

Junior Soldiers Award Passports

Leaders guidelines and extra notes

Leaders Introduction

It is important to develop an understanding and culture at your corps that Junior Soldiers is about discipleship. It is not just a program, or lessons and awards that need to be completed.

Each Junior Soldier should have a significant adult who will be a discipleship partner in their faith journey. Junior Soldier leaders, Big Buds and parents are asked to partner in the discipleship process and have a key role in the Junior Soldier awards to ensure this is a reality in the Junior Soldiers' lives.

Junior Soldiers will journey through the lessons and awards with their Big Bud, Junior Soldier leader, parents and/or corps officer in whatever combination suits the context at your corps. Some corps will bring groups of young people together to work through the lessons and awards, others will work individually. Young people who are not enrolled as Junior Soldiers will also benefit from being included in lessons and in many aspects of the awards. If you are unsure of how this can work most effectively in your context please contact your divisional or territorial children's ministry representative for advice.

The Junior Soldier awards are designed as a tool to assist young people to participate in, explore and practice the disciplines that will help them build faith and a relationship with God. We want to encourage our Junior Soldiers to create a rhythm in their relationship with God, how they connect with him and share his love with others in their everyday life.

The award components are designed to help young people explore and participate in the spiritual disciplines on a regular basis. At each award level they will be encouraged and challenged to build on what they have done previously in a particular discipline and step up to the next level. The awards offer young disciples opportunities to experience and engage with God in a variety of ways so that they can explore their discipleship in the context of their particular learning style, spiritual gifting and personality.

Some award tasks may be covered in Junior Soldier lessons or other activities that Junior Soldiers participate in like Kids Church, Kids Club, camps or school. Recognising these achievements as fulfilling requirements for the awards will help to build a holistic model of discipleship and promote a whole life approach to faith and mission.

Each award level will take time and this will vary for young people depending on their spiritual, emotional and intellectual development as well as their age. It is important not to rush the Junior Soldiers through the awards. The aim is to develop their spirituality, not to finish each Passport as quickly as possible. It is equally important not to hold young people back if they are ready to move on. Developing relationships as discipleship partners is vitally important to gaining insight into the spiritual growth of Junior Soldiers as they move through the awards.



Participation

Meeting together with believers and with those who are learning about God helps young people to build faith. At your local corps young people might participate in worship services, Junior Soldiers, Kids Church, Kids Club, Youth Group, Life Groups or Bible study. As young people grow in their faith they can be encouraged to take a more active role in the groups they attend. It is important to allow young people opportunities to develop skills in ministry within the ministries they attend.

Prayer

Spending time listening and talking to God is fundamental to building faith. Provide young people with opportunities to explore prayer and to find and try different methods of prayer in both corporate and personal prayer. Allow young people opportunities to participate in corporate prayer and organise prayer events. Encourage young people to talk about their personal prayer experiences with a trusted adult.

Bible

As a disciple of Jesus, it is important for young people to know and understand God's word. The best way to do this is by spending time regularly (daily/weekly) reading the Bible. Encourage young people to share their personal Bible reading experiences and to participate in a study or discussion group that will assist them to apply a biblical worldview to their lives and to be accountable for not just reading the Bible but for living it.

Service

Because we love God and other people we want to show them by the things we do. We want to 'serve' them. As disciples of Jesus our attitude when serving should be one of love. Young people need opportunities to serve in order to fully understand that service for God is something that we do gladly and willingly. Encourage young people to pray for those they are serving as they perform tasks in the home, at church, at school or in the wider community. Young people need opportunities to talk and pray about any areas or attitudes that they struggle with in relation to serving others.

Holy Living

Disciples of Jesus are all about holy living. It is important to encourage our young people to develop holy living, to check that what they say, think and do reflects the way Jesus wants us to live. In order to think, speak and act the way that God would want, we need to be in relationship with God. That means spending time with him in prayer, reading his word and spending time with his people.

Worship

Disciples worship God. Worship is the way we express ourselves because God loves us and we love Him, that might be at church with a bunch of other people or it might be reading the Bible or praying in a quiet place on our own, it might be serving others or speaking in a loving and positive way. Young people should be encouraged to worship God in their daily living and to join with others to worship God on a regular basis.

Projects

Disciples of Jesus also seek to make a difference in faith communities, local communities and global communities. Some young people, influenced by a consumer-driven world view may not realise that Jesus calls us to willingly stand up, make sacrifices and help others. Challenge young people to experience going without or giving up. Our young people can be passionate about mission once they realise they can make a difference and change things for the better.



PARTICIPATION

Attend 20 sessions.

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2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	12.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	13.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Attend 20 sessions and assist your leader/s.

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2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	12.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Attend 20 sessions and help your leader/s or corps officer to prepare for a worship service or one of the sections you attend.

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Leaders Notes

Participation, as you can see, is not just about attending. It is important that the children are encouraged to engage in whatever program or service that they attend, participate in, plan or lead. As you can see from the blurb attendance and participation should be encouraged across any of the programs that you have at your corps not just at Junior Soldier sessions.

