



## The Karuna Award Program

### Buddhist Youth Recognition



#### Karuna Emblem

##### Purpose:

- The course covers teachings on Buddhism on a non-denominational basis, so that it may be pursued by *Camp Fire USA* members in any Buddhist school of thought. Provisions can be made so that Teachings from any sponsoring institution may be emphasized. The course is not only academic, but encourages the study and practice of many aspects of Buddhist culture, sub-culture, etiquette and/or the arts.

##### Eligibility:

- The Karuna Award is offered to all *Camp Fire USA* members who pursue and complete the course of study on Buddhism.

##### Requirements:

- The course is two years or 72 hours of study geared towards Adventure, Discovery and/or Horizon members. At the completion of the first year or the first 36 hours, a certificate is given. At the completion of the final year or second 36 hours, the Karuna pendant is presented.
- The further requirements for this award are available from the *National Buddhist Scouting Committee*

### Buddhist Adult Recognition Award



#### Bodhi Emblem

##### Purpose:

- Recognize an adult who has demonstrated the highest level of dedication, commitment and self-sacrifice to the development of Buddhism in the *Camp Fire USA*.

##### Eligibility:

- Offered to a minister, layperson or an adult leader in *Camp Fire USA*.
- An application cannot be submitted by the candidate. A nomination must come from a separate party.

##### Requirements:

- For more information on requirements and a nomination form, go to the *Bodhi Adult Recognition Award* tab.

## **Religious Principles and Key Terms**

- Goal: Enlightenment through practicing various Dharma (Universal Truth) Teachings
- Essential elements: Awareness of impermanence, interdependence, balancing one's life (Middle Path), and compassion towards others.
- Fundamental doctrine of Buddhism is the Four Noble Truths, which are:
  - Noble Truth of Duhkha is the life of uncontrollability, or unpredictability is the universal truth.
  - Noble Truth of the Cause of Duhkha is our emotion and personal attachment.
  - Noble Truth of the Cessation Duhkha is completed by reaching the state of Nirvana
  - Noble Truth of the Eightfold Path leads to managing our emotion and personal attachment for accepting Noble Truth of Duhkha.
- The last of the Four Noble Truths is also referred to as the Noble Eightfold Path, and includes the practice of:
  - Right View
  - Right Thought
  - Right Speech
  - Right Conduct
  - Right Livelihood
  - Right Effort
  - Right Mindfulness
  - Right Meditation

## **Buddhism in America**

- Buddhism is the fourth largest religion in the United States behind Christianity, Judaism and Islam. (*source: 2014 U.S. Religious Landscape Survey, Pew Forum*)
- Approximately 2.1 million people practice Buddhism in the United States. Of those, 75-80% are of Asian descent and inherited Buddhism as a family tradition, 20-25% are non-Asians.

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