



Religion and Family

A Unitarian Universalist
Religious Award Program
for Webelos Scouts



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Introduction for Parents/Adult Partners

This program is for your UU Webelos Scout and you!

The Religion & Family Award Program was developed by the Unitarian Universalist Scouters Organization, Inc. (UUSO), an association of Scouters active in Unitarian Universalist churches and congregations nationwide.

The UUSO was incorporated in April 2003, with the approval of Dr. John Beuhrens, who was then the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). The mission of the UUSO is to provide support to UU Scouts, Scouters, and congregations wanting to participate in scouting programs, recognizing that, although the values of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and the UUA are very similar, there are some material differences. (More information about the UUSO and its programs can be found on the Web at www.uuscouters.org.)

The initial task of the UUSO was to develop a Unitarian Universalist award for Boy Scouts that would be recognized by the BSA's Religious Relationships Sub-Committee, thus permitting the scout earning the award to wear it on his uniform. This goal was accomplished in 2006 and work began on this religious award program for Webelos Scouts.

Our purpose in publishing this booklet is to provide a religious study program specifically for Unitarian Universalist boys who are active in the Webelos program of Cub Scouting.

The Religion & Family Award Program has five goals:

1. Provide UU Webelos Scouts with a basic understanding of UU history and principles.
2. Highlight the connections between UU principles and scouting values.
3. Encourage UU Webelos Scouts to begin formulating their own religious beliefs and philosophies.
4. Help UU Webelos Scouts understand how our faith differs from that of most of the Scouts around them and what it shares with those faiths.
5. Foster meaningful religious conversations between UU Webelos Scouts and their parents or adult partners.

The Religion & Family Award Program requires your Webelos Scout to work closely with you to begin defining his own religious views and heritage. It also requires that he talk to other people at your UU church or fellowship.¹ Our intention is that your Webelos Scout will work

¹ **For everyone's protection, your scout should not meet with any adult in a one-on-one private setting; you should be present during these meetings. "No one-on-one contact" is a fundamental principle of the BSA Youth Protection program.**

through the exercises in this book himself, but that he will have your support and assistance when necessary. He may need your guidance in order to know whom to approach at church and how to ask his questions, yet he should do his own asking. Each boy has different capabilities; we hope these exercises may stretch those a bit and that he will have enough guidance and support from you so as not to be overwhelmed.

Children are also at varying levels of readiness for reading and writing. If it helps to read this material to your son, do that! If writing is a problem for him, be his transcriber! The ideas and thoughts need to be his and he should do for himself what he can, but your job is to facilitate the process and make sure he is able to focus on what matters...the content.

The Religion & Family Award of the UUSO is recognized by the Boy Scouts of America. Successfully completing this program entitles your Webelos Scout to wear the Religion & Family medal as well as the BSA's religious emblem knot (silver knot on a purple background) above the left pocket of his Scout uniform.

We hope the Religion & Family program will enhance your Scout's understanding of his duty to God as a Scout and as a Unitarian Universalist.

UUSO Webelos Scout Award Committee members who contributed to this workbook include Corey Brunson, Robert Brunson, David K. O'Brien, PhD, Marty Wertheim, and Harold A. Yocum, MD.

How does a Scout obtain the Award?

The UUSO has selected a non-profit organization entitled "Programs of Religious Activity with Youth" (PRAY) to fulfill the delivery of the Award for the Scout that has completed the program. A large number of national faith groups use PRAY to fulfill their awards. Please visit the PRAY website for details (www.praypub.org) to determine the exact fee for the Award.

The application for UUSO Awards can be found as a separate file at www.uuscouters.org.

Please mail or fax the Application on the following page to PRAY at the following address along with the fee for the Award:

**Program for Religious Activities with Youth
8520 Mackenzie Road, Suite 3
St. Louis, MO 63123-3413**

**Telephone: 800-933-7729
Facsimile: 301-638-7250**

Introduction for Webelos Scouts

Being UU makes you special!

You know that you are special to your mom and dad and the other people who love you. Each of us is! But being UU makes you extra special because our religion is pretty different from a lot of others. Being UU means you get to decide many things for yourself. That's pretty cool. Being UU also means, however, that you agree to certain things, such as respecting each and every person you meet. That's cool, too, but it's really hard to do.

