

Questions & Answers for Padma Award Programs

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

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

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

Answer: Yes. A \$25.00 fee covers the cost of materials and postage as well a medal and personalized certificate.

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

Answer: The instructor must be an ordained Buddhist clergy 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.

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

Answer: Each award is different. These are the suggested times:

- Brownie Padma Award, (2nd - 3rd grade) 6 hours over a period of 60 days.
- Junior Padma Award, (4th- 5th grade) 16 hours over a period of three months.
- Cadette Padma Award, (6th- 8th grade) 30 hours over a period of one year.
- Senior/Ambassador Padma Award, (9th-12th grade) 40 hours over a period of one year.

Question: *“Does the National Buddhist Committee on Scouting administer awards for all denominations and sects of Buddhism?”*

Answer: Yes. The Committee is the official administrator for all Buddhist religious awards for GSUSA. 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 apply?”*

Answer: There are 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: *“How do I get further detailed information on official Buddhist Religious Awards for Scouts?”*

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