

Catholic Committee for

Girl Scouts & Camp Fire USA

This Catholic Committee was reestablished in 1994 in conjunction with the Office for Youth & Young Adults to serve the needs of Catholic youth registered in national organizations.

Our Mission Statement:

To provide for the spiritual growth of youth in Girl Scouting and Camp Fire through Religious Recognition Programs.

Our Purpose:

To create and administer Religious Recognition Programs for the youth involved in Girl Scouts and Camp Fire, thus providing them the opportunity to strengthen and grow in their faith.

The Work of the Committee:

- WE provide an open communications link between the local Council Offices and the Office for Youth & Young Adults
- WE provide Religious Program trainings for Council Trainers, Coordinators, and Advisors.
- WE encourage spiritual growth in Catholic youth by sponsoring retreats, special liturgies, etc.
- WE plan and host an annual Religious Recognition Mass at the Basilica Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul.
- WE recognize outstanding Catholic adult leadership in both the Girl Scout and Camp Fire programs.
- WE strive to continually improve current religious programming through the use of youth and leader evaluations.
- WE work with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry and the National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire USA.
- WE nominate qualified youth delegates to the Bishop's Conference at the Biennial National Catholic Youth Conference.
- WE represent local councils at the regional meetings of the NCCGSCF.

Committee Composition:

The committee is made up of a council volunteers from each county, council rep, members at large, the Director of the Office for Youth & Young Adults, the Religious Recognition Coordinator, and a Chaplain. Each member serves a minimum term of 2 years. Anyone interested in working with the committee should contact the Office for Youth & Young Adults.

Recognition Programs:

In this Archdiocese we offer ten different Religious programs. Four of these programs have been developed by the National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts & Camp Fire USA {NCCGSCF} of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry {NFCYM}. The other six programs were developed locally by the Catholic Committee with the goal of encouraging children to be involved with Religious Programs from Kindergarten through High School.

Angel on My Shoulder {grades K-1}

Designed to give youth a taste of God in their lives by showing how God has given each of us a special protector, who helps us to do the right thing.

Child of May I {grades 1-2}

This helps children realize that Mary was once a little girl like themselves and shows them how Mary grew to be the Mother of God.

*Family of God {grades 2-3}

The program was developed to help children realize that they are members of their family and their parish family. They explore a wide range of activities to discover the presence of God in their daily lives, that of their family and their parish family.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha {grades 3-5}

This programs gives youth an opportunity to strengthen their commitment to a Christian Lifestyle by following Blessed Kateri's example as a role model. She was only a young Indian maiden devoted to God and his will.

Child of Mary II {grades 4-6}

This program was written for to help older youth realize that Mary was once a young person like themselves and that she has a special place in her heart for youth. She is a model of spirituality for youth.

Holy Family {grades 4-6}

This program promotes advancement in religious knowledge and spiritual formation and helps youth become aware of God's presence in their lives and through home and community.

* I Live My Faith {grades 6-7}

This program is planned to help youth appreciate more deeply the place God and religious have in their lives. Activities center around the sacraments of Baptism, Penance and the Eucharist.

A Woman of Courage {grades 6-8}

The program is based on the life of St. Katharine Drexel. It take the youth through every aspect of her life. Hopefully they will see her as a true Christian role model who worked all her life for the oppressed cultures in our society.

* Mary, the First Disciple {grades 8-10}

This is the new edition of the Marian Medal program and promotes an understanding of Mary as a model of openness and spirituality as a woman of the Church.

* The Spirit Alive {grades 9-12}

This program was designed to assist youth in discovering how the Holy Spirit moves within their lives, calling them to greater participation in the ministry of the Church.

All programs contain a service project.

* These are national programs.

Adult Recognition:

The Catholic Committee encourages recognition of adults who have actively promoted the Catholic religious dimension in their respective program.

Special Events:

- The Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire USA plans a special Recognition Mass each year on a Sunday in March or early April to recognize all youth completing Religious programs.
- The Committee offers day retreats, called Encounters, for Juniors, and Adventure youth, to help youth with completion of their Religious programs.
- We offer a half day retreat, Spirit Day for Brownies and Starflight youth to assist them in the completion of their Religious programs.
- We produce a quarterly newsletter filled with local, regional and National news, plus tips for the religious programs and a reflection corner.

NOTES:

Any leader wishing to become an Adult Advisor or Program Coordinator for these programs should contact the council office or the Catholic Committee office for a list of upcoming training dates. Training is required in order to become an advisor or coordinator for religious programs. For more information please contact the Office for Youth and Young Adults (215) 965-4636 or e-mail Pat Antonacci at pantonac@adphila.org.

Office for Youth & Young Adults

Director: Tricia Manion

Parish Youth Ministry

Asst. Director:

Religious Recognitions

Coordinator: Pat Antonacci



**Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office For Youth And Young Adults**

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Parish Youth Ministry

