

Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting

Guide for Advisors and Parents

Saint George Religious Award

for Scouts in Grades 1 through 4

in Cub Scouts/Webelos (Scouting America), Daisies/Brownies/Juniors (GSUSA),
and comparable levels of Trail Life USA, American Heritage Girls,
and Campfire USA

In Collaboration with
The ORTHODOX YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES
an Agency of the Assembly of Canonical Bishops of the U.S.A.
www.theOYM.org

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About the EOCS

History

In 1955, Archbishop Michael, of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, Metropolitan Anthony Bashir, of the Antiochoian Orthodox Archdiocese, Bishop Orestes Chormock, of American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Diocese, and Metropolitan Leonty, of the Orthodox Church in America met with Joseph A. Brunton, Jr., the Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America. The prelates came attired in their robes of office to bestow their blessing of the Boy Scouts and to make known to their constituents that they wanted Scouting to become a part of the youth programs of the local churches. This was one of the first cross-jurisdictional enterprises of the Orthodox Churches in North America. Later they included the Girl Scouts USA. As a result of this historical meeting, the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting [EOCS] was created in 1960 by the Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops in the Americas, whose purpose is to conduct the mission of our Lord and His Church via the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts USA programs on a national level.

In 2009 SCOBA became The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North & Central America. The Assembly understands itself to be the successor of SCOBA, and as such, it has assumed all of its agencies, dialogues, and other ministries.

The bishops of the USA, Canada and Central America were originally together in one Assembly, called the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America; in April 2014 it was announced that, in order to best respond to the cultural diversity and pastoral needs in the region, the Canadian and US bishops would form separate assemblies and the Central American bishops would join the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of Latin America.

In 2021 after the re-organization of the Assembly of Bishops. it was announced that the EOCS would no longer be an endorsed agency of the Assembly and that the EOCS would continue its mission without its endorsement.

As of March 15, 2024, The Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting is working in collaboration with Orthodox Youth and Young Adult Ministries (OYM) in accordance with the express wish of the Assembly of Bishops. As a ministry of OYM, EOCS will continue its mission to strengthen youth ministries in Orthodox churches and broaden the scope of Orthodox scouting.

Mission

- Support and conduct the mission of our Lord and His Church via scouting programs on a national level.
- Recognize the individual youth member as our most important member.
- Provide support, programs, and recognition to the scouts and scouters of the Eastern Orthodox faith, whether in units in Eastern Orthodox Churches, or units sponsored by other institutions, via the youth religious recognitions, adult recognitions for volunteer scouters and clergy, retreats, camporees, and associated events and activities.
- Provide support, guidance, programs, and consultation to the Eastern Orthodox Churches that sponsor scouting and are partners in the scouting program.
- Create, expand, enhance and project a presence of Eastern Orthodox scouting in the recognized scouting organizations.
- Complement and supplement programs of the scouting organization, the specific scout unit, and youth activities of Eastern Orthodox Churches in the USA. The EOCS does not direct or replace any of these programs.
- Encourage the use of scouting programs as part of the youth ministry program of the Church and community.
- Develop and extend our Scouting network with our ministry partners.
- Serve as the officially recognized Eastern Orthodox religious committee for the Scouting America, Girl Scouts USA, Trail Life USA, American Heritage Girls, and Camp Fire USA programs.

DESMOS

- The International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts (DESMOS) was established in June 1997 at the Penteli Monastery in Athens, Greece. Its aim is to contribute to the spiritual development of Orthodox Christian Scouts by helping them sense the importance of Duty to God and understand the essentials of Robert Baden-Powell's original spiritual vision. The vision of DESMOS is to become a basis of mutual understanding for all Scout Associations that include Orthodox Scouts. DESMOS strongly encourages inter-religious dialogue and contact through tolerance, understanding and cooperation. The objectives of DESMOS are to:

- Develop and promote the spirit of brotherhood and understanding among Scouts of the Orthodox Christian faith.
- Promote warm relations and co-operation between Scouting and the official Orthodox churches.
- Develop an educational curriculum that should enhance the spiritual dimension in the personalities of young Orthodox Scouts in accordance with the purposes, principles and method of the Scout Movement.
- Introduce Scouting in such states and areas where the Orthodox Church is established.
- Coordinate the activities of DESMOS with non-Scout organizations having the same objectives.
- Motivate co-operation among DESMOS members.
- Motivate and promote Scouting to Orthodox boys and girls on a global basis.