This program is about being UU. It is designed to help you understand more about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and to get you started on a life-long process of figuring out what you believe and living up to your values.

It is also about connecting the values you are learning through Scouting with the values of your UU faith.

Being a UU is exhilarating.

Being a Scout is electrifying.

Being a UU Scout is...

...well, that's what you're here to figure out!

Part One: Unitarian Universalist History and Local Congregation's History

So, first off, why do we have such a loooooong name?

Back in 1961, when your parents were probably very young or maybe not even born yet, two groups of churches – the Universalists and the Unitarians – joined together. Each had a long history in this country of working to make the world a better place. Each came from a Christian tradition, but had grown open to a variety of beliefs. The two groups had much in common and it made sense to join forces. Each group was proud of its own history and traditions, however, so they kept both names and ran them together.

Extra Extra Information

The Universalists got their name because they traditionally believed that all people would go to Heaven after they died because God would not send people to Hell. This is called “Universal Salvation.” The Universalists held big tent parties all over the country telling people this good news!

The Unitarians believed that there is only one God, not one God in three parts – Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit – as most Christians believe. The first Unitarians were in Europe over a thousand years ago!

The flaming chalice, in its many forms, is the symbol of Unitarian Universalism. It was first created by an artist during World War II as a symbol to



represent the Unitarian Service Committee in its work to help people being hurt by the Nazis.



Today, many congregations light a chalice during their services, classes, and important meetings to remind them of our shared UU values.



Use this space to design a chalice symbol that you like. Should it be brightly colored or very calm? Should it be very modern or something from the Stone Age? You get to decide!

Here's a part where you do some work!

To find the answers to these questions, you can ask your parents, but you may have to check with someone at your church who knows a lot about its history. Maybe the minister can help you, or perhaps someone who has been a member for a long time.

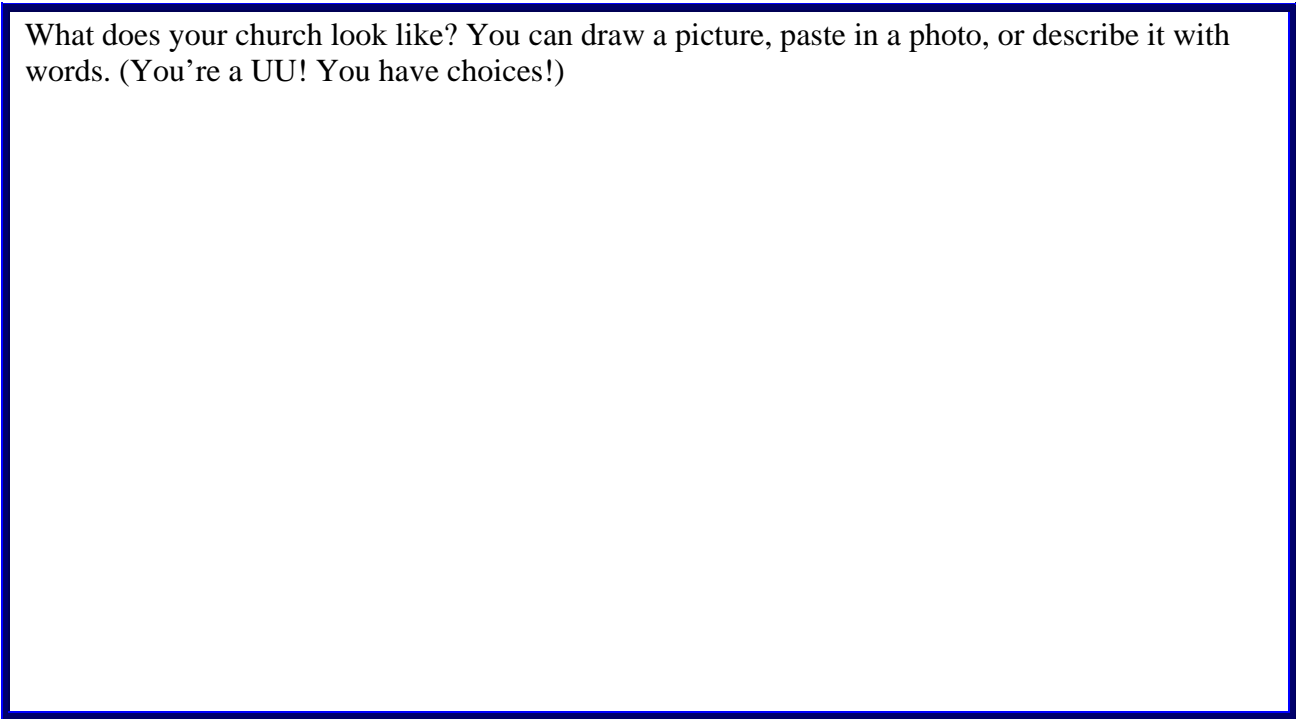
What year was your church founded? _____

