

Catholic Religious
Recognition Moderator
Training Packet

Including

- *Trainer's Preparation Checklist*
- *Session Outline*
- *Informational Handouts*

Developed by the National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire



Table of Contents

Course Description for Moderator Training..... Page 3
Trainer Time Line and Checklist..... Page 4
Session Outline for a Two-hour Training Event Page 6
Informational Handouts Page 10

- The Right Relationship..... Page 10
- Catholic Religious Recognitions Page 14
- Catholic Youth Ministry..... Page 15

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Course Description for Moderator Training

The Girl Scout/Camp Fire Religious Recognition Moderator Training provides an overview of the Catholic religious recognition programs for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire members. Participants will be introduced to the four programs in the context of Catholic youth ministry and its partnership with the National Catholic Committee for Girl Scout and Camp Fire (NCCGSCF). Participants will experience the training in a prayerful setting that recognizes the religious recognition moderator as a leadership role for youth ministry.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Summarize the history of the relationship between Girl Scouting and Catholic youth ministry
- Understand the goals and components of comprehensive Catholic youth ministry
- Recognize the moderator role as a leadership role in youth ministry: naming both the spiritual and administrative functions
- Name the four religious recognition programs, their age levels, and describe their main components
- Assist individual youth and families in efforts to:
 - › Obtain the booklets
 - › Work through the projects
 - › Locate and use related resources
 - › Apply for the recognition
 - › Celebrate the recognition in the faith community

Trainer Time Line and Checklist

Several Months before Training

- Reserve an appropriate, centrally located facility for training that is adult friendly and adequate in size for the number of people expected.
- Choose someone to assist you in the planning and presenting. This person would be in an apprentice role and could serve as a trainer in subsequent settings.
- If possible, enlist adults who have assisted a youth in one or more of the programs to attend and bring in items for the sharing segment.
- Use the course description and learning objectives to write an advertisement for your diocesan newspaper, church bulletin, and Girl Scout and Camp Fire newsletters.
- Create a flier to send to adult leaders that may be interested in the moderator program. Be sure to give clear instructions for registering for the training.
- Call your diocesan director of youth ministry or catechesis and ask for assistance in creating a resource list for the religious recognition programs that includes age-appropriate videos and print resources.
- Through your diocesan contact, order sufficient copies of all booklets, leader guides, medals, patches, and certificates.

One Month before Training

- Prepare a brief, seasonally appropriate opening prayer service. Include music, if possible.
- Plan a prayerful and inspiring commissioning ritual to conclude your training. Certificates will be distributed during this time.
- Develop a registration form for participants to include their name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address.
- Download a sample certificate for participants who complete this training (from the NFCYM, <http://www.nfcym.org>) or create and print your own certificate.
- Develop a religious recognition informational handout. Include:
 - › contact information for diocesan youth ministry/catechetics offices and religious recognition authorized purchaser (name, address, phone, e-mail),
 - › list of project booklets by age grouping, medals/patches, and their prices (see Catholic Religious Recognition handout page 14),
 - › application procedures and suggested timelines,
 - › diocesan policies regarding awarding of recognitions,
 - › directions for ordering materials from the NFCYM online store (<http://www.nfcym.org/v3/store/index.html>).

Trainer Time Line and Checklist

One/Two Weeks before Training

- Photocopy the handouts in this packet.
- Photocopy the prayer service, registration form, and diocesan information sheet.
- Using calligraphy or computer, print individual names of those registered onto certificates.
- Prepare extra certificates for those who may come without pre-registering.
- Begin gathering the supplies you will need to conduct the training:
 - › easel with newsprint,
 - › nametags,
 - › markers and/or pencils,
 - › overhead projector and screen for using PowerPoint (optional),
 - › candle, cross, music, Bible, and other items for creating a prayerful space.
- Arrange for snacks and beverages if appropriate to your time and facility.



