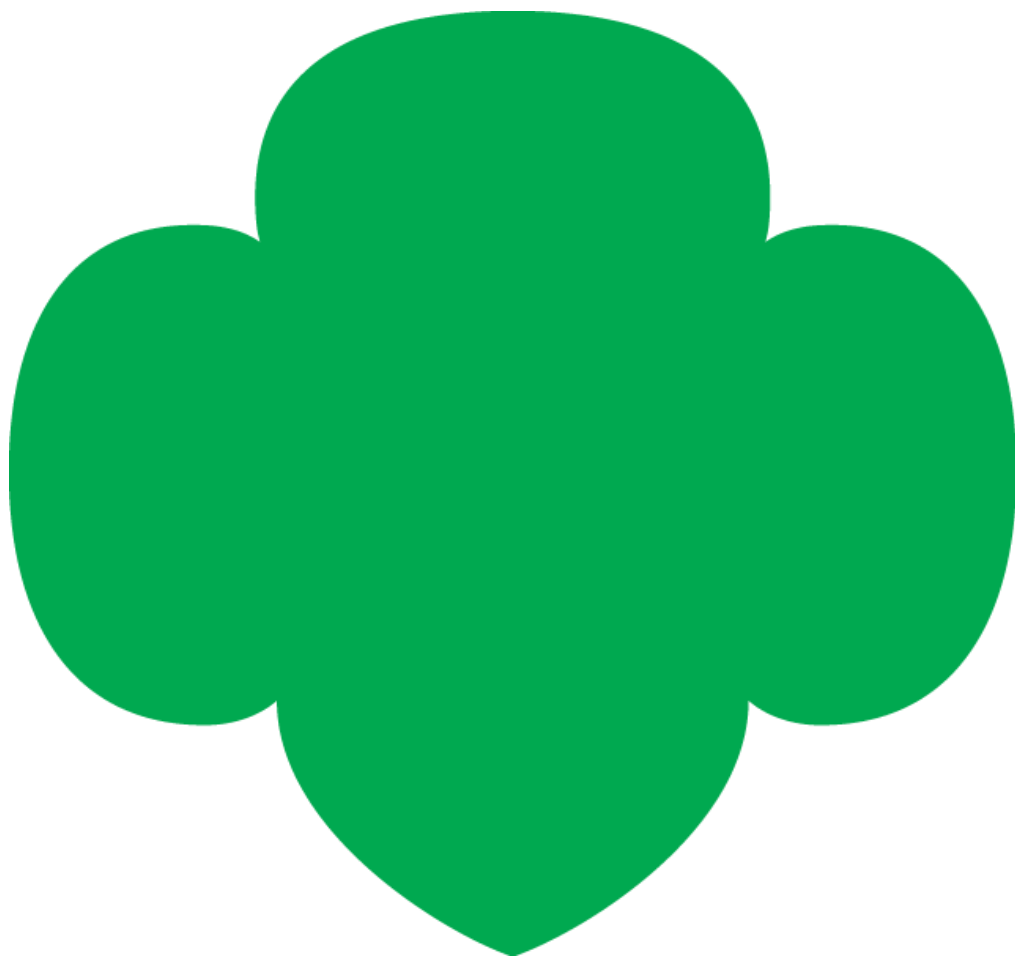
OC Girl Scouts, parents and/or troop leaders submit the [Girl Scout Faith Awards Report Form](#) to submit the names of girls to be recognized as an OC Faith Mentor or OC Faith Explorer using the online Girl Scout Faith Awards Report Form by the 2-4-6-8 (February 4th at 6:08 pm) annual deadline. This helps GSOC recognize girls who have earned Girl Scouts' national My Promise, My Faith Awards and religious recognitions for specific faiths. Submit one form per girl.

Register Your Event

Plan a Girl Scouts Celebrate Faith Event and get council resources and support for your event when you submit the [Girl Scout Faith Event Notification Form](#) to share your plans to celebrate during Girl Scout Week annually in March or another time of year.

Volunteer

All girls in grades 6-12 and adults are invited to volunteer for Girl Scouts and Faith. Submit the [Girl Scouts and Faith Interest Form](#) to volunteer for Girl Scouts and Faith to help Girl Scouts connect Girl Scouts and faith and earn faith awards for Girl Scouts in grades K-12. There are opportunities to help with your troop, service unit, and council events. Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors earn community service hours.



CONTACT US

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