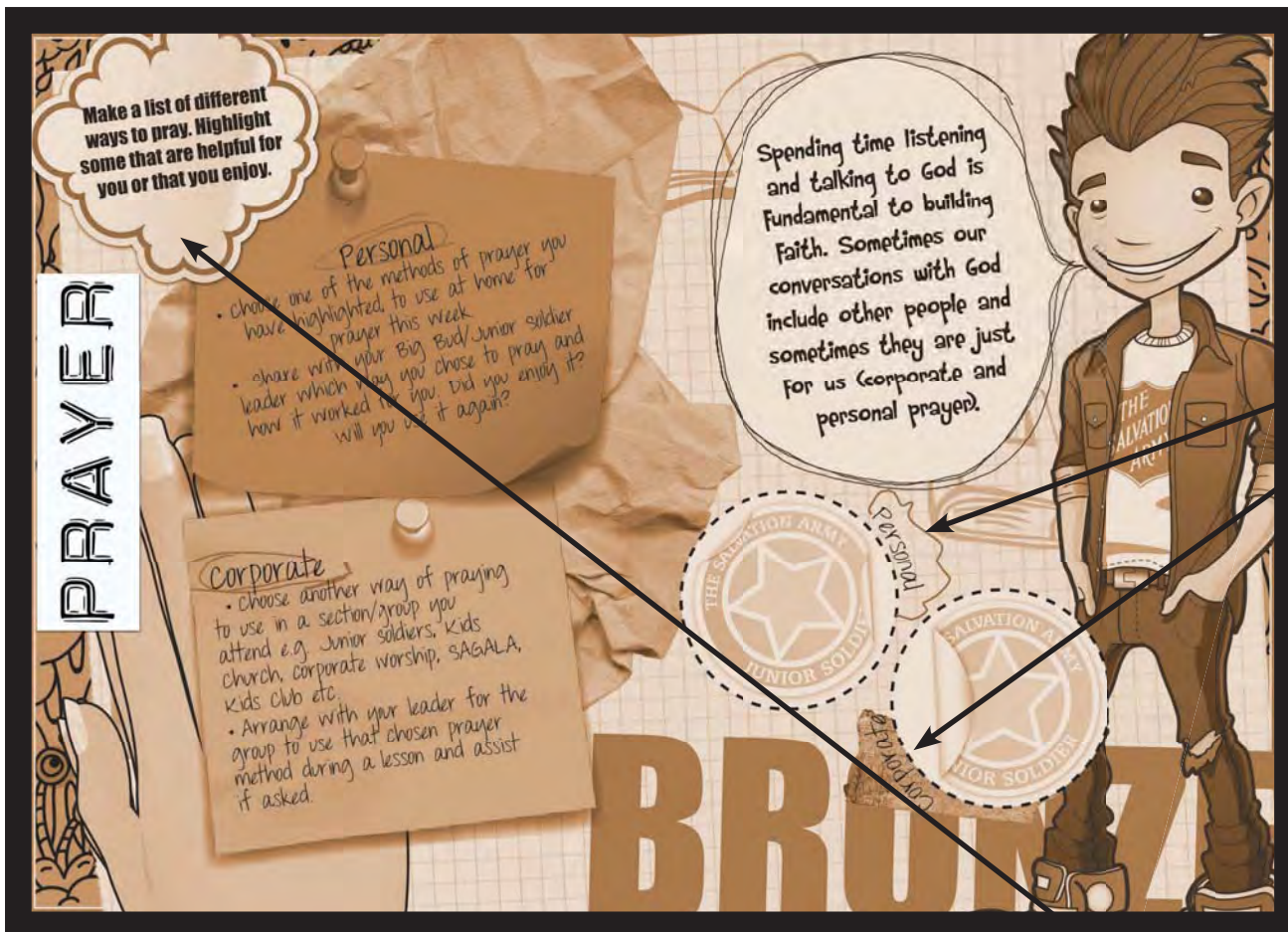
Participation is about meeting together with others to learn, be encouraged and build our faith. We do this with other believers and with those who are learning about God. In your 20 participation spots, try to have some variety and include at least three different ways of meeting together with others to learn about God. At your local corps you might participate in:

- Worship services,
- Junior Soldier classes,
- Kids Church,
- Kids Club,
- SAGALA,
- Meeting together with your Big Bud

THE SALVATION ARMY
JS
ARM

Each of the four levels has a different requirement for the 20 participation spots...

The blurb is the same for each of the levels regarding participation...



Each of the four levels will look at prayer from a personal and corporate perspective with activities to engage in ...

When talking about different ways to pray with the children, it is important that you share about your personal prayer journey and things that have been helpful for you.

Don't forget the bubble of instruction up in the left hand corner...

PRAYER

Personal

- spend time in prayer listening to God out a concern or an area in your life you might need help with
- construct a creative representation of a prayer, e.g. draw, paint, create a display, prayer ladder, PowerPoint or writing. This might be a prayer for a special occasion, topic or theme, e.g. self denial, Christmas.
- or write (or choose a written prayer) to read aloud

Corporate

- share with your junior soldier group, or another section you attend, the prayer that you chose to creatively represent.

Spending time listening and talking to God is fundamental to building faith. Sometimes our conversations with God include other people and sometimes they are just for us (corporate and personal prayer).



Each of the four levels will look at prayer from a personal and corporate perspective with activities to engage in ...

It would be good to involve either the Big Bud or some older people in your congregation in helping to find an appropriate written prayer for the Junior Soldier to use. The internet is also a wonderful resource for accessing written prayers for this task.

It is important for the children to find a creative way they are happy with when it comes to representing their prayer. If this is not a way that is your forte, you might like to enlist someone else in the corps that could help to support and guide the Junior Soldier as they create and pray.

Each of the four levels will look at prayer from a personal and corporate perspective with activities to engage in ...

PRAYER

Create a prayer box. Find a box that you can cover and decorate or purchase a nice box that will hold the items you chose. Choose some everyday items or pictures that will help to encourage you to pray for certain things, people, places and events.

Personal

- Use the prayer box to help you pray personally on a regular basis.
- Listen to God as you take the item and how it and use it for prayer.
- Who is God prompting you to pray for?
- What need the world is God prompting you to pray for?
- Share some of the things that you have been prompted to pray for with your Big Bud/J.S. leader.

Spending time listening and talking to God is fundamental to building faith. Sometimes our conversations with God include other people and sometimes they are just for us (corporate and personal prayer).

Corporate

- Take the prayer box to a section/group that you attend.
- Have some people choose an item from the box and use it to pray for something/someone.
- If you have a large group the leader might like to help by choosing a couple of people to choose an item from the box to help with prayer for that day.

