Train a child under Ratnatriya and you’ll train a human being. Ratnatriya = Right Thought, Right Speech and Right Action

ROLE OF SCOUTING IN JAINISM:

Prompted by the Sawant family, after a year long inquiry dating from 2008, with the hope of their “son to proudly wear the Jain religion pin on his Class A uniform”, Mr. Prakash Mody the JAINA Inter-Faith Coordinator based in Ontario Canada, was asked by Lataben Champesse in 2009 to initiate the first steps and broach the Boy Scouts of America for approval of the Jain Religion Emblem Awards Program. Given the successful approval by the Boy Scouts of Canada in 2008 and with unwavering dedication, the efforts were realized with the MOU signing on December 15th 2010 between JAINA and the BSA.

THE MEHTA FAMILY STORY:

In 2010, our family joined the local Cub Scout program. When reading the Wolf Handbook, in Chapter 11 they had a section called, “Duty to God”. We saw many religions (i.e. Jewish, Roman Catholic, Hindu, etc) represented in the Religion Emblems Program except ours, Jainism. Our parents along with other parents worked hard and as a result in 2011, Jainism is now part of the Religious Emblems Program.

To be one of the first recipients of the Jainism Religious Pin, I am honored to be an Ambassador and represent my religion. Jainism is a religion and a way of life. For thousands of years, Jains have been practicing vegetarianism, yoga, meditation and environmentalism. Jains believe the existence of an eternal and divine Soul in each living being. Jain Way of Life respects and honors these souls through: Non-Violence, Non-Absolutism and Non-Possessiveness.

**Non-Violence** is respect for the life of all living beings in thoughts, words and deeds. For this reason, Jains are compassionate and forgiving and practice vegetarianism.

**Non-Absolutism** is respect for the views of the other. Jains encourage dialogue and harmony with other faiths.

**Non-Possessiveness** is balancing of needs and desires, while staying detached from our possessiveness. This stems from the respect for our environment.

The 10 purposes of Cub Scouting along with participating in Cub Scouts helps us stay grounded and to become a better person in life.

JAINA SCOUTING MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission continues now to bring the best of both the Jain principles and the Scouting experiences together to share the strengths for developing youth with confidence, character and excellent attitudes.

Jain Scout Embodies Three Jewels
Faith
Knowledge
Conduct

For more information and Workbook downloads please check the JAINA.org website:
http://www.jain.org/?page=Description