

Bismillah Award 2012

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Pack 758 Religious Emblem Chairman





Bismillah Award: Overview

- **Mission Statement**
 - The Bismillah Award Program strives to broaden historical, contemporary, social, religious, and political perspectives on Islam for Cub Scouts of the Webelos and Arrow of Light rank.
- **Program Objectives**
 - The Cub Scout, at the successful completion of the Bismillah Award Program, should be able to:
 - Identify Ismaili tariqah within the Islamic context.
 - Discuss the similarities between the Islamic faith and ideology to other faiths.
 - Articulate the structure of at least one Imamat Institution.
 - Provide written and oral communication relevant to Islamic ambassadorship.
 - Assess, plan, implement, and evaluate short-term and long-term goals towards personal development as an American Muslim.
 - Apply the principles and methodology of academic integrity in scholarship and intellectual research.



Month	Details
April - May	Orientation & Kick-off!
December 15 December 31	<u>**Preliminary Submission**</u> <u>**Final Submission**</u>
January - February	Oral Examination Phase (successful candidates notified in Feb)
March - April	Bismillah Award Revision Cycle
May	Cub Scout Award Ceremony (successful candidates awarded)



Bismillah Award Sections

1.

Written Section

- Assessment of Intent & Character
- Islamic Foundations
- Historical Islam
- Universal Timeline & Islamic Holidays
- A Contextual Islamic Identity
- Modern Islamic Centers
- Contemporary Islam

2.

Oral Examination





Requirement #1: Assessment of Intent/Character

- Type a one-page letter of intent and statement of purpose, detailing why you have chosen to pursue a rigorous religious emblem. Include what you hope to gain from this experience.
- Provide a character reference form (page 12 of this packet) from your REC (Religious Education Center) teacher/principal, past or present, attesting to your strengths and abilities in scouting and beyond.



Bismillah Award Program: Character Reference Form

To be filled out by Cub Scout:

Cub Scout Name: _____ Scout Rank: _____

To be filled out by evaluating individual:

Approximately how long have you known the Cub Scout? _____ Year(s) _____ Month(s)

I know the applicant: Very Well Fairly Well Not Very Well

	Superior	Above Average	Average	Below Average	N/A
Demonstration of creativity					
Ability to express himself orally					
Demonstrating Writing Ability					
Self-reliance & independence					
Ability to work with others in a group setting					
Ability to master a task at hand					

In summary, I would give a Very Strong Strong Average No recommendation for the applicant.

Evaluator Information:

Name: _____ Title/Position: _____

Contact Information: Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Requirement #2: Islamic Foundations

- The 5 pillars of Islam and the 10 commandments of the Old Testament have some key similarities and differences. Research the 5 pillars of Islam and the 10 commandments.
- Using your creativity, create a diagram that identifies the 5 pillars of Islam and the 10 commandments of the Old Testament.
- Finally, in no more than 500 words, choose 2 out of the following 4 questions:
 - How do both the 5 pillars and the 10 commandments convey similar ethics and values of how to live?
 - What are the key differences in focus that you notice between them and how might that impact the followers of each tradition?
 - Which of the 5 pillars and the 10 commandments are the most important to you and why?
 - If you had to create your own 5 pillars or 10 commandments to live by, what would they be? Feel free to display this creatively on your

Requirement #3: Historical Islam



- 0 Select 1 calligraphic work that you found either from the Internet, magazines, books, through art exhibitions, or other sources. Write up a commentary that does the following:
 - 0 Discuss what you notice and like about the piece. Talk about how the piece affects you and any religious or spiritual connection you find in the artwork.
 - 0 Research the history of the artwork and include the following (skip any aspects that you cannot find in your research): background of the artist, inspiration for the work, geographical origin, if it is not in English, what is the translation of the text.
 - 0 Please submit your brief commentary (i and ii above) along with a print/photograph the art piece (if you are in a gallery that does not allow photography, feel free to visit the piece in person and then search for an image on the internet later).





Requirement #4: Universal Timeline & Islamic Holidays

- Many cultures have their own calendar format. What is the difference between “BC/BCE”, “CE/AD”, and “AH” when referring to calendar years? In a diagram format, discuss how the events that begin each calendar differ.
- Outline the differences between the lunar calendar and the Gregorian calendar. Which religious traditions utilize each one? Select one religious tradition that uses a lunar calendar and list the months of the year.
- The Arabic word ‘Eid is often attached to many of our Muslim holidays.
 - Define what ‘eid means in Arabic. How does it get used in Arabic? What about in English?
 - Then, explain in approximately 100 words each, the historical origins and current celebrations of each of the following Eid celebrations: Eid-al-Adha, Eid-al-Fitr, and Eid-al-Milad-Nabi. Explain each thoroughly.