Trainer Preparation Notes

Session Outline for a Two-hour Training Event

<i>Time</i>	<i>Training Segment</i>	<i>Trainer Instructions</i>	<i>Supplies</i>
10 min	Gathering Activity	<p>Invite participants to create nametags, complete registration forms and complete the sentence written on the easel:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Today I hope to learn . . .</i></p>	<p>Nametags, markers, and newsprint with the words: <i>Today I hope to learn . . .</i></p>
10 min	Introductions and Opening Prayer	<p>Introduce trainer(s), provide housekeeping details, announce location of restrooms, time frame of session and breaks; call the group to prayer.</p> <p>Begin by responding to participants' learning needs by telling them in which part of the sessions their particular learning need will be met.</p>	<p>Prayer service handout, music (optional)</p>
5 min	History of NCCGSCF and Catholic Youth Ministry	<p>Briefly review the long held partnership that exists between Girl Scouting and Catholic youth ministry. Highlight important statements in the handout.</p> <p>Explain that the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (of which NCCGSCF is a part)—in collaboration with our bishops—guides and supports Catholic youth ministry in the United States.</p>	<p>History handout from <i>NCCGSCF News</i>, article by Virginia Reed</p>

Session Outline for a Two-hour Training Event

Time	Training Segment	Trainer Instructions	Supplies
5 min	Catholic Youth Ministry	Using the handout, briefly review the goals of youth ministry. Point out how NCCGSCF works to support these goals through the religious recognition programs.	Youth ministry handout
40 min	Review of the Four Programs	<p>Spend approximately ten minutes describing the goals, objectives, and activities in each of the four programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Family of God</i> (ages 7-9; grades 2 - 3) • <i>I Live My Faith</i> (ages 9-11; grades 4-6) • <i>Mary, the First Disciple</i> (ages 12-15; grades 7-10) • <i>The Spirit Alive</i> (ages 15-17; grades 9-12) <p>Point out that the leaders guides are printed within the <i>Family of God</i> and <i>I Live My Faith</i>, books, while the <i>Mary, the First Disciple</i> and <i>The Spirit Alive</i> programs have separate leader guides. Highlight important activities and topics in each program. Invite participants to look over the application forms at the back of each booklet. Encourage participants to ask questions and share insights.</p>	Program booklets and leaders guides
10 min	Break	Invite participants to enjoy a snack, use restrooms, and view the books, medals, and other resources on display.	Books, medals, certificates, and other resources in an attractive arrangement

Session Outline for a Two-hour Training Event

<i>Time</i>	<i>Training Segment</i>	<i>Trainer Instructions</i>	<i>Supplies</i>
20 min	Small Group Sharing	<p>Encourage participants to form interest groups around the four programs. Have previously chosen experienced leaders facilitate a “show and tell” with examples of completed booklets, projects, journals, and additional resources.</p> <p>This can be done even if no experienced moderators are available. Encourage participants to examine their chosen program booklets in more depth, sharing ideas on how to use resources or assist youth in the various activities.</p>	Completed booklets, samples of youth projects, art, dioramas, litanies, Scripture reflections, prayers, displays, etc.
10 min	The Dual Role of the Religious Recognition Moderator	<p>Explain that the religious recognition moderator serves as a spiritual guide and mentor to youth and their parents as they work on the projects. This leadership role calls moderators to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen their own personal spirituality • Seek a rich prayer life • Develop their knowledge and practice of the Catholic faith <p>Explain how existing retreats, workshops, small faith sharing, or Scripture study groups can assist in their spiritual development.</p>	Diocesan contact handout, fliers, or brochures announcing diocesan or parish adult spiritual formation opportunities if available.

Session Outline for a Two-hour Training Event

Time	Training Segment	Trainer Instructions	Supplies
		<p>The religious recognition moderator serves as a contact for and liaison to youth and their families. The moderator assists them in connecting with the parish, Catholic school, diocesan, and national youth ministry offices and personnel. This leadership role calls moderators to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be familiar with the names of the staff members at the parish, school, and diocesan level • Establish routines for ordering booklets and helping youth apply for medals • Be an advocate for comprehensive parish youth ministry programs in which they will serve as a religious recognition moderator 	
3 min	Participant Evaluation	Distribute evaluation forms and invite participants to complete and put them in a designated place.	Evaluation Form
7 min	Closing Prayer and Commissioning	Lead a prayer of blessing for the new moderators, include words about their baptismal call to serve the Gospel; call them forth individually to receive the certificates; conclude with common prayer or song.	Individual Certificates Optional: candles, music, etc.

