

Questions & Answers for Metta & Sangha Award Programs

Question: *“Does the applicant have to be a practicing Buddhist or in a Buddhist sponsored Troop, Crew or Pack?”*

Answer: No. Any registered Scout may apply to earn a Buddhist religious award. (Note: There is no award for Tiger Scouts)

Question: *“Is there an official website for Buddhist religious awards offered by the Boy Scouts of America?”*

Answer: Yes.

http://www.scouting.org/About/FactSheets/operating_orgs/Buddhist.aspx

Question: *“Is there a registration fee?”*

Answer: Yes. A \$25.00 fee to cover the cost of material and overhead as well a personalized certificate and a medal.

Question: *“How do I apply?”*

Answer: Three basic steps:

1. Email the *National Buddhist Committee on Scouting* at bcascoutinginfo@gmail.com with a request for information about the Buddhist Religious Award you are interested in.
2. Once the inquiry is received by the Committee, it will return an “Application to Teach” form. The prospective teacher should fill out the application and submit to the Committee for approval. Only after the instructor is approved will the course material be sent to the instructor and an application form will be sent back to you.
3. Mail back the application with the registration fee and you may begin the course.

Question: *“Who can teach the courses?”*

Answer: The instructor must be an ordained minister, monk or a layperson recommended by an ordained clergy and must be approved by the Committee **before** instruction commences. The Committee will send

the instructor the basic requirements that are to be covered. The Committee encourages all instructors to include traditions and practices specific to their own sect or denomination. We realize that in many areas in the United States that finding an instructor might not be easy. We will try our best to assist you, but it is ultimately the applicant's responsibility to find a qualified instructor.

Presently we offer to Cub Scouts only, an online Facebook course administered by a minister of the NBCS.

Question: *"How long does it take to earn an award?"*

Answer: Each award has a different time requirement. These are the suggested times:

Boy Scouts of America:

- Metta Award (Cub Scouts), 12 hours.
- Sangha Award (Scouts BSA Scouts and Venture), 72 hours over a 2 year period.

Question: *"Are all denominations and sects of Buddhism administered by the National Buddhist Committee on Scouting?"*

Answer: Yes. The Committee is the official administrator for all Buddhist religious awards for BSA. The requirements for each award may be modified by the individual instructor to conform to the specific practices and traditions of each sect or denomination.

Question: *"How do I get further detailed information on official Buddhist Religious Awards for Scouts?"*

Answer: Email your inquiries to the bcascoutinginfo@gmail.com