



# A Guide to Earth-based Religious Emblems for Scouts



## Supporting Scouts of Earth-Based Faiths with Respect, and Scouting Values

This guide is designed to help Scout leaders, families, and advancement chairs understand and access valid religious emblems for youth who follow Pagan, Wiccan, or other Earth-based spiritual paths. These emblems may not be familiar to many of our leaders, but they are fully in line with the Scouting America's commitment to respecting the religious beliefs of all Scouts.

## Why this matters

The Scouting America holds "duty to God" as one of its core principles, but it does not define or restrict what religion looks like for individual families. A Scout's religious beliefs are determined by their family and faith community—not by Scouting America, their unit, or their leaders. That means Scouts from Earth-based spiritual traditions—such as Paganism, Wicca, or Druidry—have the same right to pursue religious emblems as those from Christian, Jewish, or other mainstream faiths.

Recognizing and supporting those emblems shows reverence, honors family beliefs, and helps all youth grow into ethical, respectful adults.

## What are Earth-based Faiths?

Earth-based or nature-centered religions are spiritual paths that find the divine in the natural world. They include traditions such as:

- Wicca: A modern Pagan religion often honoring a God and Goddess and following seasonal celebrations.
  - Paganism: A broad category of traditions often inspired by ancient pre-Christian belief systems that see the natural world as the ultimate teacher of life and spirituality.
  - Druidry: A nature-based spiritual path focused on wisdom, creativity, and reverence for life.
- These faiths are practiced by millions of people worldwide—including many families here in our Packs and Troops—and they emphasize peace, stewardship of the Earth, and community responsibility.



While these traditions are peaceful and deeply rooted in reverence for life, they are often misunderstood.

Many families of these faiths feel the need to keep what they believe private due to misinformation that has run rampant regarding these faiths. It is very unfortunate because these are religions of peace that hold the natural world as divine.

If you view nature as a sacred creation made by God, Earth-based religions see it the same way—recognizing God (and Goddess, or Source) within creation itself, which is often seen as sacred and alive. There is a lot we all have in common when taking the time to look without judgment.

## Emblems Offered by Covenant of the Goddess

1. Over the Moon For Cub Scouts (approximately ages 7–11)



2. Hart & Crescent For Scouts Scouting America, Venturers, or Sea Scouts (approximately ages 11–17)



These awards are not listed in the Scouting America religious emblem brochure, but they are valid and approved for wear on the official uniform. They are designed specifically for youth participating in Scouting and reflect the same high standards as other religious awards.

## What you need to know

- CoG does not reliably respond to email or web inquiries.
- However, awards are processed when the correct forms and payment are mailed in.
- These emblems involve meaningful program packets and reflection guided by a mentor or family faith leader.





## How to Order an Emblem:

1. Download and print the correct emblem packet at <https://cog.org/about-cog/awards>
2. Complete the workbook and required components with the youth and their religious advisor or mentor.
3. Fill out the award order form included in the packet.
4. Include the required payment (typically around \$15 per emblem). Check packet for current rates.
5. Mail the completed form and payment to: Covenant of the Goddess PO Box 1226 Berkeley, CA 94701

## Tips for Leaders, Chaplains & Advancement Chairs:

- These emblems are valid and may be worn on the official uniform, centered over the left pocket.
- Scouts earning these emblems are eligible to wear the universal religious emblem square knot.
- Units are not expected to teach these faiths—only to support Scouts already practicing them.
- Promote inclusivity by recognizing all valid religious emblems at Court of Honor ceremonies—regardless of faith tradition.
- If you're unsure how to respond to a family requesting this, it's okay to say: "Let me learn more, and I'll support your Scout's path."

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: Is this really allowed by Scouting America? A: Yes. The Scouting America supports all faiths and explicitly states that it does not define religion. If a Scout and their family follow a faith, and a religious emblem exists for that faith, it is valid.
- Q: Do I have to teach or explain this religion? A: No. The emblem is earned by the Scout with support from their own religious mentor or family. Your role is to support, not instruct.
- Q: What if someone in the unit is uncomfortable? A: Respecting others' beliefs is part of the Scout Law. Leaders should model kindness and inclusion, and remind others that Scouting America recognizes many different belief systems.
- Q: Can this be presented at a Court of Honor or Pack Meeting? A: Yes! It should be treated with the same respect as any other religious emblem.

## Scouting America Religious Policy Reminder:

"Scouting America does not define what constitutes a religion. Instead, religious beliefs are defined by the family and faith community of the Scout."

(Scouting America Guide to Advancement, Section [5.0.5.0](#))

## Questions?

For support, contact your local district chaplain, advancement chair, or an experienced leader committed to faith inclusion.

*This guide was created to promote awareness, fairness, and access to religious emblems for Scouts of all faiths. Every Scout deserves to be recognized and supported in their personal journey of reverence.*

A special thanks to my Troop Guide, Paul Hilt, the Antelope, Parothead, and mentor. Thank you Paul, for teaching and pushing me. It has meant the world to me!

-Farren Santibanez