If this was before 1961, was your church a Unitarian Church or a Universalist Church? _____

What is the full name of your church? _____

Why was it given the name it has? What does its name mean? _____

What does your church look like? You can draw a picture, paste in a photo, or describe it with words. (You're a UU! You have choices!)



Your Family's History

Now talk to two adults in your family (maybe your mom and dad or grandparents) and find out about their religious histories. Ask them the questions below and write their answers in the space provided:

Adult One Name:

Adult Two Name:

What type of religious beliefs were you taught as a child?

What was the best thing about that tradition?

Was there anything you didn't like about it?

Did you change religions at some point? What religion do you follow now?

What do you value most about your religious life today?

Part Three: UU Identity—The Seven Principles

What's so different about being UU?

Most religious groups require their members to believe in sets of very particular things about God and how the universe works. These sets of particular views are called “creeds.” By sharing belief in a creed, the members of that religion feel closer to each other and support each other in their efforts to understand God and the big questions of life, such as what happens when we die or how we should behave.

Unitarian Universalism is a non-creedal religion. That means we don't have a creed. We don't tell our members that they have to believe in particular things about God or the universe.

But wait! Isn't this asking for trouble? You can't have people believing just any old thing? What ties us together?

Instead of a creed, UUs share a covenant.

A covenant is an agreement. It's a bond. We are all committed to something. We trust each other to stick with what we've agreed.

But what do UUs agree to? What is at the center of our covenant?

The Seven Principles.

Quick! Before you turn the page, see how many of The Seven Principles you can sort of name. No cheating! No looking ahead at the answer!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

The Seven UU Principles

1. Each person is important.
2. Be kind in all you do.
3. We're free to learn together.
4. Search for what is true.
5. All people need a voice.
6. Build a fair and peaceful world.
7. We care for the Earth.

Source: Pamphlet entitled *My 7 Principles*, © 2004 Unitarian Universalist Association

Brain Work!

Memorize The Seven Principles. Yup, be able to tell anyone who asks what seven main things all UUs agree to. Be sure that you do more than just memorize the words, though. Make sure you can tell someone in your own words what they mean. You'll probably have to practice with an adult helper quite a bit to get this one down. Once you think you have it, go to someone at your church – maybe your religious education teacher, or the minister, or the person who organizes religious education there, or just some adult you like – and tell him or her about the seven principles.

Once you do that, have him or her sign here:

Signature: _____

Date: _____



Part Four: Service is Our Prayer

The Church of the Helping Hands!

So, now you know that at the center of Unitarian Universalism is a belief that it really matters how we treat other people. (That's the first UU principle!) It is important to members of our churches that they help each other and that they help make the world a better place.

One of the ways UUs help each other is by supporting their UU church by giving their time and their money. It takes many people to make a church work.

Church Paid Staff

Who are some of the people who work at your church? You probably have a minister, maybe more than one. Do you have a church administrator?...a religious education director?...a professional music director?

Whether your church is large or small, there are probably people whose job it is to help the church function. In the space below, list some of the jobs in your church that people get paid to do and the names of the people who do them. You may have to ask around for help on this. If your parents don't know the answers, someone at the church will. If no one is paid to work for the church, go on to the next section.

Job Title

Person's Name

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Church Volunteers

But there's much work done at your church by people who don't get paid! Who makes the coffee every Sunday morning? How many people teach religious-education classes? Is there a choir that practices during the week in order to provide music during Sunday services? Who serves on the committees that manage the church, for example, the Board of Directors or Trustees? All these people "work" for the church as volunteers, meaning they give their time because they care.