Create a Prayer Box

A shoebox or gift box from a 'cheap' store would work really well for a prayer box. The children might like to decorate the box so that it reflects something of them. Below you will find examples of some items you might like to include and how they might prompt the children to pray. I am sure that you can think of more.

Item suggestions for Prayer Box

- Bandaid - praying for those who are sick
- Rubber band - thinking about and praying for the areas that you are being stretched in at the moment.
- Small photo frame - thinking about who you might put in your photo frame - pray for them.
- Funky crazy glasses - thinking about how we can look at things differently - look at things from someone else's perspective or from God's way of seeing.
- An eraser - praying for wrong choices you have made. Asking God to forgive you.



Each of the four levels will look at prayer from a personal and corporate perspective with activities to engage in ...

It would be great if the Junior soldiers could work in a small group for this activity. It would also be good if you could help with some suggestions if they need some direction (remember to let them have a go first - they will surprise you).

Some suggestions...

If the church was having a fete then your J.S's could set up a prayer tent.

If it is the 24/7 prayer weekend you may like to have a prayer station set up by the Junior Soldiers. You might like to arrange a prayer walk to take place during either of the above two events.

They could also set up the prayer room (if you have one) at your corps for people to engage with.

Bible...
Under the Bible part for this award it says:

use: this means that as a leader you should be encouraging the children to use their Bible within the group's session not just bringing it to have their names ticked. For example you could suggest a passage/verse that they could find and read for you.

WORK ON THE FOLLOWING: this does not just mean one time - it is about helping the JS to become familiar and confident with skills in finding their way around and using the Bible.

Be an example...
it is important to be an example to the Junior soldiers when it comes to reading and using your Bible.
it is important that they see you with your Bible and that you use it.
You can also help them by giving examples of what you like to read from the Bible as well as when and where you enjoy reading it the most.



Each of the four levels will encourage some memorisation as well as provide the children with some advice and skills on how to use their Bible...

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WORK ON THE FOLLOWING : this does not just mean one time - it is about helping the Js to become familiar and confident with these skills in finding their way around and using the Bible.

The Art of exploration...

This is a significant tool for the Junior soldiers to develop. It is a key to help them to learn how to explore and engage with the Bible rather than just being told what certain passages can teach us and what they mean. The key questions that are provided are very open questions that help the children to think for themselves and share what they see and think rather than just feeling as though there is one right answer. **what do you see and what is God saying to you?**
This is a skill that will take time as they become comfortable with having a go.



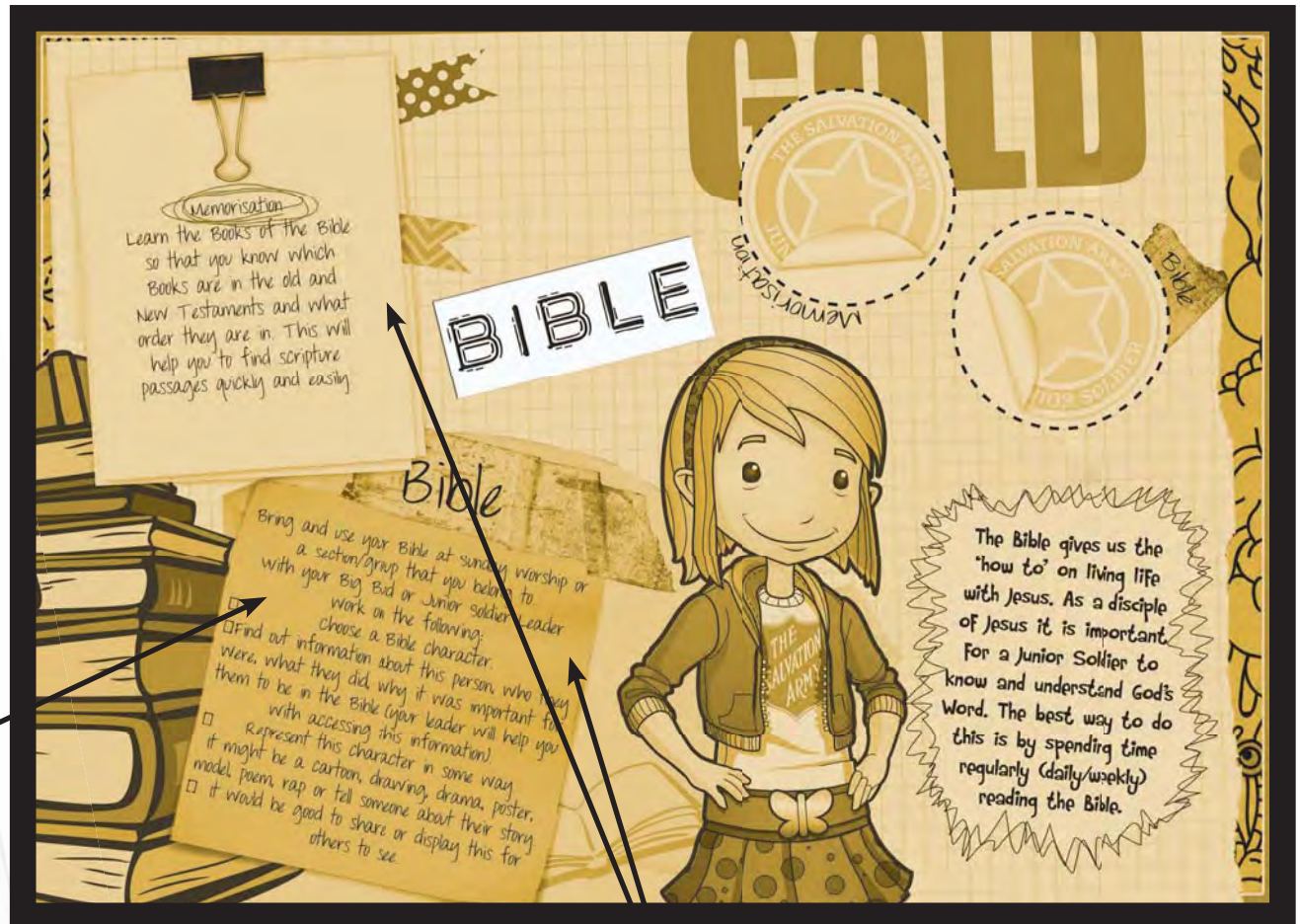
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Assistance...
it is important to give the Junior soldier some assistance in finding out information about the person that they have chosen. You might like to sit with them at the computer or help them with some books or other resources.