The EOCS is a founding member of DESMOS. George Boulukos was a founding member and served as an official liaison between the EOCS & DESMOS for many years.

EOCS Religious Award Programs

With deep gratitude to the original author of program materials, Fr. Joel McEachen

For information about all the awards: https://www.eocs.org/religious-awards

Grades 1-4



Grades 4-7



Grades 7-12



Adult Recognition*



*Long-term, outstanding contributions to Orthodox scouting

The St. George Award Program: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the goal of earning the Award?

Through working on the St. George Award, young Scouts can connect more personally with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. They will reinforce their knowledge of the fundamentals of the Orthodox Christian Faith and see the relationship between God's love for them and their love for God and other people.

Who is eligible?

Any Eastern Orthodox Christian boy or girl in grades 1-4, registered in an EOCS-recognized program (see the cover of this Workbook), may earn this award. They must be communicants of one of the Churches recognized by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA, and participate in Orthodox religious education, if available (see https://www.assemblyofbishops.org/directories/jurisdictions). Grade levels for each award, or specific learning or response approaches, can be adapted for scouts with special needs or disabilities. For suggestions, see: https://youtube.com/@somemyrrh and https://illumination-learning.com/main/special-needs/

Who can help the scout?

The scout should be helped by their clergy, parents, or another qualified adult advisor. Advisors should make sure that scouts write all their short answers in their notebooks. ***The Advisor Packet contains additional information, shown in italics.*** The program can also be conducted in a group setting. Regardless of who helps the scout(s), their priest should meet with them before the final signoff, to discuss what they have learned and what it has meant to them. **Any adults (other than parents) working with scouts must adhere to Child Protection principles and all related requirements of their respective organizations.**

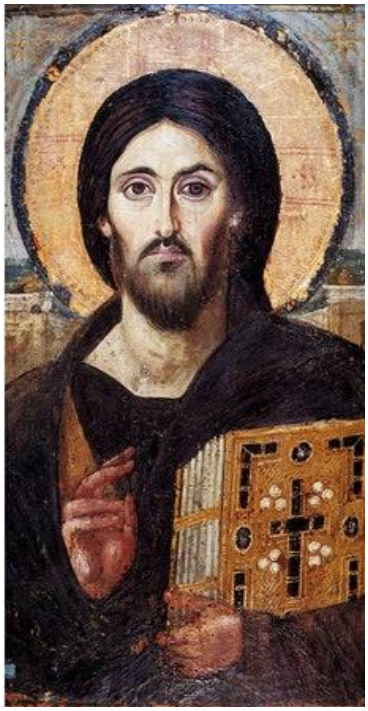
How should the online resources be used?

Links that are included under specific questions are examples of websites that can serve as resources. **Please ensure that all other sources you use are consistent with Orthodox belief and practice.** The advisor should visit these sites first, then help the scouts focus on the most relevant portions. Even with these scouts of late elementary and middle school age, adult guidance and interpretation is essential. If additional resources are needed or if you have suggestions, contact us: https://www.EOCS.org.

What are the steps to complete the Award?

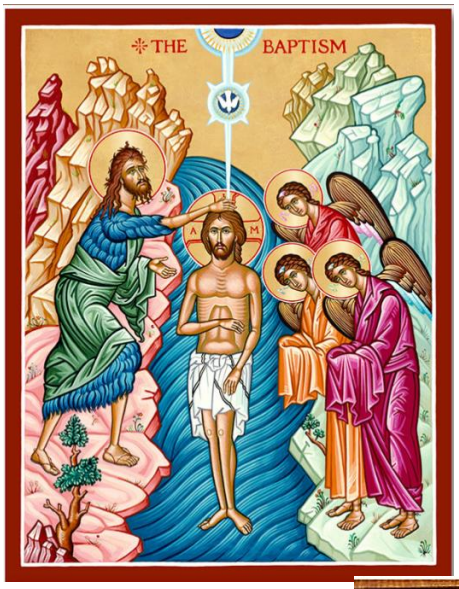
1. Complete all parts of the Packet, including any service projects. **The scout should print the Workbook single sided.** It is recommended that the scout write or type and print out answers, and put the workbook and answer pages in a notebook as they complete them, with each response numbered the same as the Packet; for example, Part 1: a.
2. Meet with the priest for a final discussion and signoff of the application for the Award.
3. The priest or parent will send the application to the P.R.A.Y. organization to purchase the Award. See the instructions at the end of the manual). Please allow three weeks for receipt of the Award.
4. The Award is given on the authority of the EOCS, and therefore **must be presented in the church by your priest or hierarch.** For convenience, the short presentation service is included at the end of this Packet. Later, the award may also be presented by the priest or advisor in a scouting awards ceremony such as a Court of Honor. Consult current uniform regulations of the applicable scouting program for proper placement of the medal.