Talk to three people at your church who volunteer their time and find out what all they do. (Your minister may be able to direct you to a few people who do a lot!)

Person's Name

Volunteer Activities for Church

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Helping the World

UUs do much more than just help around the church. They also work hard to make the world a better place. Is there a group or committee at your church that focuses on community action? Do they organize volunteers to sort boxes at the food bank? Do they collect mittens and socks to give to poor children each winter?

Find out if there is such a group at your church! Find out what it is called! And find out what they do!

The name of my church's social action group is: _____

Some projects they've worked on recently are: _____

What about you?

You know that doing what you can to help others is central to being UU. You also know the Scout slogan.

You do know the Scout slogan, don't you?

“Do a good turn daily.”

Living by the Scout slogan means always being on the lookout for chances to help other people. Sounds kinda UU, doesn't it? (To be fair, it sounds like most religions!)

So before we award you the Religion & Family award and a religious emblem to wear on your Scout uniform, you need to do something that is central to both being UU and being a Scout...

A Service Project!

Participate in a service project with your church, with your family, or with your pack or Webelos den. This can be something already planned by your church, pack, or den; or it can be something you get going yourself. (For ideas, you can have an adult help you search the Internet or check with local environmental organizations or food banks to see if they have any events coming up that you could help with.)

Describe below the service project you worked on...

What did you do? Who did it help? Who did you do it with? How did it make you feel? (Use additional paper if needed.)

Talk about Your Service Project

Discuss your service project with two people: (1) a leader from your church (the minister or the director of religious education, maybe) and (2) a leader from your Webelos den. Tell these persons about your project and how it fits with the values and principles of that organization. For example, a project to pick up litter on a hiking path fits with UU principles #7, "We take care of the Earth," and #1, "Each person is important," because you're making the path more pleasant for other visitors. You could tell your Webelos leader that this was a "good turn," and perhaps how it demonstrates the qualities of being helpful, kind, thrifty, cheerful (depending on how acted when you did it!), etc. (These qualities are all from the Scout Law...we'll talk about that more in a few pages.)

At church I spoke with (name): _____

Who is our (job title): _____

The UU principles my service project demonstrated are: _____

At Scouts I spoke with (name): _____

Who is our (job title): _____

The scouting values my service project demonstrated are: _____

Part Five: Images of God

What about God?

Wow! That's a big question and UUs are all about big questions. Some UUs don't use the word, "God," and those who do mean many different things. Some people believe God represents our duty to help other people and our world. Others think of God as a force or power. Some say that God is love. A few see God as an unseen but ever-present being who guides people's lives. Some believe in a God who created the world, but who is no longer active in it. And quite a few prefer to think of God as female, so they talk about the *Goddess*.

And many UUs think God may be unknowable. God may or may not exist, but humans have no way to really know.

There are many different views of God within our UU faith.

In a UU church, you are encouraged to figure out for yourself about God. (Remember our fourth principle -- "Search for what is true!") You are also encouraged to learn from the many different faith traditions around you to help you figure out what inspires you and fits you best.

Important Info!

Regardless of their views of God, most UUs share a belief in "**Humanism.**"

Humanists believe that decisions about what is right or wrong should be based on the impact the choices will have on people. It is a belief that we should all use our reasoning powers, our brains, to figure out what is right, rather than rely purely on tradition or our individual ideas about what God may or may not want.

Does God make things happen in our world?

Did God make the world?

How can an individual grow to know God better?

These are all questions many UUs consider all their lives and spend a great deal of time discussing with each other.

What do you think about God? Answer the following questions and then discuss your answers with an adult. See if that adult has different answers or similar answers.

When you hear the word God, what do you think of?

When you imagine God, where do you picture God is?

If God could change one big thing about the world now, what would it be?

What things have you heard other people say about God that seemed confusing to you?

After you discuss these questions with an adult, have him or her sign here:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Part Six: Scouting Values and UU Principles

Being a UU Scout!