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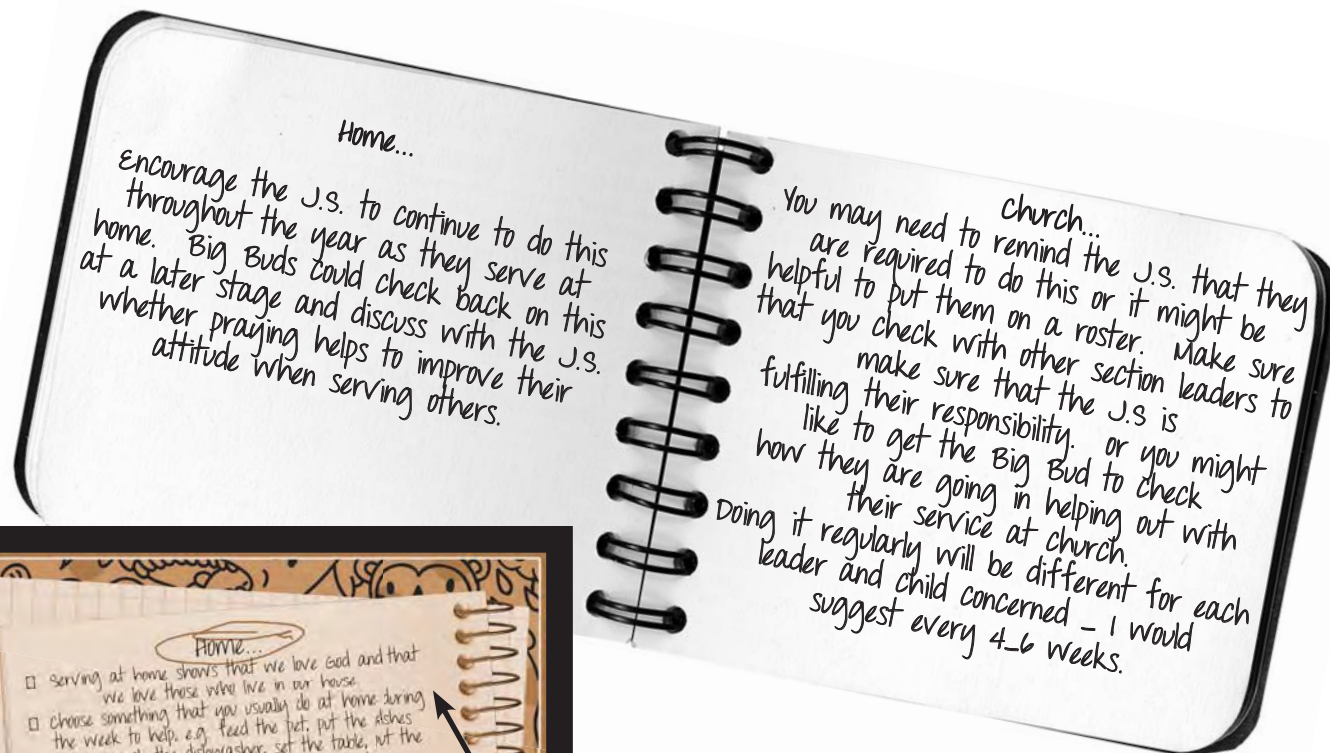
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Helpful...
it would be good to suggest a book that you think will be helpful for the Junior soldier e.g James, Ephesians. It might be a good idea to suggest one that is not too long. Follow up with them to see how they are going with this. It would be good to have their Big Bud or yourself reading along with them. Other Junior soldiers at this level could also read the same book to help encourage and resource each other.