Requirement #5: A Contextual Islamic Identity

- Identify a deceased Muslim Figure (Excluding our Imams or Prophets- *Think about the scientists, politicians, and social reformers who helped our culture and tradition*)
 - Discuss, in approximately one page, details concerning the reasoning behind why you have chosen this Muslim as a hero. Outline particular qualities and characteristics that inspire you in how you live your life.
- Muslim Hero of the Present
- Muslim Hero of the Future
 - Visualize yourself *three, 5, or 10* years from now.
 - Identify six life goals or objectives you wish to accomplish. (Example goals include those around the following topics: school/education; career; friendship and family; sports/arts/music; accomplishments/awards; hobbies and activities like travel).
- Additionally, discuss in approximately 150 words, how you plan to accomplish those goals through measurable checkpoints in life.



Requirement #6: Modern Islamic Centers

- Take a tour of an Islamic center or Mosque in your area (a Shia or Sunni mosque that is not a Nizari Ismaili Jamat Khana). Please complete the following:
 - Take pictures of a Mosque in your area [or print out pictures from the internet] and insert it in your final portfolio. Identify the name of the Mosque, date in which it opened, the types of services that take place there, the practice of the people who attend the Mosque, and any other religious or social events that may be occurring in that Mosque around the time of your visit (for example, religious education classes, any celebratory events, etc).
 - Finally write at least a 300 word essay on the similarities between the mosque you visited (or the mosque(s) you researched) and the Jamat Khana that you attend. Use your notes in the activity above to help you draw connections and parallels between the 2 spaces, your feelings about being there, and how the people attending them act in and use those spaces.





Requirement #7: Contemporary Islam



- Identify & select a particular branch of AKDN (AKFED, AKES, AKTFC, etc.). Research about this particular branch using www.akdn.org as a possible primary source. What is the function and goals of this institution? How does it contribute to the overall mission of the AKDN? What areas of the world can you find this branch and why is it focused there?
- Interview a current or past President, Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Jamati Mukhi-Kamadia or Board Member of any of the institutions
 - What institution/branch do/did you represent? What is/was your position?
 - What are the objectives, goals, and responsibilities of this institution? How are the goals and objectives measured?
 - How does the institution accomplish those objectives? (i.e. – what programs does it have?)
 - If a Jamati member wants to reach out and seek help from this particular institution, how do they go about seeking help?
- Type up the responses to the questions and submit them. Describe your experience in the interview, outlining key points learned



Oral Examination Phase

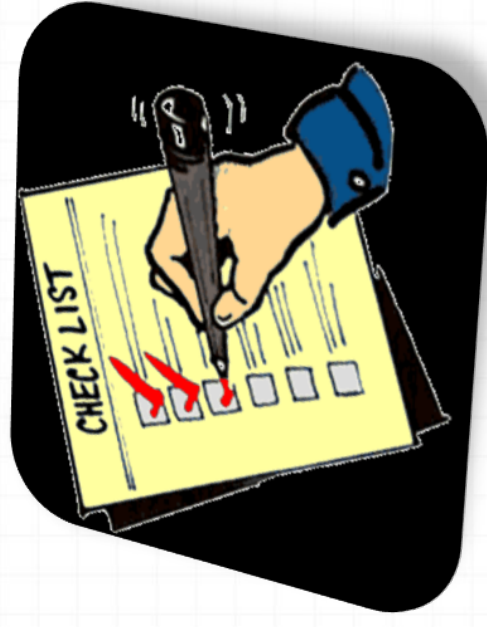
- Though not comprehensive, the oral examination can include the following points of discussion:
 - Historical & contemporary Islamic & Ismaili identity
 - Understanding the Office of Imamate & Imamate Institutions
 - Articulation of lessons learned throughout the Bismillah Award Program
 - Academic honesty/plagiarism & Its relevance to educational scholarship





Important Forms

- 0 Plagiarism Release Form
- 0 Character Reference Form
- 0 Oral Examination Form
- 0 Final Portfolio Authorization Form
- 0 Do's & Don'ts
- 0 Reference Library (Helpful Hints)
- 0 Bismillah Award Checklist
- 0 Feedback Form (Parent & Scout Individual)



Q & A Session



Contact Information:

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*Please allow 24-48 hours for response time.