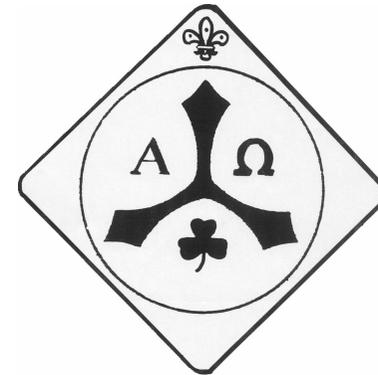


**The Scout Association  
Northern Ireland Scout Council**

# **Quest Emblem for Explorer Scouts**



# **and Leaders' Notes and Guidance**

## The Quest Emblem for Explorer Scouts

This Badge, offered by the Religious Advisory Support Team of Northern Ireland Scout Council, is open to Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Explorer Scouts - each having its own Syllabus. The Scout Section is subdivided into two Stages to cover two age groups. The Badge is worn on the right breast

When a young person is ready for testing their Leader should make arrangements with a suitable examiner. This should be the Group Chaplain, a member of the local clergy, Sunday School Teacher or other qualified person approved by the District Commissioner. The examiner should be given due notice of forthcoming testing and should, in advance, be given a copy of the relevant syllabus and Examiner's Notes. Those being tested should, in the normal way, take with them a Badge Certificate for signing by the Examiner. It is important that Scouts from the Troop should have it clearly marked on their Certificate which Stage of the "Quest Emblem" they are attempting.

passage (as set out in the syllabus) and its relevance to them.

7. They will be required to discuss with the examiner, or take an active part in a Explorer Scout Unit discussion with the examiner on any of the issues in section 6 of the syllabus.

8. They must discuss the project they have taken part in, their part in that project and what results they perceive have come from it (both for themselves and others). This may be as a discussion with the examiner, within the Explorer Scout Unit or as part of a larger presentation given by them on the project.

The purpose of this badge is to encourage "good practice" and the building of good habits with regard to the daily practice of Christianity within the Scout Movement.

## Notes for Examiners for the Explorer Scout Quest Emblem

1. You should read these notes and the syllabus for the Quest Emblem and have discussed them with the Explorer Scout Leader before any examination takes place.

It should be noted that the examination is intended to be informal and to set the Explorer Scouts at their ease. Examination for this badge is designed to be flexible, the various abilities of different Explorer Scouts is to be considered and taken into account. The badge is designed to be within the grasp of all Explorer Scouts who fulfil its conditions.

2. The Explorer Scouts will provide all the information for all sections of this badge and any reasons why they haven't completed any section.

3. The Explorer Scouts will talk about their Church attendance and the role they do, or wish to, play in its worship.

4. They should be able to discuss their Bible reading and their prayers. Examples from their Bible reading and/or prayers may be sought. Any questions asked about these should not be interrogative but rather to encourage discussion.

5. Daily Bible reading and daily prayers, while not optional as a part of the badge requirements, are to be looked on with a tolerance and flexibility that realises that 16 - 20 year olds are no different from the rest of us and may be more willing than able to maintain their commitment at times.

6. They will be required to have a knowledge about their Bible study passages, the main theme of the

## "QUEST EMBLEM" for Explorer Scouts

1. Attend your Church and, as far as possible, take an active part in its worship.

2. Read the Bible daily. The use of Bible reading notes is recommended (e.g. Scripture Union, Bible Reading Fellowship or "Every Day with Jesus").

3. Pray daily (if possible morning and evening). In your prayers make use of prayers that go from the general to the specific (e.g. world Scouting to U.K. Scouting to local Scouting) or from the specific to the general (local to national to world-wide).

Be prepared to discuss the topics you have prayed for and any sources you may have used.

4. Say grace before meals.

5. Bible Study.

Read the following passages, and be prepared to discuss with the examiner the themes within them. The use of a Bible Commentary is recommended to help get the full meaning of the passages. If you have difficulty in choosing a suitable commentary you could consult your own minister, the Religious Education department at School or alternatively Northern Ireland Scout Headquarters.

(a) **OLD TESTAMENT**

Ecclesiastes

The results of living a variety of lifestyles (Ch.1 - 2)

Companionship when bad things happen (Ch.4 - 5)

The problem of injustice and the mystery of God (Ch.9 - 10)

Accept and enjoy life as God has given it (Ch.3; 6; 11 - 12)

### Joel

How forgiveness begins with a change of heart (Ch.2)  
Joel announces a new life for the faithful (Ch.3)

### Haggai

The importance of focusing on God's priorities instead of our own (Ch.1)  
The excitement of working together for God's glory (Ch.2)

## (b) **NEW TESTAMENT**

### Galatians

The dangers of listening to false teachers (Ch.1 - 2)  
The freedoms available through faith in Christ (Ch.3)  
How Christians should use their freedom (Ch.5 - 6)

### James

How to handle temptation, testing and trouble (Ch.1)  
Connections between what you believe and what you do (Ch.2 - 3)  
What happens when God is in charge of your life (Ch.4 - 5)

## 6. The Church

Complete one of the following sections

(a) Discuss the history and development of your own Church.

(b) Consider the role and position of your Church within the wider community and discuss how you think it could improve.

(c) Discuss the position and teaching of your Church on some matter of moral or ethical importance to you (e.g. Euthanasia, Capital Punishment, Abortion, Violence, Pornography, etc.)