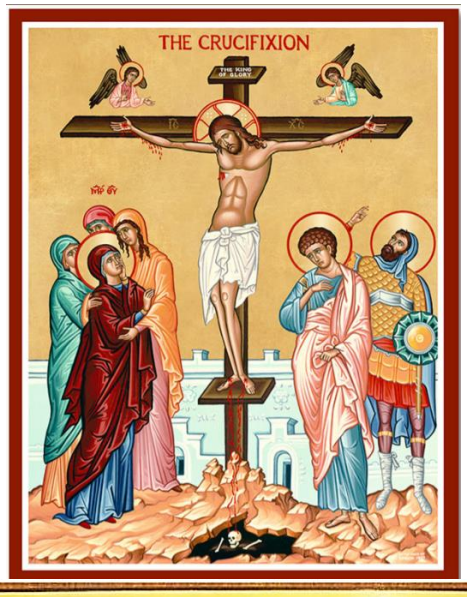
Icon Resource Page
(Scouts have their own copies)















The St. George Award Workbook

To the scout: Print this workbook single sided. Put the workbook and your answer pages into a notebook, and it will help you remember what you have learned and what it means to you. We will call the person who is helping you work on this award (your priest, your parent, or another adult) your *advisor*. If you have special learning needs, talk with your advisor about different ways of answering the questions. When you work on this award, you are showing your love to our Lord Jesus Christ, and you will feel His love more and more. The closer you feel to God, the stronger your Orthodox Christian Faith will become.

Part 1. Jesus Loves Us and Helps Us

a. Who is Jesus Christ? *[The Son of God. A human person who lived a long time ago, and He is God at the same time.]*
   What does He want us to do? [*He wants us to love God, and to be kind and helpful to other people.]*
   Write a sentence or two in your notebook and put in an icon of Jesus Christ as a grownup (or draw an icon). You can cut out icons from the Icon Resource Page.

What the advisor should teach: Jesus is the Son of God. He was a human person who lived a long time ago, and He is also God. He was a teacher who taught that God loves us and wants us to love him, and be close to him. God also wants us to be kind to other people and help them. Because Jesus is also God, he did not just teach us, he showed us God's love by suffering and dying for us, then winning out over death and giving us the chance to live forever close to God in Paradise.

b. These are four important times in Jesus' life. Write the names of these four events, tell what each one is about in a few words, and put an icon of each one in your notebook.
   The Nativity (Christmas): *[When Jesus was Born]*
   The Epiphany: *[When Jesus was baptized]*
   The Crucifixion, on Holy Friday: *[When Jesus died on the Cross]*
   The Resurrection, on Pascha (Easter): *[When Jesus won over death and rose from the dead]*

What the advisor should teach/review:

Jesus was born as a little baby. That day is called the Nativity or Christmas. He lived on earth like us, as a human being. But he is God at the same time. He lived a special life.

When He grew up, He went to the Jordan River to be baptized, and people heard the voice of God the Father voice saying that Jesus was His Son. They saw a bright shining white dove, and that was the Holy Spirit. That day is called the Epiphany.

He taught people about God, and He showed people how to help each other and be good. He also did amazing things, miracles, that showed people the power of God. Crowds of people wanted to follow Jesus. But their leaders were afraid of Him for getting so much attention and finally made Him die on the Cross. We call that sad time "the Crucifixion," and we call that day every year, "Holy Friday."

