

TROOP 1776  
TROOP CHAPLAIN AIDE  
ORIENTATION GUIDE  
Chaplain Aide

The purpose of this program is to:

- Make the 12th point of the Scout Law more meaningful in life
- Promote a greater understanding of and appreciation for all religions
- Provide Boy Scouts with the opportunity to work with an ordained member of the clergy, thereby gaining insight into the religious professional life.

Chaplain aide is an approved youth leadership position for Boy Scouts. The responsibilities are to encourage spiritual awareness and growth in the lives of troop members and to assist the chaplain. It is recommended that the Boy Scout seeking the position of chaplain aide should be at least a First Class Scout. The chaplain aide should be mature and sensitive, a Boy Scout who has earned the trust of his fellow Scouts.

### Duties of the Chaplain Aide

#### TROOP 1776 - CHAPLAIN AIDE JOB DESCRIPTION

1. Encourage troop members to strengthen their own relationship with God through personal prayer, devotions, and participation in religious activities.
2. Work with the Senior Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster, and/or troop chaplain to plan appropriate religious services for all members during weekend troop campouts. Ensure scouts are planning ongoing Scout Services Programs as part of the SPL planning meetings.
  - a. The Troop Chaplain Aide and scouts should conduct the Scout's Own Worship Services; be sure to invite the troop chaplain or an exemplary layperson to participate in the service.
  - b. Compose and lead at least one religious service at a camp out during the term of office. Have other scouts involved in handing out the bulletin, reading select verses, or leading a song. The religious service should have a central theme, songs, guided readings, and bible verses should relate back to the theme.
  - c. Using leadership skills recruit other Scouts and help equip them to lead religious ceremonies when the Chaplains Aid is not able to attend a scheduled Troop Event. Every scheduled Troop overnight event is to have a planned religious ceremony. The name of the Scout(s) that

agree to lead and conduct a ceremony is to be given to the Senior Patrol Leader, the Troop Chaplain, and the Scoutmaster in charge of the event at the PLC meeting the month prior to the event unless other arrangement have been made. See no. 12.

3. Prepare an invocation or benediction for troop meetings for use when called upon. Involve other scouts in the invocation or benediction.
4. Recruit scouts from each patrol to be Chaplain Aide assistants. Their involvement would include planning all religious ceremonies. This would be an advantage to anyone planning to be the Chaplin Aide.
5. Prepare a prayer before the raising of the flag and after it has been retired for use when called upon. Involve assistant chaplains.
6. Work with individual patrols, especially the Chaplain Aide Assistants, to prepare and lead grace before meals. When composing these prayers, the chaplain and chaplain aide should be sensitive to the various theological and religious positions embraced by the faiths represented in the group.
7. Wear complete class A uniform at all meetings.
8. Demonstrate good scout spirit and a reverence to God.
9. Chaplin Aid should be willing to achieve the religious award for his faith (not a requirement for serving or meeting the leadership requirements - more a personal growth initiative.) Do at least one of the following:

### Duties of the Chaplain Aide, Continued

- a. Find opportunities to encourage other members of the troop to work to earn their religious award.
- b. Present an overview of the various religious emblems programs to the troop at least annually, instructing members to contact their own clergyperson or religious counselor to guide them in the appropriate study programs.
- c. Be present at the Award Presentation for any scout that has earned the Religious award.
- d. Compile and/or keep an up-to-date list of local clergy who have agreed to be counselors for the religious emblems programs.

e. Assist the troop chaplain, or other appropriate adult, to plan and conduct a religious emblem recognition ceremony. Presentation of a religious emblem is the responsibility of the local religious institution in which it is earned, though it is appropriate for the troop to recognize boys who have received religious emblems at courts of honor.

f. Maintain the troop's religious emblems award progress chart.

**10.** The Chaplin Aide is to be involved in arranging special guest ministers for Courts of Honor to offer the Invocation and Benediction (especially from the Charter Organization Church).

**11.** Serve as the youth coordinator for the observance of the annual Scout Sabbath or Sunday in February.

**12.** Participate in patrol leader's council planning sessions, ensuring that a spiritual emphasis is included, e.g., vespers, prayer before meals, religious observances, etc.