The Right Relationship

As the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) celebrates its 20th year of life, the National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire (NCCGSCF) reflects upon this time span and rejoices in the ministry to the youth in our church in general and to the Catholic members of Girl Scouts, U.S.A. (GSUSA) and Camp Fire, U.S.A. (CFUSA) in particular.

The present NCCGSCF dates back to the early days of the National Catholic Youth Organization Federation (NCYOF) and the National Catholic Welfare Conference. Although it has functioned in various capacities and under several different names, this committee's purpose has remained the same: to minister to the Catholic membership in Girl Scouts (at first) and Camp Fire (since 1973).

The relationship between Girl Scouting and the Catholic Church is the direct result of the foresight of

Juliette Gordon Low. Soon after founding the Girl Scout movement in 1912, she traveled from Savannah, Georgia to Baltimore, to meet James Cardinal Gibbons and consult with him about her project.

In due course, the four U.S. cardinals and the Catholic hierarchy determined that the Girl Scout program, which was so fine

in theory, was equally fine in practice. In the early 1920s, Girl Scout troops were formed in parochial schools and Catholic women eagerly became leaders in the program.

When the Catholic Youth Organization was established in the early 1930s, Girl Scouting became its ally as a separate, cooperative enterprise. This alliance further enhanced the relationship between the Catholic Church and Girl Scouting. During the 1940s, World War II inhibited the development of many things although Girl Scouts, like everyone else took up the efforts on behalf of our men and women in service. Service to God, country, and people had a new meaning.

During the 1950s, curriculum consultants at the Youth Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, wrote the very first religious recognition program for Girl Scouts of any denomination. It was the beginning of a number of programs in honor of Mary, our Blessed Mother, and appropriately named *The Marian Program* and designed for Girl Scouts, grades 7 through 12.

In the very early '70s, members of the USCC Advisory Board Standing Committee on the Girl Scout Program, including Msgr. Robert McNeill, Boston; Msgr. Louis Meyer, St. Louis; Rev. James O'Donnell, Cleveland; Rev. Edward Hajduk, Newark and Msgr. Thomas J. Leonard, USCC Division of Youth Activities invited



Juliette Gordon Low

From: Women in History. Juliette Gordon Low biography. Created/Last modified: November 07 2003. Lakewood Public Library. Accessed: February 10 2004. <<http://www.lkwdpl.org/wthohio/low-jul.htm>>.

Viola Haker and Loretta Weeks, St. Louis; Sue Wyels, Detroit and ladies from Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, and Milwaukee to serve as consultants on this committee. Helen Brady, advisor, Organizational Relationships, GSUSA also attended. This was the beginning of biannual meetings, which continued beyond the time that the NFCYM was formed. In 1973, Camp Fire Girls became a member of this group.

Gwendolyn Harper, director of programming for Camp Fire Girls and later Dr. Karen Bartz, executive director, represented them. At this time, Mary Jean Hart, representing the Camp Fire Agape program from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, joined the group.

Fr. Rudy Beranek became the director of Youth Activities, Department of Education, USCC in 1974 and was the liaison at the 1975 convocation of Catholic Girl Scout and Camp Fire members in New Orleans. At this meeting, a resolution was passed and sent to the USCC petitioning for the official



formation of a National Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting and Camp Fire Girls. This action resulted in opening up membership to chaplains and Girl Scout and Camp Fire volunteers from paired regions. Fr. Rudy guided the committee through various accomplishments including the development of the *I Live My Faith* program in 1976 and the *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton* medal for adults in 1980 in addition to the conferences held in the Diocese of Galveston-Houston in 1981 and the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh in 1983. In 1984, the very popular *Family of God* program for 2nd and 3rd grade children completed the series under the guidance of Marisa Guerin.

Meanwhile, a major restructuring of the NCYOF was mandated in 1980 and the committee, as well as the whole of the youth movement, faced critical decisions regarding its future. There were many questions and very few answers, many apprehensions to be faced and conquered. Bolstered by a firm belief in the philosophy contained in the 1976 document, *A Vision of Youth Ministry*, the regional coordinators, with chairman Msgr. Fran Weldgen of Buffalo, chose to retain their vision of a *total* youth ministry as understood by youth directors, youth, school superintendents, catechists, coaches, members of the academic community, retreat leaders, young adult youth ministers, scouting personnel, and others.