But Jesus, who is the Son of God, was more powerful than death, and He won out over death. He rose up from the dead! We call that the Resurrection. He gave life forever in Paradise to all people who love Him and try to do what God wants: to be kind and help other people, and to love God. That very great holiday is Pascha, also called Easter.

The advisor should then go over the icons and have the scout point out what is happening.

c. What is the prayer Jesus taught us? It is called the **Lord's Prayer**. Learn to say the Lord's Prayer by heart. Say it with the person who is helping you earn this Award. Put a copy of the prayer in your notebook. Also say it every night with your parent or person who takes care of you.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto the ages of ages.
Amen

Note: Different groups within the Orthodox Church may differ slightly in the English translation used. Please adapt as needed.

Some children may learn better by hearing the Lord's Prayer while seeing visual images, for example, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcg3ey7FdJI. They can say it and pray with the person chanting it. There are also children's videos with songs, but these often change or repeat words of the prayer so may not be the best way to learn it by heart.

d. Tell the story of Christmas, the Nativity of Christ, to the person who is helping you earn this award. You have an icon of the Nativity in your notebook already. Now put an icon of the Mother of God holding Jesus in your notebook.
Advisor: It is hard to find resources for children that are accurate and complete from an Orthodox Christian perspective. You will probably need to supplement whatever the child uses: a Children's Bible or another account of the Birth of Jesus. Many videos introduce imaginary information. This video may be helpful but fails to include Mary's active agreement to do God's Will, and the role of the Holy Spirit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nb2sSmxw0c.

e. Then answer these questions with a few words in your notebook.

What is the main reason we celebrate Christmas? *[It is the birth of Jesus.]*
What is the name of Jesus' mother? *[Mary, the Mother of God/The Theotokos]*
What kind of a place was He born in? *[A stable OR a manger, filled with animals]*
What special happened when he was born? *[Angels told the shepherds; a star began shining brightly; the Three Wise Men came afterwards and brought him gifts]*
What was the name of the town where He was born? *[Bethlehem]*

f. Tell the person who is helping you earn the Award about one of the amazing things Jesus did: the Miracle of the Loaves and the Fishes. Put the icon in your notebook. Write one or two sentences in your notebook OR draw your own picture that shows what He did.
Advisor: Guide the scout using the Children's Bible or a video.
RESOURCE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32Ixdj0ZXyY

You have finished Part 1!

Part 2: You Are an Orthodox Christian

a. How did you become an Orthodox Christian? Write the answer in your notebook.
[Baptized by an Orthodox Christian priest.]
Remember we talked about Jesus being baptized in the river. (Look at icon.) He wants us all to be baptized in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

b. How is a person baptized in our Church? Write a sentence or two OR draw a picture of a baby being baptized. If your family has a picture of your Baptism, put a copy in your notebook.
Show a short video of Baptism, or have the scout attend and watch a Baptism. Advisor should explain: the scout became a full member of the Church when they were baptized, even though they were very young.
RESOURCE: Watch this video showing/explaining Baptism beginning at minute 07:30 and ending at minute 27:00. It is Greek Orthodox, and other Orthodox services are very similar.
https://youtu.be/W3fbMDU0fec?t=455

c. What is the name you were given at Baptism? Write that name in your notebook.

d. That name is also the name of a Saint. When is your Saint's Feast Day celebrated? Write the date in your notebook. You and your family can celebrate that day, too!

e. Put an icon of your Saint in your notebook.

Explain that saints are people who were very close to God when they lived on earth. Now they are in Heaven, and God lets them help us when we pray and ask for their help. Help the scout find their icon either from home (take a photo) or online and print it out.

RESOURCES: https://www.goarch.org/chapel/search, https://oca.org/saints/lives https://blessedcelebration.com/collections/icons , https://www.monasteryicons.com/, or google: "Orthodox Icon of [Saint's name]"; e.g., "Orthodox Icon of St. Irene"

f. Learn how to make the Sign of the Cross. In your notebook, write some of the times when you make the Sign of the Cross.