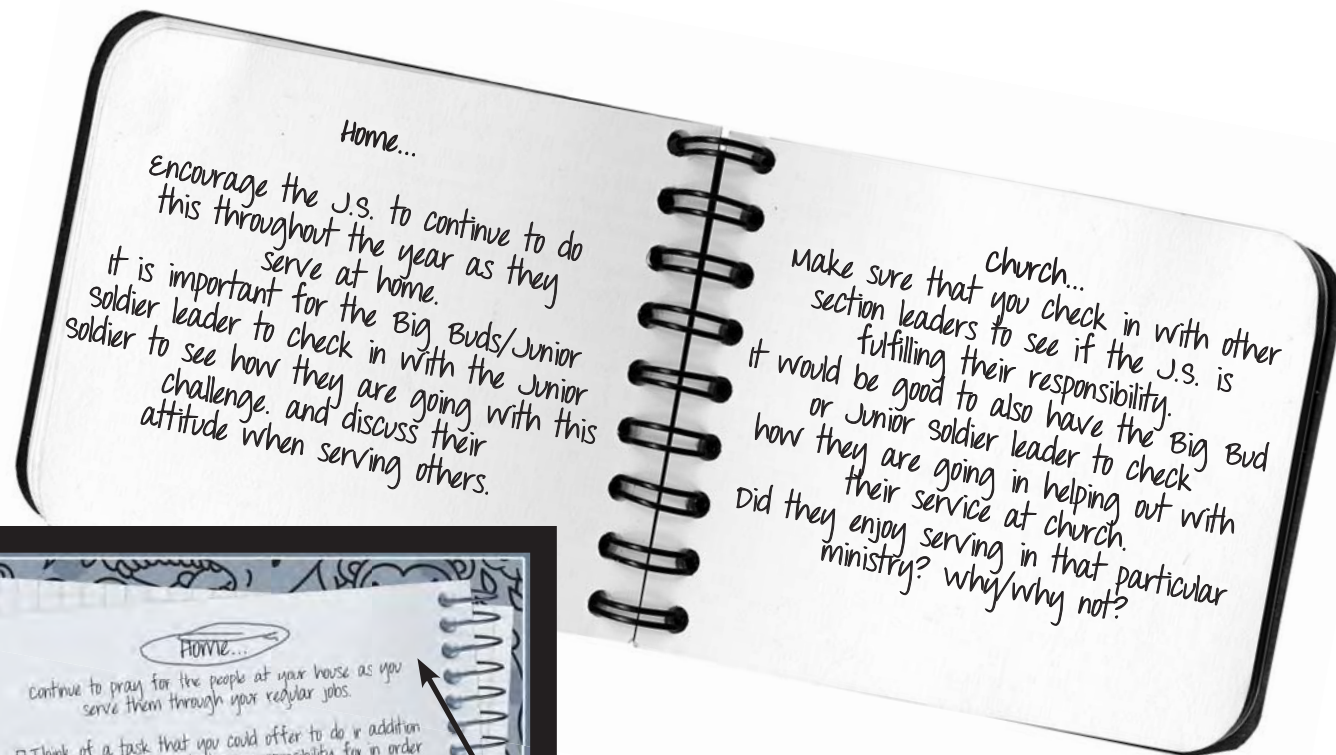
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Encouraging the Junior Soldier to think about their attitude to service is a key aspect of this section...



