



Scouting In The Assemblies of God

Background

- The Assemblies of God is the world's largest Pentecostal Christian fellowship and the fourth largest international body of Christians.
 - The Assemblies of God has over 312,048 churches and outstations in over 200 countries with approximately 62 million members.
 - According to the 2010 *Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches*, there are 2.9 million U.S. members in 12,377 churches. Of these members, approximately 38 percent are ethnic.
- In the area of education, the Assemblies of God is responsible for:
 - 842 Christian schools (pre-school–high school) with 105,563 students
 - 19 Bible universities, colleges, institutes, and one seminary with 16,277 students.
- The Assemblies of God is committed to fulfilling a fourfold mission.
 - Evangelize the lost
 - Worship God
 - Disciple believers
 - Show compassion
- The core values of the church are to:
 - Passionately proclaim, at home and abroad, by word and deed, Jesus as Savior, Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King
 - Strategically invest in the next generation
 - Vigorously plant new churches
 - Skillfully resource their Fellowship
 - Fervently pray for God's favor and help as they serve him with pure hearts and noble purposes
- At the end of 2010, the Assemblies of God's use of Scouting included:
 - 1,312 Cub Scouts from 40 packs
 - 947 Boy Scouts from 41 troops
 - 168 Venturers from 15 crews

Religious Principles and Key Terms

- *Fellowship*: Term the Assemblies of God prefers to be used to describe them instead of "denomination."
- *Fundamental Truths*: Sixteen nonnegotiable tenets of faith to which all Assemblies of God churches adhere.
- *Core Doctrines*: Four of the 16 Fundamental Truths that are considered to be the core beliefs of the Fellowship.
- *Affiliated Church*: Local church with full autonomy, having developed to the point where they are self-governing and self-supporting.
- *District Affiliated Church*: Local church that has not yet developed full autonomy.
- *Pastor*: Elected by the local congregation. While Christ is recognized as the head of the church, the pastor is responsible for the public ministry and day-to-day operations of the local church.
- *Board of Deacons/Elders*: Elected by the local congregation to assist the pastor and help conduct the business operations of the local church.



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- **District Council:** Sixty-one regional councils set up, most following state boundaries or according to ethnic focus. The councils act as a regional leadership between the local church and national fellowship by:
 - Overseeing churches and ministries in their area
 - Providing ministry opportunities and avenues of fellowship for ministers and constituents
 - Recommending ministers for national credentialing
 - Leading and solving matters of leadership and direction for local assemblies
- **Language District:** Council organized similar to the state district councils, with the exception that these councils are organized according to ethnic or language focuses.
- **General Presbytery:** Second highest policy-making body of the Assemblies of God. The General Presbytery meets annually and serves as an advisory board for the church.
- **Executive Presbytery:** Twenty member board of directors composed of the church's top elected officials with regional, language, and ethnic representatives.
- **General Council:** Biennial business meeting of the U.S. Assemblies of God. This council meets to conduct church business, elect top church officials, and convene ministries and activities of the church. The voting membership is composed of all licensed and ordained ministers and a lay delegate from each local church. Other duties of the General Council include:
 - Providing educational curriculum
 - Organizing the missions programs
 - Credentialing ministers
 - Overseeing the church's 18 colleges and a seminary
 - Producing communication channels for church and non-church publics
 - Providing leadership for national programs and ministries of the Assemblies of God

General Council of the Assemblies of God

This national organization of the Assemblies of God was organized in 1914. It is a part of four national and international Christian organizations:

- *National Association of Evangelicals (NAE)*
- Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches of North America (PCCNA)
- *Pentecostal World Fellowship (PWF)*
- *World Assemblies of God Fellowship*

Scouting Religious Emblems and Recognitions

P.R.A.Y.'s 2010 Religious Emblems Report highlights the Assemblies of God's use of religious recognitions as:

- * 69 Cub Scouts
- * 54 Webelos
- * 15 Boy Scouts
- * Seven Venturers
- * Two adults



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Youth emblems

GOD AND ME

God and Country Series – God and Me



Purpose

- Encourages children to become best friends with Jesus and tell their story of “God and Me” together

Eligibility

- Youth in first through third grade

Requirements

- Designed to be completed in four to five sessions
- Youth completes sessions on God Created Me, Jesus Is God’s Gift to Me, I Can Talk With God, Because God Cares for Me, I Can Care for Others

God and Country Series – God and Family

GOD AND FAMILY

Purpose

- Help youth understand the importance of family and God’s role in a healthy family



Eligibility

- Youth fourth and fifth grade

Requirements

- Designed to be completed in six to seven sessions
- Sessions include:
 - We are God’s Family
 - Family Heritage, Spiritual Heritage
 - Our Talents and Gifts Strengthen Our Families
 - In God’s Family We’re Loved No Matter What! Because We’re Loved, We Follow Rules
 - Being in God’s Family Helps Us When Things Are Tough
 - In God’s Family, We Share as a Response to God’s Love

God and Country Series – God and Church

GOD AND CHURCH

Purpose

- Gives youth an opportunity to understand the church’s structure and objectives, and to participate in service projects that will give them a better understanding of the mission of the church



Eligibility

- Youth in sixth through eighth grade

Requirements

- Designed to take three to five months to complete
- Sessions include Meeting Christ, Worshipping God, and Witnessing and Ministering for Christ
- Must complete a video or photo album to share what they learned



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God and Country Series – God and Life

Purpose

- Teaches youth to study the lives of men and women in the Bible, discovering what their lives teach them about God, and challenging them to integrate the faith of those in the Bible into their daily lives

Eligibility

- Youth in ninth through twelfth grades who do not necessarily have to belong to a Boy Scout troop

Requirements

- Completion of five sections covering:
 - How God calls all kinds of people
 - God doesn't expect us to do it on our own
 - Each of us must make a personal response to the call of God
 - God gives strength to face adversities
 - God can accomplish great things through those who are willing to do God's will

Adult Emblems

God and Country Mentor Program



Purpose

- Provides an adult with additional opportunities to model his or her Christian faith and to help a young child talk about his or her belief in God

Eligibility

- Parent or guardian of a youth in the God and Country program series

Requirements

- Completion of the God and Country curriculum working alongside youth for whom parent or guardian is responsible

God and Country Series – God and Service award



Purpose

- Acknowledge distinguished volunteer service by adults in ministry to young people by service through the church and the Boy Scouts of America

Eligibility

- Minimum of five years of service to the church
- Minimum of five years of service to Boy Scouts of America
- Encourage and assist young people in earning the God and Country award
- Promote religious observances at Boy Scouts of America functions at all levels
- Encourage youth to participate in community service projects



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- Recruit volunteers to give leadership to Boy Scouts of America programs
- Promote the organization of Boy Scouts of America units among church other than his or her own congregation
- Be a person whose Christian example is highly regarded by others in the church and whose lifestyle is a model for young people

Requirements

- Nomination application and letter of recommendation must be submitted to P.R.A.Y.



Organization Information

For more information, contact:

- General Council of the Assemblies of God
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