Show a short video, or demonstrate. Help the scout learn the correct hand position, right arm, and motions. https://www.saintjohnchurch.org/how-to-make-the-sign-of-the-cross/#h-how-to-make-the-sign, and https://orthodoxwiki.org/Sign_of_the_Cross



Help the scout think of occasions when they should make the Cross, such as prayer, or when they say or hear "in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit," or coming up to receive Communion, etc. This video gives helpful information: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3NMO4xrwlQ

Suggest times when they could make their Cross in everyday life. A helpful mnemonic for young children if they are having trouble with the motions: "God is up, God is down, God is near (right shoulder), God is far (left shoulder), God is in my heart."

You have finished Part 2!

Part 3: Your Church

Your Church is the place you go with your family to worship God. Your Church is also all the people there and everyone who is an Orthodox Christian.

a. What is the name of your priest(s)? Write the name of your priest(s) in your notebook.

b. What is the name of the church you attend? Write it in your notebook.

c. What is the icon of your church? Put the icon (photo/download picture) in your notebook.

d. Put a photo of the outside and the inside of your church building in your notebook.

e. We sing or chant our worship services. Learn to sing our answer to the priest: “Lord have mercy” and the Paschal Hymn, “Christ is Risen,” in English. (If you use another language in church, you may also want to learn these in that language.) Write the words to “Christ is Risen” in English in your notebook.

Advisor: The priest, chanter, or choir director and members can help you and your scout. Let the scout read the hymns with you in English or the language of your Church, as long as they understand it. Explain the hymn in simple terms, perhaps looking at the icon of the Resurrection that was discussed in Part 1. Remind the scout that Pascha means Easter.

“Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death.
And to those in the tombs, he has granted life.”

f. When we are in church, we use all our five senses. What do you see? hear? taste? smell? touch?

Write your answers in your notebook.
Examples of answers:
See: icons, priest, candles, people in the pews, Gospel book, Small and Great Entrances
Hear: chanting, singing, jingle of censer, reading the Gospel and Epistle
Taste: Holy Communion, Antidoron (blessed bread)
Smell: incense
Touch: kiss icons, hand of priest, spoon as it enters mouth, candle as you place it in holder
RESOURCE: https://blogs.depaul.edu/dmm/2013/01/22/the-five-senses-in-worship/

g. Do an activity to help your church. In your notebook, write a sentence or two about what it was OR draw a picture of what you did. Ask someone to take a photo of you doing the project and add that to your notebook.

Examples: help clean up the tables at a church luncheon, take away leftover papers and arrange the books in the pews after the Liturgy, plant flowers outside the church, help set up chairs or decorate tables for a church event, clean wax from candlesticks, etc.

You have finished Part 3!

Part 4: Scouts Love and Serve God

Jesus wants us to love God and be kind and help other people.

a. What are some ways you can show your love to God? Write them in your notebook. Choose one of them and do it regularly. Which one are you doing?

b. What can you do that shows kindness and helps other people? Write a few of these ideas in your notebook. Choose one of them and do it often. Which one are you doing?

c. How do you think God feels when he sees you doing these good things? Write a few words in your notebook.

d. Your Orthodox Scouting award is named for St. George. Learn about St. George and his life. Write the answers to these questions in your notebook by filling in the blanks.



RESOURCE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xee5onUpFUY

St. George was a brave military o _ _ _ _ _ _. *[officer]*

He killed an evil spirit in the form of a d _ _ _ _ _. *[dragon]*

He loved God very much and was not afraid to say he was a Chr _ _ _ _ _ _. *[Christian]*

The bad emperor tried to make him worship statues of i _ _ _ _, but George would not do it. *[idols]*

Then the emperor tried to kill him many times, but George p_ _ _ _ _ to God and each time God made him well. *[prayed]*

Many people became Chr _ _ _ _ _ _ _ when they saw how powerful G_ _ is. *[Christians, God]*

God told George he would be a m_ _ _ _ _, and George was not afraid. *[martyr]*

God told George it was time to join him in H_ _ _ _ _. George finally died for his belief in God, and then he became a great S _ _ _ _. *[Heaven, Saint]*

God has let St. George help many people through the ages, and he still helps us when we

p _ _ _ to him. *[pray]*

e. Color the icon of St. George on the next page. Put the icon in your notebook.

