

Duty to God

Required adventure • Family and Reverence

If you read nothing else

Two of the three requirements are family conversations. The one the den does together is requirement 2 — meeting someone from a faith-based organization that serves people in crisis.

One den meeting built around that visit or outing, plus a short share-back.

Requirement 2 is specific and worth reading twice: an organization that helps people regardless of their faith. That specificity is the lesson.

The requirements

Official requirement text. Tick each one off as your Scouts complete it — the meeting plans below cover all of them.

- ☐ 1. Discuss with your parent or legal guardian your family's faith traditions or one of your choosing. Choose a view or value of that faith tradition that is related to the Scout Law. Discuss with your family how each family member demonstrates this value.
- ☐ 2. Meet with a representative of a faith-based organization in your local community who provides a service that assists people in crisis regardless of their faith. Identify who they help and how.
- ☐ 3. Discuss with your parent, legal guardian, or an adult leader what "Duty to God" means to you. Tell how you practice your Duty to God in your daily life.

Requirements 1 and 3 belong to the family. Send them home clearly, and make requirement 2 the den experience.

Meeting 1: Meeting people who help

Goal: The patrol meets someone from a faith-based service organization, learns who they help and how, and connects a value from their own tradition to the Scout Law.

Covers requirement 2, supports 1

Before the meeting

- Line up the visit four to six weeks ahead. Best options: a food pantry, a homeless shelter, a refugee resettlement agency, a disaster relief organization, a free clinic, a soup kitchen. Faith-based organizations that serve everyone regardless of belief are common in every community.
- Going to them beats them coming to you. Scouts should see the pantry shelves or the shelter dining room.

- Ask the representative to cover two specific things: who they help, and how — and, if they will, why their faith moves them to do it for people who do not share it.
- Send the family letter home two weeks ahead so requirement 1 conversations happen before this meeting.
- Ask whether the patrol can bring a donation or do a short bit of work while they are there. It changes the visit from a tour into a contribution.

Supplies

- Question cards, one per Scout
- A donation from the patrol if arranged
- Thank you card to sign afterward
- The family letter, spare copies
- Notebook for the denner or patrol leader

Run of show

Time	What happens
10 min	Before you go: questions and expectations
40 min	The visit: tour, conversation, and work if offered
15 min	Debrief on site or on return
15 min	Activity: your value and the Scout Law
5 min	Closing

Before you go (10 min)

Write question cards. Two are required across the patrol: who do you help, and how do you help them. That is requirement 2 and it needs real answers, not impressions.

Other good questions: How many people come here in a week? Where does the food or money come from? Do you ask people what they believe before you help them? What is the hardest part of this job? What do you need most?

Set expectations plainly. Some of what they see may be sad, and they may see people they know. The rule is that we do not stare, we do not take photos of people, and we do not talk about who we saw when we leave.

The visit (40 min)

Let the representative lead. The patrol leader introduces the patrol and a Scout thanks them at the end.

If there is work to do, do it — sorting cans, packing boxes, folding clothes. Twenty minutes of real work makes the visit stick in a way a tour does not.

Make sure the two required questions get asked and that a Scout writes the answers down.

Listen for the phrase you want them to hear: that this organization helps anyone who comes, regardless of what they believe. If it does not come up naturally, ask it directly.

Debrief (15 min)

Sit down before you leave, or immediately on return.

- Who do they help?
- How do they help them?
- Did they ask anyone what they believed before helping them?
- What surprised you?

That third question is the heart of the requirement. Let the answer land without over-explaining it.

Say something like

Their faith is why they opened the doors. And then they help whoever walks through them, without asking a single question about what that person believes. Those two things go together — that is the whole point of what you saw today.

Activity — Your value and the Scout Law (15 min)

Requirement 1 is a family conversation, but the den can do the connecting work that makes it easier.

Put the twelve points of the Scout Law up. Ask each Scout to name a value their family holds — from their faith tradition or from the values their family lives by — and find the point of the Scout Law it matches.

You will get: kindness and A Scout is kind; honesty and A Scout is trustworthy; taking care of others and A Scout is helpful; taking care of the earth and A Scout is thrifty or clean; respect and A Scout is courteous.

A family with no religious tradition does this exactly the same way, from the values they hold. Say that out loud in the room so no Scout thinks they are the exception.

Then send it home: the family conversation is about how each family member demonstrates that value. That is the part only they can do.

Send home with families

Talk about your family's faith traditions, or a tradition of your choosing. Pick one value from it that connects to the Scout Law, and talk about how each person in the family shows that value. Requirement 1.

Talk with your Scout about what "Duty to God" means to them and how they practice it day to day. Requirement 3 — this can also be with an adult leader if a family prefers.

Sign the completion slip and bring it back.

Meeting 2: Share-back

Goal: Scouts say what they talked about at home and what Duty to God means in their own words.

Covers requirements 1 and 3 completed at home; verified here

Before the meeting

- Fifteen minutes at the start of your next regular meeting. Say so in the family letter.
- Collect signed slips at the door.
- Be ready to be the adult leader for requirement 3 for any Scout whose family asks you to be.

Supplies

- Completion slips
- The Scout Law poster

Run of show

Time	What happens
15 min	Share-back circle
—	Then continue with your next adventure

Share-back circle (15 min)

Ground rule first, said out loud: we listen, we do not compare, and nobody has to share more than they want to.

Around the circle, about a minute each: the value your family picked and the point of the Scout Law it connects to, and one sentence on what Duty to God means to you.

Accept whatever they give you. A Scout who says “it means I try to do the right thing even when nobody is watching” has answered it completely. So has one who says “it means being thankful.”

If a Scout does not want to share, that is fine and it costs them nothing — they completed the requirement at home with their parent.

Close by naming what was common across the circle rather than what was different.

Say something like

Eight different families, and almost every one of you picked something about taking care of other people. You did not plan that. That is what the Scout Law is for — it is the part we all already agreed on.

Leader notes

- Scouting requires a Scout to do their duty to God but does not define God. Families of every faith and of no religious affiliation complete these requirements through their own beliefs and values. Say that in the family letter, in plain words.
- Requirement 3 explicitly allows an adult leader instead of a parent. Offer that quietly to any family who would rather.
- Never ask a Scout to explain or defend what their family believes. Invite, do not require.

- If your pack is chartered to a religious organization, be deliberate about making families of other traditions feel this is theirs too.
- Religious emblems programs are earned through a family’s own faith group, not through the pack. Mention them — this adventure is the natural moment.
- The service organization visit pairs well with the Citizenship service project. Different requirements, and they reinforce each other.

Safety

Before this adventure

Two registered adults, SYT current, on any visit. A guest or host who is not a registered leader is never alone with Scouts. If your den includes girls, one of those adults must be a registered female 21 or over.

No photographs of the people an organization serves. Confirm the site’s photo policy before you arrive.

Prepare Scouts for what they may see at a shelter or pantry, and debrief afterward.

Transportation: seat belts, licensed and insured drivers, no one-on-one car rides.

Tracking

Write each Scout in and tick the requirement number as it is completed. Report to your advancement chair once the row is full.

Scout	1	2	3