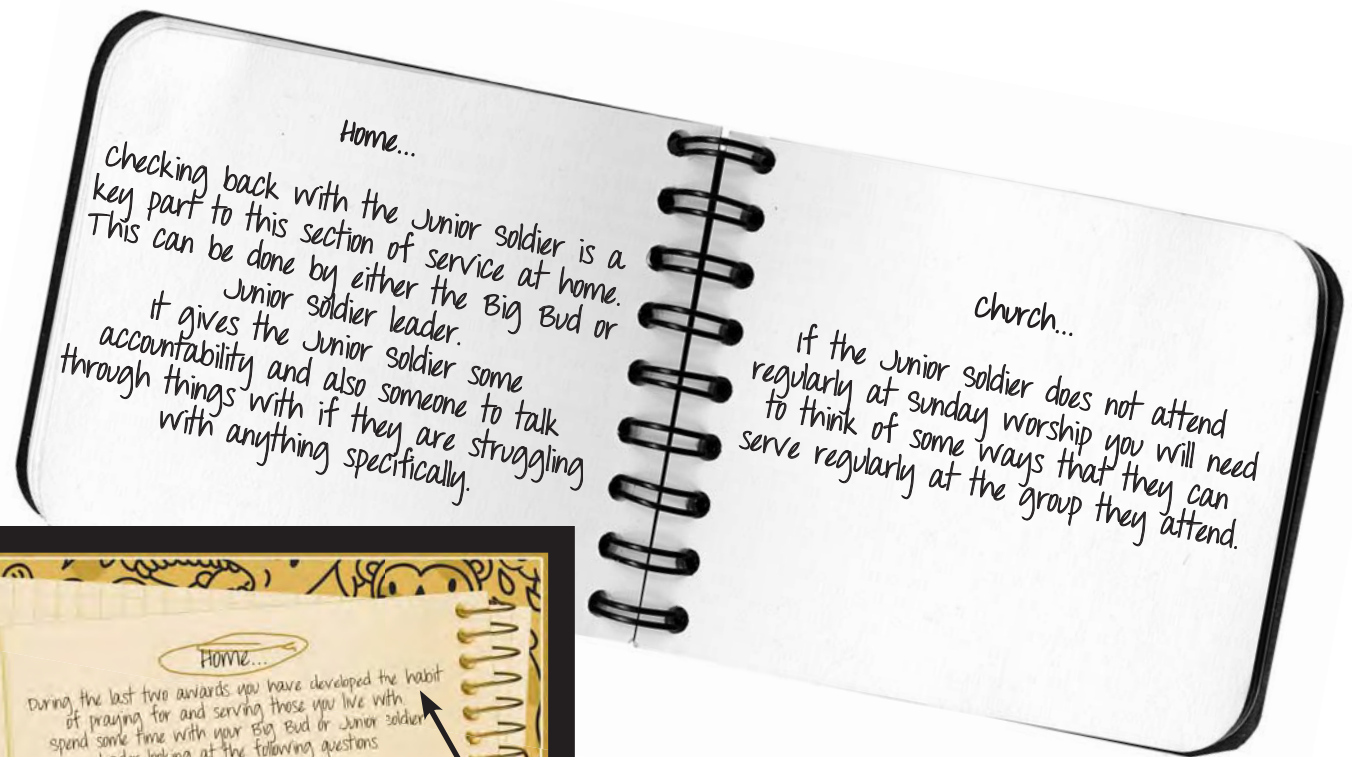
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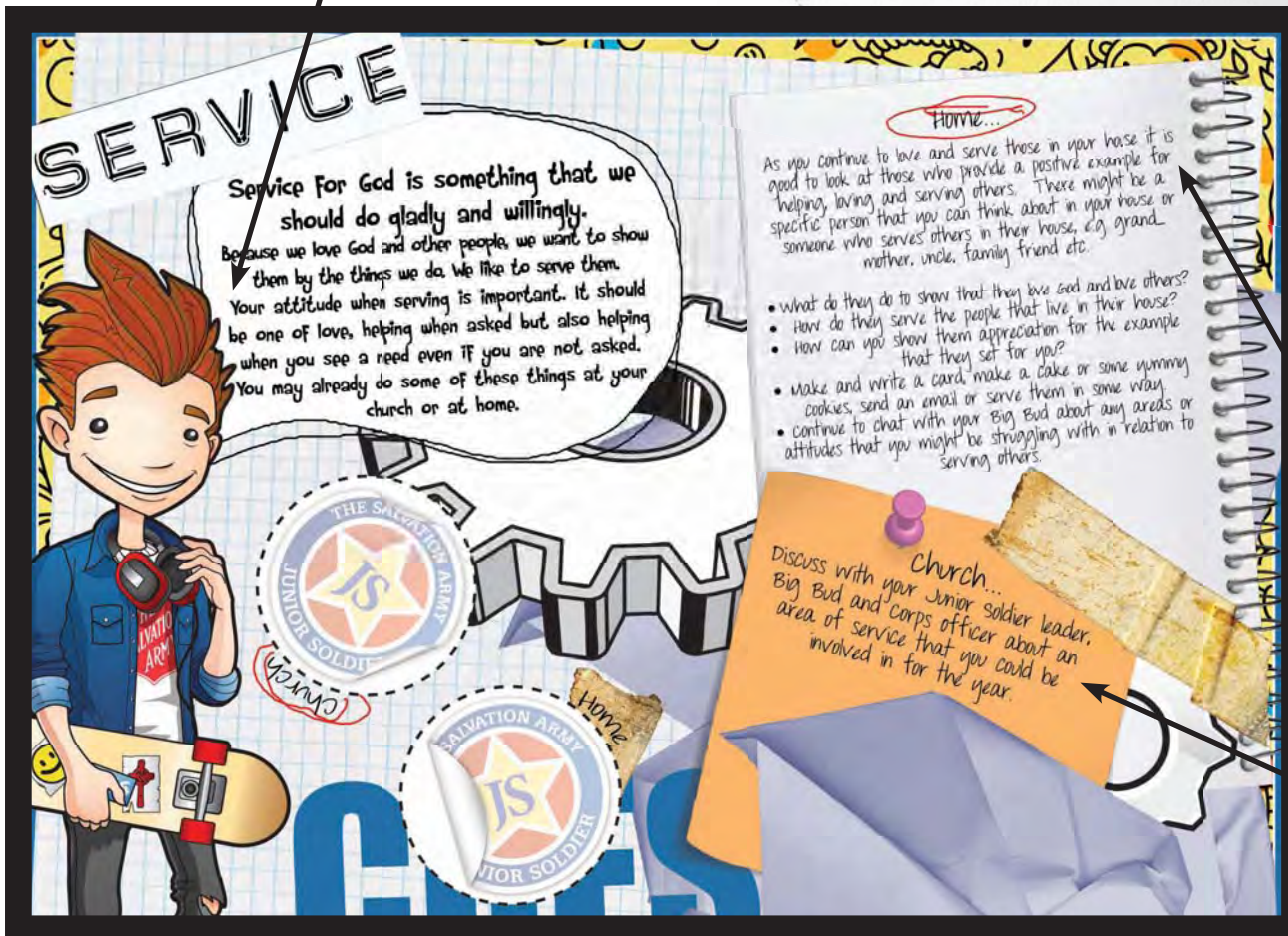
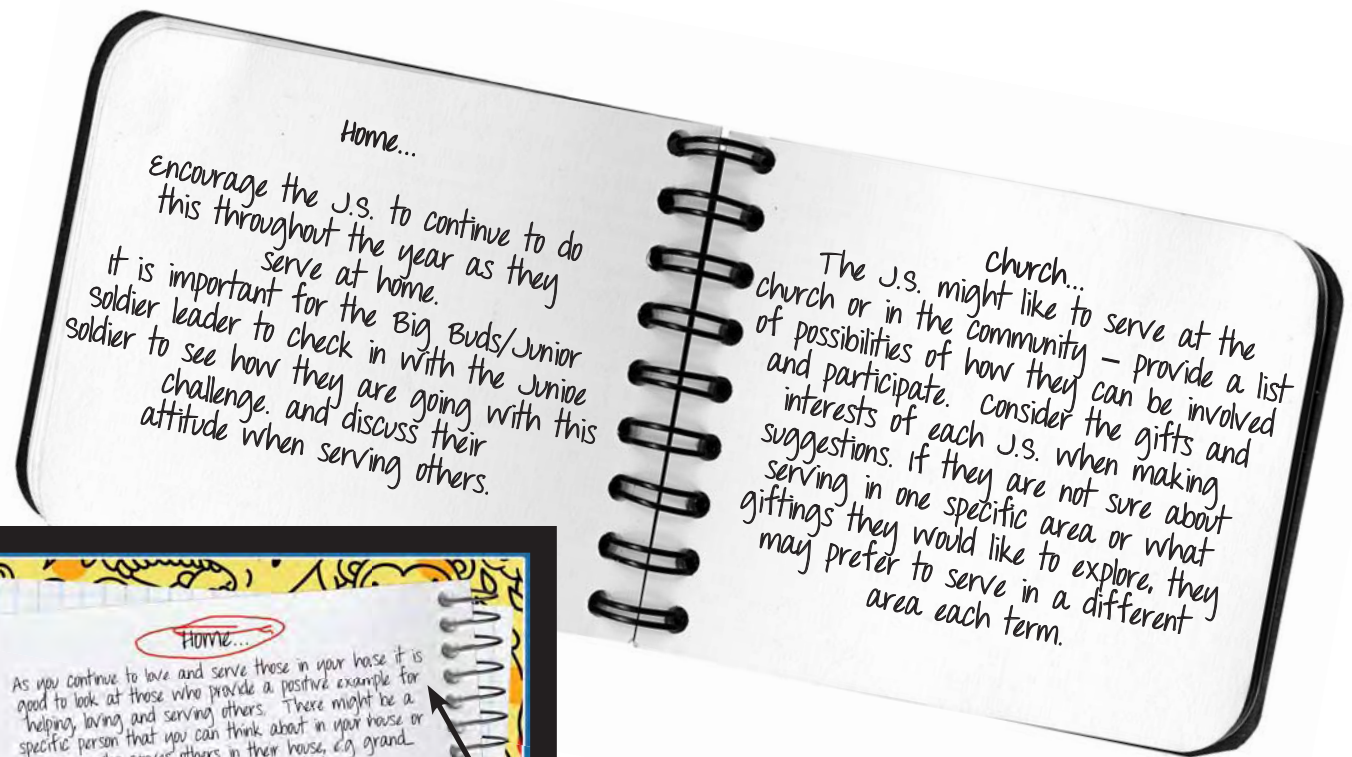