St. George and the Dragon







Congratulations! You have completed the St. George Award.

The next award is Chi Rho. You can earn it in Grades 4 – 7.

Completion and Presentation Instructions

(We recommend that scouts use the form in their Packets. This form is for your information.)

1. Final Review

When all four parts are complete, the Scout should meet with the priest. This can be a group meeting for several Scouts who have completed the same award. The priest should have a chance to look at each Scout's notebook prior to or during the meeting, to review the work and use it as a basis for discussion. The meeting, however, is not a test, but a chance to make a personal connection and help the Scout(s) know that their work is highly valued. As appropriate, parents and/or advisor may also attend the meeting (in the background).

Signatures upon Completion:

Scout: _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____

Priest/Advisor: _____ Date: _____

Please include this page as the final sheet in the notebook.

2. Ordering the Medal

When the scout has completed the review with the priest, the parent or church can order the medal from: Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.)

Contact P.R.A.Y. at 314-845-3318, info@praypub.org, or

Order online at: https://store.praypub.org/eastern-orthodox

Please order *at least three weeks* prior to the presentation date. The award should be presented in the church by an appropriate church authority using the short service below. **Presentation of the medal is made only on the authority of the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting through the local parish priest.** After the church presentation, a scout may optionally have the award presented by the priest or advisor at a scouting awards ceremony.

Orthodox Prayer Service for the Presentation of Scouting Religious Awards

PRIEST: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

ALL: Chant the Apolytikion of Saint George (Saint George Award); The Exaltation of the Cross (Chi Rho); Pentecost (Alpha Omega)

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Again, we pray for all devout and Orthodox Christians.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Again, we pray for our Archbishop (N.), and all our brotherhood in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Again, we pray for our country, the President, our armed forces, and all who are in civic authority.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Again, we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, safekeeping, protection, pardon and remission of sins of the servant (handmaiden) of God _____ as he (she) completes his (her) study and is awarded the (St. George, Chi Rho, Alpha Omega) Award medal.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For You are a merciful and loving God, and to You we offer glory: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: Christ our God, we seek your blessing this day upon your servant (handmaiden) _____. who has completed the requirements of the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting and is found worthy to wear the _____ Medal. Becoming more aware of God's presence in his (her) daily life, especially through things done both in the Church and in the home, he (she) will wear an emblem that gives glory to the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Furthermore, it bears witness that _____, a distinguished member of the _____ (name of scouting organization), is a faithful Orthodox Christian steward. In presenting this award, we offer our prayers for _____, through the intercessions of the Mother of God, (your church's Saint) _____, and Saint(s) _____ who is/are commemorated today. For to You we give all glory, honor and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: (Pins/Presents the medal) He/She is worthy!

PEOPLE: He/She is worthy!

PRIEST: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos and the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting
Patch, Scholarship, and Membership Donation Form

A) Official EOCS Patches: $15 each

B) Contributions to EOCS Scholarship Fund:
The EOCS offers scholarships to 12th-grade scouts who have earned their Eagle, Gold, or comparable highest award in their program, and have also earned the EOCS Alpha Omega Religious Award. Scholarship applications are available at www.EOCS.org. Contributions of any amount are welcomed (see form below), to help the EOCS award more scholarships to these outstanding young people.

C) Membership Donations: The EOCS organizes outreach and religious growth programs in its mission of promoting Orthodox Christian Scouting. Membership includes receiving all communications about EOCS events and activities, and the opportunity to attend National Board Zoom meetings. Memberships are at two levels:

1) Community Level: $100
   Covers all scouting units in your parish.

2) Individual Level: $25
   For Adult Leaders or Individuals wishing to support the EOCS.

Parish Name and Designated Contact Person for Community Membership:

_____

Individual Member Name*: _____

*For additional Individual Memberships, please add a separate sheet of paper

Address: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Scouting Program (e.g., BSA, GSUSA) & Unit Number: _____

DONATIONS: Patches: #____ @ $15 $_____

Scholarship Contribution: $_____

Memberships

Group: $_____

Indiv.: #____ @ $25 $_____

Total: $_____

Mail to: Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting,
149-57 Powells Cove Blvd Whitestone NY 11357
or complete online at: www.EOCS.org/donate