



*“Toward Faith & Hope Through Scouting”*

March 20, 2025

**Congratulations on completing your Religious Emblem Program!**

A Prayer Service recognizing all Scouting youth who have completed their Catholic religious programs during this past year will take place on **Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 4:00pm** at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph in San José, celebrated by Bishop Oscar Cantú. This ceremony is **not** a Mass; it will last approximately 1 hour. Expected attire is Class A/Troop uniform.

All groups are invited to bring their U.S. and unit/troop **flags** and participate in the procession into the Cathedral. Every group bringing flags **must** bring their own flag stands; these should be set behind the altar **prior** to the procession. Please check in with Flag Coordinators who will be located inside the church near the altar. Flag bearers will be asked to claim their flags for the blessing at the end of the ceremony and then recess out of the Cathedral.

**Check-in** and assembly of groups will begin promptly at **3:15pm** in the courtyard next to the Cathedral. The procession of scouts will begin at 4:00pm. The service will start immediately following the procession. **We are asking that the leader from each unit/troop check in the group at the sign in table.**

Family and friends can enter the Cathedral at 3:15 p.m. Seating in the front rows of each section is reserved for our award recipients. Families are asked to sit behind these reserved sections. We would like people seated prior to the beginning of the procession.

An official photographer will be present to take photos before, during, and after the ceremony. All photos will be sent to group leaders as soon as available in the days after the ceremony. **In the spirit of reverence, no one is allowed at any time to congregate on the altar to take photos.**

Group pictures of the recipients with Bishop Cantú will be taken by the official photographer after the ceremony **if his schedule permits**. Your group will be given a ticket indicating your place in line for your photo. We ask for your cooperation and good nature and request that you assemble your group so you are prepared for your turn. A **photo release** form is attached; it must be filled out in advance, in compliance with child protection regulations, and returned at check-in.

A simple **reception** will follow immediately after the ceremony; all are invited. Certificates for each recipient are provided by the Diocese and will be available for the Counselors to pick up. If you have scouts in your group not in attendance, their awards will also be available for pick up at the reception. We ask and appreciate that adults do not receive awards for absent scouts during the ceremony.

Information for purchasing the Diocese of San Jose Catholic Scouting patch and segments is attached. These may be pre-ordered and picked up at the reception or purchased at the reception.

There is a fee for parking in most city lots on weekends. The most convenient parking is available one block away on First Street near the Pavilion.

We look forward to sharing this wonderful awards ceremony with you!

Yours in Christ,

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