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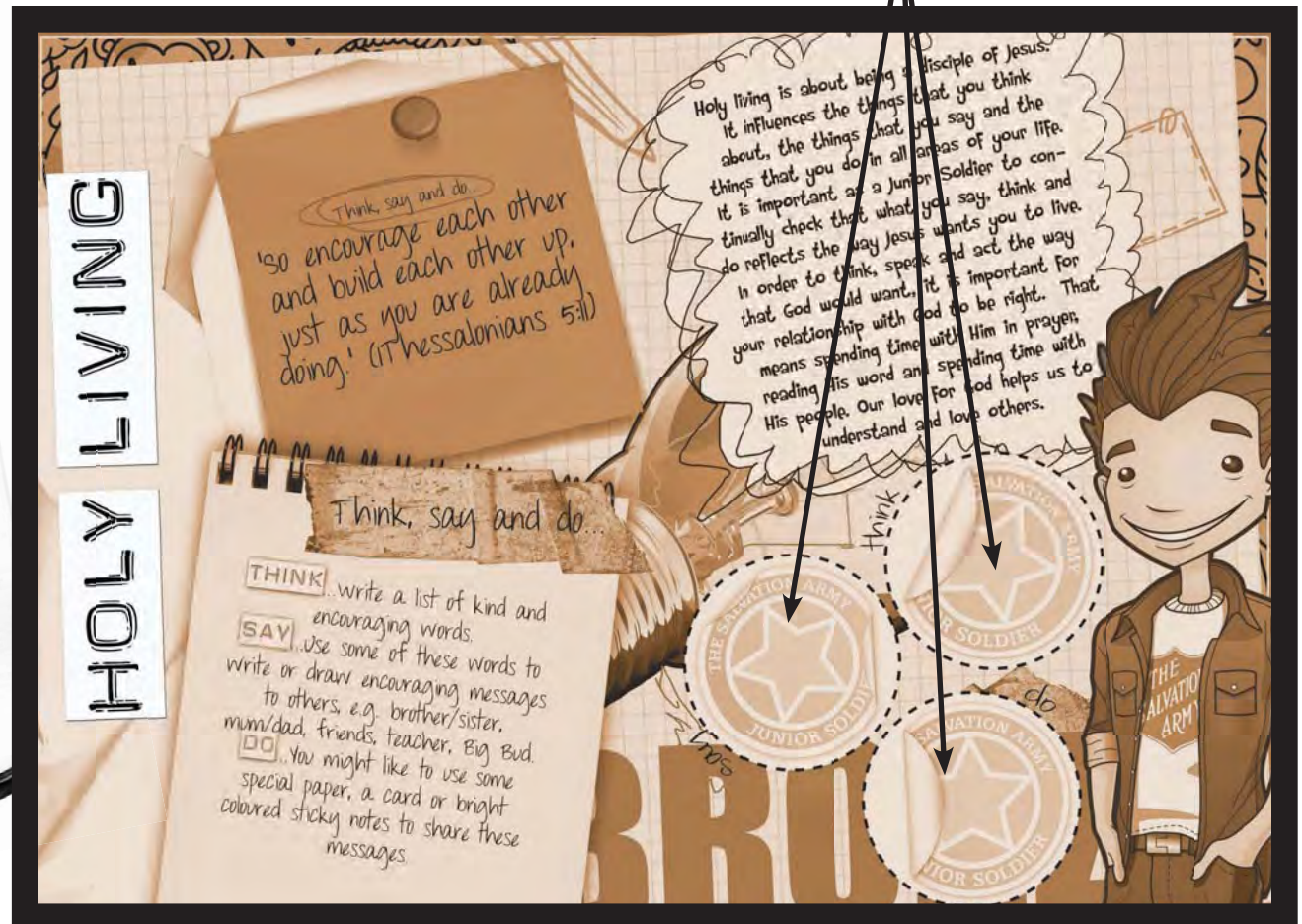
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THINK, SAY & DO...