One of the many questions concerned the fate of the “girls’ organizations.” Would they become a part of the new organization, would they remain with the USCC or should they go out on their own

and become a separate entity? Faith Mauro served as the liaison from the NCYOF as the committee faced these critical issues. After conducting a national survey of chaplains whose work pertained to Catholic Girl Scout, Camp Fire and Boy Scout members and diocesan directors, the 92 percent response indicated much support of the work of the committee but offered no definitive answers to the glaring questions. After prayerful and serious deliberations, the committee voted, on January 17, 1982 at its annual meeting in Philadelphia, to remain an integral part of the total youth ministry concept as defined in *A Vision of Youth Ministry*. The USCC representative, John Farnsworth, managed to get our meeting moved to a more comfortable location in the hotel when we could no longer work because of the freezing temperature in the room. John learned that we were in a room directly over the hotel garage with no heat and in the January temperatures. We celebrated our decision with hot chocolate and coffee, compliments of the hotel, and as we thawed out, proclaimed that our decision was forever frozen.

The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) was the result of the restructuring. The Federation was formed in Malvern, Pennsylvania on



January 20, 1982 by unanimous vote. Because of its decision three days earlier, the National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire was already a

part of the newly formed Federation. Maggie Wilson Brown became the NFCYM's executive director and being already familiar with the work of the committee, its documents, and accomplishments, was able to proceed with the necessary direction to support our efforts. The 1988 bylaws changes of the NFCYM clearly reflect and affirm the wisdom of the decision.

A benefit of this unifying action was the Plan of Cooperation between the USCC and the NFCYM, which granted the transfer of the programs and conferences of this committee from the USCC to the NFCYM. In 1984, in Phoenix, Arizona, the NCCGSCF presented a track for Girl Scout and Camp Fire members at the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM) thus reinforcing these adults as ministers to youth and giving this constituency a view of the scope of ministry to Catholic youth, which is seldom seen on a parish or diocesan level. At each conference since that time, the NCCGSCF has presented workshops and training opportunities of interest to all conference participants.

In 1986, the committee set for itself the following mandate:

The committee encourages and promotes cooperation between Girl Scouting and Camp Fire with youth ministry by:

- Advising the Federation on the content and design of religious recognition programs
- Promoting participation in these programs within the youth ministry philosophy

- Designing, planning, and implementing training opportunities for key adult and teen leaders

In 1990, Region 10 and Sr. Betty Paul (then of Oklahoma City) collaborated with the committee to add to its mandate:

- Fostering the development of a collaborative effort between diocesan youth directors and the local diocesan committees.

The structure of the NCCGSCF allows for one volunteer representative each from Girl Scouts and Camp Fire, one Chaplain, and one youth director from each region with one vote per region. Each of the national organizations is entitled to appoint one delegate representative who serves without a vote. At the 1998 membership meeting in Santa Rosa, California, provision was made for one member of the committee to serve on the NFCYM Board of Directors thus completing and honoring the vision for total youth ministry.

Belief in God and acknowledgment of one's responsibility to God are values inherent in both the Girl Scout Promise and the Camp Fire Oath. As time and change have surfaced new challenges, these values, so dominant in the organizations whose Catholic membership we serve, remain true to the philosophies of their Founders.

By working side by side within the youth ministry philosophy, we can seize the opportunities to promote and implement *A Vision of Youth Ministry* in its entirety; the dimensions, goals, principles, and components.



And we are enabled through the right relationship with our parent organization—the NFCYM.

*The Right Relationship
By Virginia Reed*

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Catholic Religious Recognitions

