For more information on earning the religious emblem for your faith, contact the Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) at www.praypub.org.
This study guide has been written for use across the Heart of America Council camps.

The entire guide is recommended for use at the Bartle Reservation, while those questions marked with ★ are recommended for the Naish Reservation.
A LEATHER IS THE OUTWARD SYMBOL OF AN INNER CHALLENGE YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT. YOUR LEATHER CHALLENGE SHOULD AFFECT YOUR LIFE TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT YOU CAN RECOGNIZE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE WITHIN YOURSELF. YOU WILL KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN HONEST WITH YOURSELF WHEN OTHERS SEE THIS CHANGE.

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

25. To what personal goal do I want to strive by wearing a White Leather?

26. How do I plan to do this? Be as specific as possible.

THE STORY OF THE LEATHER

It was many years ago in 1914 when a young disabled boy sat on the sidelines at summer camp. He cheered his friends on, always wearing a smile and sharing all he had to give—his Christ-like ideals and happy way of looking at everything—with everyone.

On the last night of camp, a bandanna was tied around his neck as a humble symbol from the campers to recognize his Christ-like way of living. From this small beginning comes the tradition of campers wearing an outward symbol that represents the desire of its wearer to follow the examples that Jesus set for us all. Later, this little "rag" of cloth was replaced with a colored Leather for a Scout to wear on his hip.

What does the Leather signify? It is an outward symbol of an inner challenge that you choose to accept. It reminds you of the challenge you accept at camp and continue to carry out while you are away from camp. The Leather is a personal and voluntary way of challenging yourself to improve your way of life. Your promise of improvement is between you and God. The responsibility to live up to this challenge is yours. God will see your success in fulfilling this desire to live a better life; your family, friends, and anyone you meet should see it, too.

Now you may share in the experience of coming close to God through dedicating yourself to becoming more like Jesus in your thinking and behavior.

Come and enjoy the chance to learn and grow in your relationship with God.
THE LEATHER

The Leather is an outward symbol of accepting an inner challenge to grow. Its symbolism is Christ-centered, sacred, and personal. The decision to continue the journey rests with you.

Each color has a specific meaning. Linked to the meaning of a particular Leather is your personal challenge for growth.

THE BLUE LEATHER
1. Loyalty to the Scout Oath / Law
2. Loyalty to God
3. Loyalty to country
4. Loyalty to others

THE SILVER LEATHER
1. Decision to follow Jesus
2. Decision to live the Christian way of life
3. Decision to live the Christian disciplines

THE BROWN LEATHER
1. Serve God
2. Humility
3. Become more aware of the needs of others

THE GOLD LEATHER
1. Understanding others
2. Concern for others

THE RED LEATHER
1. Sacrifice of time
2. Sacrifice of talent
3. Sacrifice of personal will

THE PURPLE LEATHER

THE WHITE LEATHER

24. What goals can you set to serve in leadership and service? Be specific, measurable and accountable to someone in your unit.
Now it's time for you to think about working on the next religious emblem of your faith.

20. Have you earned any of your faith's emblems as a Cub Scout or Boy Scout?

21. What is the next religious emblem that you could earn? (Your camp chaplain can help you figure this out and how to get the requirements / workbook.)

22. Set a goal for when you will be able to start and finish that emblem.

23. Do you know any adults whom you can nominate for a religious award? (Both Scouts and adults may answer this question and initiate the nomination process.)

**THE MEANING OF THE LEATHER**

Your Leather is a piece of the Creation. You couldn't sell your Leather; it isn't worth much money. Your Leather has only the meaning that YOU give it.

**THE LEATHER IS NOT:**

1. A decoration.
2. An award for achievement.
3. A reward.
4. A "pat" on the back.
5. Measuring myself by others.
6. "I AM FIRST."
7. Self-centered.
8. I am good, or being good.
9. Knowing about God, talking about God.
10. Sight (seeing things as they are).
11. A status symbol.

**THE LEATHER IS:**

1. A symbol.
3. A responsibility.
4. A "push" forward.
5. Measuring myself by God.
6. "I AM THIRD."
7. Christ-centered.
8. I want to be better.
9. Knowing God, talking to God.
10. Vision (seeing things as they ought to be).
11. A personal calling to humility.

For the adults, you will need to share information about the emblems with your unit leadership, your church leaders, and/or your unit's chartering organization (if your unit is sponsored by a religious organization). Adult religious awards are presented through a nomination process they require church and youth organization involvement.
THE WHITE LEATHER  
Life Service

Acceptance of the White Leather is an acceptance of your life’s dedication to Christian Service, especially with those who are younger and weaker than you. For some of you, that will mean working with younger Scouts who need help learning skills and working on merit badges. For others, serving those who are younger than you in your church or faith community, such as at Vacation Bible Camp or at a church camp. Even others of you will accept a challenge to serve those who have little or are even homeless.

🐞 When you accepted your Purple Leather you were challenged to live a noble life. What have you done to live that life?

(lbl) Did you meet some obstacles? If so, what?

19. 🐞 Talk to your unit leaders and plan when you will present the chapel service that you have just planned.

Event: ____________________     Date: ____________________
18. Now it’s time to write a message on these two pages......

Use this page to write your reflections of this past year.
Matthew 5:1-16 NIV®:

The Beatitudes
Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. 
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 
"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Salt and Light
"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. 
"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

The Message

12. ☑ What Bible verses would you use in your message?

13. ☑ What stories can you tell? What images could be important?

14. Where could you give this message? At a campout, at camp, during a meeting, or somewhere else?

15. How much should you put into the message?

16. ☑ What age group will you be talking to and with?

17. ☑ How long should your message be?
11. Use this page to write a chapel service outline. Feel free to ask your unit leaders and/or your camp chaplain to help you.

1. What do these Bible verses say to you?

2. Does it seem odd that Jesus reversed the order, making the weak the powerful? Making the poor the ones who inherit the earth?

3. Do these verses make you feel important? What can you do to become salt and light in your place, in your school or at your job?

4. What does Duty to God mean for Scouts?
In anticipating this being the final leather you will receive, you must consider what you can offer to your Scout unit.

5. Make a list of churches/faiths that are represented in your unit. Start with those who are in camp with you this session, both adult and youth. Some probably do not have a church home; that’s okay. Don’t make them feel bad.

6. Now you need to do a little research and discover what is significant about each person’s religious tradition / denomination. You may ask each person to tell you about that tradition, or you may use the Internet or other reference materials. Your camp chaplain may be able to help, too.

a. What is the key faith point for each faith?

b. Is there a key person in that tradition? Why?

Now think about music.

7. How important is music in worship?

8. What are some of your favorite songs that you could use in a chapel service?

9. Ask your friends about what kind of songs they enjoy in chapel.

10. What kind of music do you use in chapel services on campouts?