As a Webelos Scout, one of the things you are learning about is the **Scout Law**:

A Scout is:

Trustworthy
Loyal
Helpful
Friendly
Courteous
Kind

Obedient
Cheerful
Thrifty
Brave
Clean
and Reverent!

Does any of that sound familiar? Can you see how your scouting lessons and experiences might fit with what you know about being Unitarian Universalist?

Below are our seven UU principles listed on the left, with the values from the Scout Law listed on the right. Draw a line from each UU principle that you think is related to an item from the Scout Law. Each principle may relate to several scouting values or one scouting value may relate to several UU principles, so you might have multiple lines! (For example, the UU principle “Each person is important” might be linked to “Helpful” and to “Friendly” and perhaps to some others as well.) Your final product here may look a bit like a spider web!

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Each person is important ◆ | ◆ Trustworthy |
| Be kind in all you do ◆ | ◆ Loyal |
| We’re free to learn together ◆ | ◆ Helpful |
| Search for what is true ◆ | ◆ Friendly |
| All people need a voice ◆ | ◆ Courteous |
| Build a fair and peaceful world ◆ | ◆ Kind |
| We care for the Earth ◆ | ◆ Obedient |
| | ◆ Cheerful |
| | ◆ Thrifty |
| | ◆ Brave |
| | ◆ Clean |
| | ◆ Reverent |

Being a Scout gives you opportunities to practice your UU values.

Each person is important

Even people who hold completely different views of the world should be treated well. The boys in your den and pack probably come from different faith traditions than yours and probably believe different things. Yet they are your friends and you have many fun and important things you do together.

Be kind in all you do

Being with any group of people, even your pack, can be tough. Sometimes kids just don't get along. Yet our UU values ask that you try to be nice to everyone, even the kid in your den who keeps trying to take your chair!

We're free to learn together

Scouting gives you all kinds of chances to learn new things, from swimming to geology to art to first aid. Scouting is all about learning together!

Search for what is true

Scouting encourages you to talk with your family about the great truths of life and to think about those truths as you go through life. A Scout is reverent!

All people need a voice

Your den votes for a den name that you hate! But next week they vote to go bowling instead of skating, and you're thrilled! Being part of your den gives you many chances to learn about having a voice in decisions and about listening to other voices, even when you don't like what they have to say.

Build a fair and peaceful world

Your pack collects donations (even though it's snowing!) for Scouting for Food! Your Webelos den learns about and practices good citizenship. All of the boys and parents learn something about getting along with others at each and every campout, at the Pinewood Derby, and at the pack meetings. Getting along well with our neighbors is the true first step toward a fair and peaceful world.

We care for the Earth

Scouts learn to "Leave No Trace" when they venture outside and to appreciate the beauty and wonder of wild places. Scouts pick up litter and build trails. Scouts definitely care for the Earth!

Picture It!

Use this space to draw a picture of a Scout activity that you think shows one of our UU principles in action. Be sure to label it so that anyone looking at it can see how scouting fits with being UU!

Scout Activity: _____
UU Principle: _____

Conclusion and Congratulations

You've done it! You have completed the Religion & Family Award program for Webelos Scouts!

First, ask a parent or other adult family member to check out all the good work you've done, to sign here, and to sign the award application:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Now, go to a leader of your church (the minister, or the director of religious education) and have him or her sign here and on the following application:

Church Leader Signature: _____ Date: _____

Then, go to your Webelos den leader and have him or her sign here and on the following award application:

Scout Leader Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your church and your pack will both be eager to celebrate your achievement with you! Your church may have a tradition of recognizing Scouts who complete a religious emblem program, and your pack will definitely want to recognize your efforts at a pack meeting!

Your church will award you a Religion & Family Award medal that you can wear on your scout uniform for special occasions and your pack will award you a patch with a silver knot on a purple background that you wear on your uniform shirt just above the left pocket all the time. Wear these proudly! (Instructions on obtaining the award medal are on page 4 of this booklet. The BSA patch is available wherever your pack buys its patches and awards.)

We hope that you have learned a few things from this program...something about UU history, something about UU values, something about your own religious beliefs, and something about being a UU Scout.

As a Webelos, you're getting ready to start what we hope will be a long and fulfilling time in Boy Scouts. May your UU values of tolerance and respect for others serve you well in that effort and throughout your life.