In order for the Junior soldier to really engage with questions about holiness, it is important for you, as their mentor, to share some of the areas that you find difficult in your thinking, words and behaviour. It is also important to pray for each other and reconnect with this topic at a later stage. Follow up the Junior soldier to help with the things that they struggle with or that cause them concern

and encourage them when attitudes and behaviours have changed or improved. Your Junior soldiers will learn about the importance of these areas when you take the time to chat to them, follow them up and encourage their development.

Bronze, Silver and Gold all have challenges for
THINK, SAY and DO ...



THINK, SAY & DO...

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Bronze, Silver and Gold all have challenges for THINK, SAY and DO ...

HOLY LIVING

Think, say and do...

The scriptures say, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind." They also say, "Love your neighbors as much as you love yourself." Luke 10:27

Think, say and do...

Spend some time with your Big Bud or Junior soldier leader reflecting on the following. It might be good to write some of the responses in your journal so that you can come back to them at a later stage with God and your Big Bud/J.S. leader.

THINK ... spend some time with your Big Bud or Junior soldier leader reflecting on the following. It might be good to write some of the responses in your journal so that you can come back to them at a later stage with God and your Big Bud/J.S. leader.

SAY ... Are the words that you use always pleasing to God? why/why not/unsure?

DO ... is the way that you behave and the things that you do always pleasing to God? why/why not/unsure?

Talk together about some ways to help with the things that you find difficult in the above areas. Pray about these things together and promise to pray for each other about the things that you each find difficult.

Holy living is about being a disciple of Jesus. It influences the things that you think about, the things that you say and the things that you do in all areas of your life. It is important as a Junior Soldier to continually check that what you say, think and do reflects the way Jesus wants you to live. In order to think, speak and act the way that God would want, it is important for your relationship with God to be right. That means spending time with Him in prayer, reading His word and spending time with His people. Our love for God helps us to understand and love others.

THINK

SAY

DO

THE SALVATION ARMY JUNIOR SOLDIER

THE SALVATION ARMY JUNIOR SOLDIER

THE SALVATION ARMY JUNIOR SOLDIER

THE SALVATION ARMY JUNIOR SOLDIER

THINK

It is important during this challenge that the Big Bud or Junior soldier leader share their own struggles in this area. This will help the Junior soldier to not feel as if it is just them facing challenges. It is also important that they can talk to you about this, but don't get stuck on the negatives. Helping them with some strategies and scripture is an important aspect.

SAY & DO...

This is something that should be done over a period of time and not be expected to be completed in one sitting. It is important to make note of the prayer items and check back with the Junior soldier to see how they are going with their challenges for thinking, saying and doing.

SAY & DO are combined in the challenges for the crest award. You will only need two stickers for this page...

HOLY LIVING

Think, say and do...
 spend some time with your Big Bud/J.S. leader looking at the following verse Matthew 5:44 (CEV).
☐ who do you think your enemies are?
☐ How hard is it to love and pray for those who don't like you or who bully you?
☐ Reflect on the following...

Think, say and do...

THINK Is there a friendship or other relationship that you are finding challenging? It might be someone you don't like at school, a brother or sister you don't get on with at home or adults that you find difficult to respect etc.
☐ Make a commitment to pray about and for that person so that God can help you to change your thinking about them. 'But I tell you to love your enemies and to pray for anyone who mistreats you.' (Matthew 5:44)
 spend some time with your Big Bud/J.S. leader looking at Luke 6:45 (CEV)
☐ what do you think this verse means to you as a Junior Soldier?
☐ How do the feelings you hold in your heart affect your words and actions?
☐ Think about some of the things you say to or about people that are not pleasing to God.
☐ Think about some of the things you do or ways you behave that are not pleasing to God.
☐ The Bible passage says that your words show what is in your heart. What do you need ask 'for the Holy Spirit to change in your heart?'
SAY & DO ...what words or actions are you going to commit to pray for and change? Write them in your journal so that you can come back to this at a later stage with God and your Big Bud

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THE SALVATION ARMY JUNIOR SOLDIER

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THE SALVATION ARMY

WORSHIP

Worship is everything that we do because we love God. Worship is the way we express ourselves because God loves us and we love Him. That might be at church with a bunch of other people or it might be reading the Bible or praying in a quiet place on our own; it might be serving others or speaking in a loving and positive way. It is important to look at what you have done already in relation to 'participation', 'prayer', 'the Bible', 'Holy Living' and 'service' for your award. These are all parts of worshipping God, showing Him and others that we love God. It is important to join together with others to worship God, as much as it is to worship God on our own and in the things we do. Make sure as a Junior Soldier you are worshipping God both corporately and individually.

As a Junior Soldier group, join together in planning and preparation for the renewal day service at your church. For individuals and small groups you might like to include Big Buds and choose some other people to be involved in this preparation and planning for the service. In the preparation and planning you will need to work and consult with the corps officer and Junior Soldier leaders.

CREST



Leaders Notes...

Resources are provided each year for a theme and outline that will assist you and the Junior Soldiers in planning and preparing for this meeting. It is important firstly to meet together with the corps officer and YPSM (or equivalent) to talk about Junior Soldier Renewal day and this requirement of the Junior Soldier awards. Children should be given an opportunity to seriously consider renewing their promise prior to the day.

We should be prepared to consider decisions children may make not to renew their promise. You may need to think about how you will deal with that situation should it arise. If you are unsure talk to your DYS or Co. You make like to include your entire congregation in the renewal section of the service, offering senior soldiers, adherents and adult believers at your corps an opportunity to renew their own commitment as believers is a positive way of modeling our need to move forward in our relationship with Jesus at every age.



For the worship section, all four levels have the same requirements. It is important to work as a team for this section with involvement from all...





For the project section, all four levels have the same requirements. It is important to work as a team for this section and slot in an agreed group project for both local and global focus...



Even though you will have Junior soldiers working on different award levels, for this section we encourage all the children to work together on an agreed project. (J.S. should record both the local and global agreed projects in the space provided.) working together on a project gives children an experience of supporting each other, learning from each other and what it's like to make a bigger difference – being a united front. It is important to try and develop this behavior in your Junior soldiers; it is about who they are as a follower of Jesus and we would want it to be a natural part of

their thinking and behaving. You will need to look at the list of suggestions of how you might like to make a difference in your local community as well as the global community. However, the list is not exhaustive. Feel free to come up with your own projects that will challenge the children about being change makers; we would love to hear some of your ideas too. This is helpful for other groups who might benefit from your ideas. It is also great to involve the children in the process of coming up with ideas as to how they might be able to help locally and globally.

At the end of each passport you
will find a certificate of completion...



An official certificate of completion
will also be sent from the division...