

Girl Scouts and Faith: My Promise, My Faith Pin

The Girl Scouts My Promise, My Faith pin invites girls in grades K-12 to experience a faith journey through exploration of the Girl Scout Law and teachings from their faith. Girls can earn this national pin each year.

Faith-based programs have been part of the Girl Scout tradition since the movement began in 1912 and remains a cornerstone of the Girl Scout program. Everything in Girl Scouting is based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law, which includes many of the principles and values common to most faiths. Thus, while a secular organization, Girl Scouts encourages girls to take spiritual journeys via their faiths' religious recognitions.

Girl Scouts recognizes the religious diversity that exists within our communities. Many times, girls in the same troop represent a wide variety of faiths. Troop Leaders help girls develop respect and appreciation for each other's individual beliefs.

Girls of all grade levels can now earn the **My Promise, My Faith pin** developed by Girl Scouts of the USA in 2011. This pin, which girls can earn once a year, complements existing religious recognitions and allows all girls to further strengthen the connection between their faith and Girl Scouts.

A girl earns the My Promise, My Faith pin by carefully examining the Girl Scout Law and directly tying it to tenets of her faith. Requirements for this pin are included in *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* for all levels, but a summary of the award requirements are below:

Steps to earn the pin:

- 1. Choose one line from the Girl Scout Law.** Find a story, song, or poem from your faith with the same ideas. Talk with your family or friends about what that line of the Law and the story, song, or poem have in common.
- 2. Find a woman in your own or another faith community.** Ask her how she tries to use that line of the Law in her life.
- 3. Gather three inspirational quotes** by women that fit with that line of the Girl Scout Law. Put them where you can see them every day!
- 4. Make something to remind you of what you've learned.** It might be a drawing, painting, or poster. You could also make up a story or a skit.

5. Keep the connection strong. Find out if your faith community offers a recognition program for Girl Scouts. Talk with your friends, family, or a group in your faith community about what you've learned about your faith and Girl Scouting. Ask them to help you live the Law and your faith. Maybe you can show them what you just made or perform your skit!

Adult volunteers from faith communities partner with girls by:

- Linking the national pin into their faith's religious recognitions
- Guiding girls through their personal faith journey
- Helping girls strengthen their understanding of their faith



There are online activity booklets that support girls working on their My Promise, My Faith award:

- *Your Faith and Girl Scouts – Make the Connection* (younger girls) is for Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies and Juniors; *Tu Fe y Girl Scouts – Hacer la conexión* is the Spanish-language version.
- *Your Faith and Girl Scouts – Make the Connection* (older girls) is for Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors; *Tu Fe y Girl Scouts – Hacer la conexión* is the Spanish-language version.

You can download copies from the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta Web site at <https://www.gsgatl.org/get-involved/volunteer-portal/Pages/defaulted.aspx>, under the “Resources” community inside the Volunteer Portal

You can also download copies from the Girl Scouts of the USA Web site at <http://www.girlscouts.org/program/basics/faith/>.



Other Religious Recognitions

Religious recognitions (awards, “medals”) have been created by national religious organizations/committees to encourage the spiritual growth of their youth members who are Girl Scouts; they reinforce many of the values integral to Girl Scouting. While My Promise, My Faith helps girls connect *Girl Scouting* with their faith, the religious recognitions programs help girls grow stronger in and learn more specifically about their faith or denomination.

Each religious organization/committee develops and administers its own program, which is approved by Girl Scouts of the USA; GSUSA allows girls to wear these awards on the front of their uniform sash, vest or tunic. The *To Serve God* religious recognitions brochure and chart shows the religious recognitions that have been created by various faith groups. You can find this brochure, a video that explains the religious recognitions programs, and other resources for collaborating with the faith community at P.R.A.Y. Publishing at www.praypub.org/partner_gsusa.

Some organizations are not affiliated with P.R.A.Y. or may not have a national office; to learn about their religious recognitions, contact their local leaders.

Frequently Asked Questions about the My Promise, My Faith Award



Earning the My Promise, My Faith Award helps Girl Scout Daisies through Ambassadors explore how Girl Scouting and their faith offer similar ideas about how to act. The requirements are in each level Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting, and online at <https://www.gsqatl.org/get-involved/volunteer-resource-library/Pages/default.aspx>.

Is Girl Scouts teaching religion through My Promise, My Faith (MPMF)? No, Girl Scouts is a secular organization. The Girl Scout Promise and Law are in alignment with many faith organizations' teachings; and, MPMF and the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) provide girls an opportunity to strengthen their faith journey as they grow their leadership skills.

How does the MPMF award relate to the other religious recognitions? The MPMF pin complements faith-based religious recognitions. A girl can choose to earn one or both awards in any order at the appropriate grade level. More information about religious recognitions is found at http://www.praypub.org/partner_gsusa.htm or by contacting the faith organizations.

How often can a girl earn the MPMF award? Every year she is a Girl Scout. She is encouraged to select a different line of the Law each year, although she may choose to repeat a portion of the Law at a different program level as long as the specific activities she does are different or reflect a different level of understanding of the Law or her faith. A girl does not have to have earned the award at a younger grade level to begin earning it, nor is she required to earn it every year.

Where are the MPMF pins worn? See the *Girls Guide to Girl Scouting* for the girl's grade level, or go online to http://www.girlscouts.org/program/basics/for_volunteers/where_to_place/

Where can a girl wear her faith's religious recognitions? Religious recognitions can be worn alongside the MPMF pin or anywhere else she chooses below the MPMF.

How much time does a girl have to complete the award? Girls can complete MPMF requirements any time during the membership year (October 1 – September 30.).

When is it appropriate to present the MPMF award? These awards can be presented to girls at any time once they have completed the requirements, but it is more fun and meaningful, if they are presented in a special ceremony or Court of Awards. Also, many faith organizations acknowledge religious recognitions earned by girls in their faith community during Girl Scout Sunday or Girl Scout Shabbat. The MPMF recognition can be incorporated into these ceremonies.

SOURCE: Girl Scouts of the USA