

Coexist

Council Patch Program



Explore different religions and faiths while also learning more about your own spirituality. We are all wonderfully different! Respecting our differences and being open-minded to learning can create a more peaceful and informed world.

If the requirement is starred () then it is a mandatory activity for all age levels.*

Discover:

Daisies complete 2; Brownies complete 3; Juniors complete 4; Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors complete 5

- A. Music is often a large part of faith. Discover how music is connected to different faiths and religions throughout the world. Do some faiths ban music? Which faiths are music-based? Do you have a favorite faith-based song or hymn?
- B. Learn more about your own faith if you have one. If not, interview a friend about their faith. What are the essential teachings? What holidays are celebrated? Is your (their) faith the same as your (their) family's faith or different? How much of the world practices the same faith? What do you connect with most in your (their) faith?
- C. Learn about the following types of spirituality: monotheism, pantheism, and polytheism. What does your faith fall under? What faiths may fall under other categories? What is different about atheism and agnosticism?
- D. Many faiths share a common origin but end up splitting into different forms of worship at some point in history. Pick a religion with multiple sects and research the similarities and differences between them. For example, you could choose to look into Sunnis and Shiites, Baptists and Catholics, Theravadins and Mahayana Buddhists, or any other sects with a common background that may interest you.
- E. Research three famous women religious leaders. What is their story? Were they welcomed with open arms, or did they face a lot of adversity in their journey to become a religious leader?
- F. Learn about traditions of other faiths. Does food play a large role in their holidays or culture? Try a different faiths' foods—what do you think? Do some faiths fast as a part of their culture? What does this symbolize for them?
- G. What is the primary faith in your area? State? Country? World? What are other areas that have different primary faiths? Do you think this affects the society/laws/politics of the area?

Connect:

Daisies complete 1; Brownies complete 2; Juniors complete 3; Seniors, and Ambassadors complete 4

- A. Reach out to someone of a different faith and learn about their faith. What traditions do they have? What/who do they worship? What are their main holidays? What is their place of worship called? Their book of teachings?*

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- B. Visit two of the following: Christian Church, Jewish Synagogue, Islamic Mosque, or Buddhist Temple. Choose two that are outside of your faith to learn something new about other faiths. Attend a service, speak to their worship leader, or take a tour of their place of worship.
- C. Participate in a different faiths' holiday or service. Immerse yourself in their culture and traditions.
- D. Have you or your friends ever gotten into a fight over faith or religion? Can you imagine when this may happen? Faiths can lead to different beliefs on controversial topics—ever hear your parents debating these things? Learn how to participate in these conversations in a peaceful, resolution-seeking way.
- E. Look at how women are viewed in three faiths. Are there things they are not allowed to do? Are they viewed differently from men? How does this affect women in society today?

Take Action:

Daisies complete 1; Brownies complete 1; Juniors complete 2; Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors complete 2

- A. Do you feel that your community knows enough about different religions? Brainstorm different ways to educate people about different faiths to work towards tolerance, understanding, and diversity throughout our world. Implement one way of educating people about different faiths.
- B. Teach a friend or family member about a faith or religion they don't know about. Bring them to a holiday or service of this faith/religion. Discuss what is gained by learning about one another's faith and religions.
- C. Go to coexistfoundation.org and look at what they stand for. Also, read this article to see how something like falafel or coffee can create a cycle of peace: bit.ly/3UsAR0c.
- D. What does it mean to take a stand for peaceful existence between different faiths? How could you advocate for peace and understanding between faiths in your community? What about throughout the world? Put one of your ideas into action.
- E. Learn about an interfaith service happening in your area (or that you can attend). Partner with them to help increase awareness of the event. Attend the service—bring as many friends, family, and community members as you can with you! Discuss what you learned from attending the service and what can be gained by participating in interfaith services.

