



## RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD PATCH

Explore your own religion and learn about those around you. The world is full of various religions, some quite similar and some very different from your own. Misunderstanding of different Religions can often lead to conflicts. Help make the world a better place.

*Each year the Council sponsors an interfaith “Ten Commandment Hike” the day after Thanksgiving. This day-long event is a great way to complete many parts of this patch in a fun interactive way.*

### INSTRUCTIONS

- » **Girl Scout Brownies** – complete 3 activities + 1 starred activity
- » **Girl Scout Juniors** – complete 4 activities + 1 starred activity
- » **Girl Scout Cadette** – complete 5 activities + 1 starred activity
- » **Girl Scout Senior** – complete 5 activities + 1 starred activity
- » **Girl Scout Ambassador** – complete 5 activities + 1 starred activity

### ACTIVITIES

- 1.★ Visit a place of worship for a religion that is different from your own. Create a chart showing the similarities and differences between the two. Attend a ceremony, service, or holiday celebration that is different than your own.
- 2.★ Complete a service project to help a person or organization that practices a religion that is different from your own.
- 3.★ Research information on the five major world religions. Create an informative poster and/or game about what you learned for a group of younger Girl Scouts. Don't forget to include Non-Denominational Evangelical, Universalist Unitarian and Humanism in your studies. Find out the various names for God from various religious perspectives. Why are there so many names? Is any one name more right than another?
- 4.★ Create a troop calendar that lists as many religious holidays from all of the traditions that you can find. Can you fill all the days? Do an activity related to one of these holidays such as make a craft, prepare and eat a special food or learn a song. Participate in at least one of these that is different from your own tradition: a Japanese Tea Ceremony, a Purim Carnival, Kirking of the Tartans, hena tattoos during Ramadan, a Zen meditation
- 5.★ Candles are used in Girl Scout ceremonies and throughout religious ceremonies of every denomination. Why? Study the symbolic meaning of candles and create your own candles. Consider making the candles special for your own Scouts' Own ceremony by anointing them, writing the promise or law on them, etc.



- 6.\* Organize an event to promote world peace and religious tolerance, invite all denominations to participate. One idea is to create a permanent Peace Pole in your area. Invite all denominations to attend when it is put in place for a dedication ceremony.
- 7.\* Some people choose a career within a religion. Select two religions and find out what careers are available in these religions. Interview people who have chosen at least two of the different careers you have discovered in your research. Find out why they chose their career and what they had to do to qualify for their position.
- 8.\* Participate in a Girl Scout Sabbath or Girl Scout Sunday event with your troop. If one is not available in your area, contact a house of worship (synagogue/church) and work on creating the event with the appropriate people. Then announce it to the other troops in your Neighborhood.
- 9.\* In reflection on working on this badge, what does the Girl Scout Promise mean when it says “to serve God”? Do a service project as a troop that reflects your understanding.
10. Find out if there is a special Girl Scout award for your religion. Get a copy of the requirements and discuss them with your Girl Scout leader, parents, religious leader or teacher. **(Girls are encouraged to view P.R.A.Y.’s website [www.praypub.org](http://www.praypub.org) for information on religious recognitions.)** With permission from parents, earn a Girl Scout Religious Award from the denomination that is appropriate for you.
11. Talk to two people who practice a religion different from your own. Discuss some things that are the same and different between your practices and theirs.
12. What is the “Blessing of the Four Corners of the Earth” found in some Native American traditions? Share what you have learned.
13. Discuss with family if any of your ancestors moved to the United States because of religious persecution or in search of religious freedom. Find out why they felt that was important and how it is different where they came from. Share what you learn with your troop or group.
14. Invite to a troop meeting an immigrant to the U.S. that came here for religious freedom. Discuss with them what it was like in their own country and how it is different here.
15. Find out what an Ecumenical council is. See if you have one in your area. If you do, invite a speaker to discuss how Ecumenical councils support religious freedom. If not, consider getting community support for one in your area by writing newspaper articles and/or discussing it with various local clergy.
16. In the Hindu tradition there are seven schools of yoga, each use a different technique. Take a class or use a DVD to practice yoga.
17. Find graces from three religious traditions, try each one before snack time with your troop. Learn about eating restrictions of some religions. Create a meal around the restrictions of one religious group.
18. Find out the various names for God from various religious perspectives. Why are there so many names? Is any one name more right than another?

*Group 1058, Monterey Bay Girl Scout Council developed the criteria. Special thanks to Kythera Ann. Shauna Casey, a Cadette Girl Scout from Arizona Cactus-Pine Council, adapted it for use in her council. Revised in 2015 by Council Committee.*

## RESOURCES

- » [www.academicinfo.net/religindex.html](http://www.academicinfo.net/religindex.html)
- » [www.buddhanet.net/mag\\_kids.htm](http://www.buddhanet.net/mag_kids.htm)
- » [www.livingdharma.org](http://www.livingdharma.org)
- » [www.myjewishlearning.com](http://www.myjewishlearning.com)
- » [www.religion-online.org](http://www.religion-online.org)
- » [www.UnderstandingPrejudice.org](http://www.UnderstandingPrejudice.org)
- » [www.youthandreligion.com](http://www.youthandreligion.com)
- » [www.worldalmanacforkids.com](http://www.worldalmanacforkids.com)
- » [www.uri.org/kids](http://www.uri.org/kids)
- » [www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/cultural/religion/](http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/cultural/religion/)
- » [www.bahai.org/](http://www.bahai.org/)
- » [campus.fortunecity.com/caltech/531/kids.html](http://campus.fortunecity.com/caltech/531/kids.html)
- » [www.imagiverse.org/activities/religions/](http://www.imagiverse.org/activities/religions/)
- » [www.praypub.org](http://www.praypub.org)

Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas has a similar patch and a great list of info and resources.

- » <http://www.girlscouts-swtx.org/images/gssa/PatchPrograms/October2011/ReligionsAroundtheWorldPatchPorgramwithpacket.pdf>