(d) Consider areas where you believe the church should be more active in Ireland to-day in light of Biblical

## 4. Grace before meals.

The Explorer Scouts should be encouraged to say Grace/thanks at meal times. Again it is not possible to do more than encourage this and it may not be used as a reason not to award this badge.

## 5. Bible Study.

The Explorer Scouts should know their five Bible passages and be able to show that they know what each is about and what the themes are. They also be able to say how the passages relate to them. The abilities of different members need to be taken into account by the examiner in this. There is no reason why the Explorer Scouts being examined cannot bring a Bible or notes they may have made to the examination with them.

## 6. The Church

Discuss with the examiner one of the sections a, b, c or d. This discussion may take place as part of the planned programme of the Unit with the whole Unit taking part. It is important that if this happens those individuals being examined must play a leading role in the discussions.

## 7. The World

The project chosen may be anything which shows a Christian response to any social need. The need and the response will form part of the discussion with the examiner.

Any questions asked should not be of an interrogatory nature but should be phrased in such a way that they encourage an answer.

The Explorer Scouts being examined are required to discuss with the examiner about their daily prayers and the Bible passages in section 5.

Those being presented for examination for this badge may be presented singly or in a group.

### **Specific notes on each section of the badge**

#### 1. Church attendance and worship involvement.

This is to be encouraged but it is not always possible for Explorer Scouts to become actively involved in the worship of their Church. Such active involvement would include choir/music group membership, teaching in Sunday School/Bible Class, assisting with a youth group, reading the bible or leading prayers as part of the usual worship of the church (if permitted), assisting with the setting up for worship, greeting people, or any other thing which assists with the worship of the church.

Individual circumstances may need to be taken into consideration.

#### 2. Bible reading

Daily Bible reading is not optional at this stage and there is little or no reason for an exemption.

#### 3. Prayers

Topics of prayer are to be discussed and any sources of prayers, books of prayers, ought to be brought to the examination.

demands for Love, Justice, Freedom. Discuss your response with your examiner.

#### 7. The World

Take part in a project, organised by your Church, school, university, Explorer Scout Unit or some other body of your choice, which shows a Christian response to a social need either locally, nationally or internationally. These projects may be of long or short duration. Be prepared to discuss with the examiner the impact of your project and its success, this should include how the project has affected you personally.

### **Notes on the “Quest Emblem”**

The Quest Emblem is an optional badge that is unique to the Northern Ireland Scout Council. It is a specifically Christian badge which is available to any and all members of the movement who are also members of the Christian Church. (The Christian Church is defined here as all those Churches who profess themselves to be Christian and are accepted as a Christian Church by the World Council of Churches.)

It is hoped that the Quest Emblem will be considered as a single entity that progresses through each section of Scouting and will be treated as an integral part of the normal progression of members through the movement.

With this in mind there are two new sections to the Quest Emblem, one for the Beaver Scout Section and one for Leaders.

It is important that there should be proper guidance notes for Section Leaders and also for examiners issued with this badge. These notes should cover the means of examination and have information for leaders that will more fully set out the requirements of the badge and areas of flexibility.

The ideal is that each Group Chaplain be involved with this badge, in preparation or examination. Groups which do not as yet have a chaplain can encourage the participation of local clergy.

The purpose of this badge is to encourage “good practice” and the building of good habits with regard to the daily practice of Christianity within the Scout movement.

### **For Explorer Scouts**

The Quest Emblem for the Explorer Scout section has been changed and updated. Part of the reasoning behind this was to make it more accessible and more relevant to other things that Explorer Scouts were learning and doing as part of their membership of the Explorer Scout Unit.

Consideration has been given to the age and abilities of the members of the Explorer Scout Section in drawing up the syllabus. Also the continuity of the whole scheme of the Quest Emblem has been kept in mind.

There should be a reporting and consulting procedure established between the Explorer Scout Section and the Religious Advisory Support Team, or appointed committees thereof, to review the content of the Badge and to recommend amendments if necessary.

It is intended that, while not being given away to any and all who ask for it, this badge should not be difficult to obtain and that it should be within the grasp of every Explorer Scout in Northern Ireland.

While flexibility is permitted it is not to be confused with licence. There are no sections which are optional and any exemption needs to be discussed with the examiner.

### **QUEST EMBLEM for Explorer Scouts - Guidance notes:**

1. This badge is based specifically on the Christian faith. Its purpose is to encourage a knowledge and practice in matters of the Christian faith. It is a nondenominational badge that is available to all Christian members of the Unit.

2. This is an optional badge but the Religious Advisory Support Team would encourage as wide a participation as possible.

3. Realising the differences in abilities and circumstances of members within the Explorer Scout section there should be a degree of flexibility in awarding this badge.

4. Examination for this badge should take the following into consideration:

Though the terms “examination” and “examiner” are used they are used in an informal manner and take into consideration the age range of Explorer Scouts. The selection of a suitable examiner should largely fall to the Explorer Scout Leader with approval by the District Commissioner. The Group Chaplain would be the ideal, or if the group’s sponsoring authority is a church and the group has no chaplain the minister of that church would be ideal.

The examiner should be known to the Explorer Scouts so that there is more chance of them being able to enter into discussion with some one whom they know. Examination for this badge may take place on an informal manner and sections 6 & 7 may be included as part of the Unit’s programme with the whole Unit taking part in the discussion with the examiner. If this happens it is important that those being examined for the badge play a leading role in the discussion.