

Questions & Answers for Karuna Award Program

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

Answer: No. Any registered Camp Fire member may apply to earn a Buddhist religious award.

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

Answer: Yes. A \$25.00 fee to cover the cost of material and postage.

Question: *“Are there tests?”*

Answer: Yes, at the end of the first section, there is a small test. For example, one such test is to write an essay on “What do I like about Buddhism”. The student may write on any aspect of the Teachings. At the end of the 2nd year or 72 hours, another essay is required. Rather than testing the student’s memory, it will be based on how one feels about life and the Teachings. An example of an essay topic could be “How has Buddhism affected my life?”

Question: *“What is the award?”*

Answer: The award presented upon completion of the second year or 72 hours of instruction is a medal along with a certificate issued by the *National Buddhist Committee on Scouting*.

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 Karuna Award.
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 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: *“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 *Camp Fire USA*. 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 Camp Fire members?”*

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