Program	Age	Grade	Description
<i>Family of God</i> (booklet includes a guide for adults)	7-9	2-3	Developed to complement the catechetical efforts of the parish. The program helps children discover the presence of God in their daily lives as members of their families and parish. Parents and guardians play an important role.
<i>I Live My Faith</i> (booklet includes a guide for adults)	9-11	4-6	Designed to help Girl Scouts and Camp Fire members appreciate more deeply the place that God and religion occupy in their daily lives. Action-oriented activities help the individual focus on developing an awareness his/her potential as a growing person, friend, family member, citizen, and a participant in the community of faith.
<i>Mary, the First Disciple</i> (booklet includes a guide for adults)	12-15	7-10	Written for young Catholics to assist them as they grow in appreciation of Mary and in understanding themselves. They will meet Mary in Scripture as a young teenager and follow her journey, as she becomes a woman and the Mother of God. This revised version of the Marian Medal Project book demonstrates the importance of Mary for all generations and cultures.
<i>The Spirit Alive</i> (booklet includes a guide for adults)	15-17	9-12	Designed for Catholic youth in high school who are in the senior level of Girls Scouts or Horizon Club and Teens in Action of Camp Fire. It assists them in discovering how the Holy Spirit moves in their lives, calling them to a greater participation in the church's ministry.
Adult Recognitions			Adults who work with youth are recognized through the Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal and the St. Anne Medal.

Catholic Youth Ministry

Definition, Goals, Components, and Settings

In 1997 the U.S. Catholic bishops approved a statement on Catholic youth ministry entitled, *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*. This document delineates the goals, components, and settings for comprehensive Catholic youth ministry in the United States and serves as a guide for all pastoral work with adolescents.

Most noticeably it calls attention to the entire faith community's role and responsibility in fostering the faith development and personal maturity of the young. It calls everyone in the parish community, not just those in leadership positions, to invite young people into the life, mission, and ministry of the parish. Whether you serve on a parish committee, have a voice in visioning for the faith community, or are simply a part of the assembly on Sundays and Holy Days, we all share in the role as youth ministers . . . we are all called to invite the young church to share their gifts and talents for the benefit of us all. Youth ministry at its best reminds everyone that the young people are valued members of the faith community.

Definition

Youth ministry is the response of the Christian community to the needs of young people and the sharing of the unique gifts of youth with the larger community.

Goals

Youth ministry has three goals:

- Ministry with adolescents empowers young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.
- Ministry with adolescents seeks to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the faith community.
- Ministry with adolescents works to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

Components

Youth ministry is accomplished through eight components:

- Advocacy
- Catechesis
- Community Life
- Evangelization
- Justice and Service
- Leadership Development
- Pastoral Care
- Prayer and Worship

Settings

Lastly, youth ministry happens in four settings:

- [Directly with] Younger and older adolescents
- [In the context of] Family
- [In the context of] Parish
- [In the] Wider Community

Youth Ministry is . . .

. . . drawing youth into the adventure of discipleship.

Goal 1: To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today. (RTV 9)

. . . helping youth to make the right connections.

Goal 2: To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community. (RTV 11)

. . . growing young disciples.

Goal 3: To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person. (RTV 15)

. . . responding to the needs and including the gifts of youth.

Youth ministry is the response of the Christian community to the needs of young people and the sharing of the unique gifts of youth with the larger community. (RTV 1)

. . . seeing youth as gifted and growing.

Renewing the Vision is most importantly an affirmation of the faith, gifts, energy, and fresh ideas of young people. (RTV 2)

. . . seeing parents as partners.

The home is a primary context for sharing, celebrating, and living the Catholic faith, and we are partners with parents in developing the faith life of their adolescent children. (RTV 21)

. . . seeing our parish as ready and able to respond to youth.

. . . if parishes are to be worthy of the loyalty and active participation of youth, they will need to become "youth-friendly" communities where youth have a visible presence in parish life. (RTV 13)

. . . the wider community as collaborators and resources.

Community collaboration means building partnerships among families, schools, churches, and organizations that mobilize the community in a common effort to build a healthier community life and to promote positive adolescent development. (RTV 24)

. . . a relationship, not just a program.

The comprehensive approach is not a single program or recipe for ministry. Rather, it provides a way for integrating ministry with adolescents and their families into the total life and mission of the Church, recognizing that the whole community is responsible for this ministry. (RTV 19)

. . . investing in youth with our time, attention and resources.

Renewing the Vision is a blueprint for the continued development of effective ministry with young and older adolescents. Its expanded vision and strategy challenges leaders and their faith communities to address these challenges and to invest in young people today." (RTV 7)

This summary was produced by Tom East of the Center for Ministry Development and is from the booklet Celebrate Youth: Renewing our Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry (Center for Ministry Development, 1998). Used with permission.