



**TRAIL
LIFE
USA**

Apologetics II

Name _____

While the word apologetics is related to the word apology, apologetics does not mean being sorry or apologizing for what you believe. Rather apologetics is a defense of the Christian Faith; answering the objections or questions of an unbeliever. The Apologetics II Trail Badge focuses on the accuracy of the Bible and the historicity, divinity and resurrection of Jesus. It also requires some active use or application of apologetics with another person/s.

Do all of the following requirements (1-3)

1. Determine what the Bible claims about itself by researching these scriptures: 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; Exodus 34:27; 2 Peter 3:15-16; John 5:39-40.
2. Explain why attitude, listening, self-control, wisdom, humility, and most especially love are important characteristics to develop and use when engaging a non-Christian or a skeptic in an apologetic communication.
3. Present a defense of your faith based on what you learned from completing all other requirements for this badge.

Do one (1) requirement in each of the four (4) different topics below (4-18)

Bible

Trail Life USA believes "the Holy Scriptures (Old and New Testaments) to be the inspired and authoritative Word of God." This statement is often under attack.

4. Research how many copies of ancient manuscripts of the New Testament and Old Testament exist compared to how many ancient manuscripts of Homer, Plato, and Aristotle exist.
5. Tell the story of the finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls to a younger Patrol or your Patrol including how many Old Testament books were found and their condition.
6. Copy a chapter of the Bible by hand, doing so prayerfully and thinking about the words. Have a parent review and find your mistakes. Research how the scribes of the past prevented such errors.
7. Tell why it is reasonable to assume the Old Testament was written early. Research the Code of Hammurabi.



Historicity of Jesus

Christianity claims that Jesus is a real person who lived in a specific place at a specific time.

8. Do the following:
- a. Look up and read the following passages: Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 2:1, 22; Luke 3:1-2; John 19:15-16; Matthew 26:3-5; Matthew 27:1-2.
 - b. Discuss why understanding the historical setting when Jesus lived was important to reading and understanding to the New Testament writers.
 - c. Discuss what you learned about the time and culture that Jesus lived in and how that is different from today.
9. Other ancient texts make reference to Jesus and his followers. Among these are Josephus, Tacitus, and Pliny the Younger. Find three ancient references to Jesus or Christians. Write a one-page essay or create a presentation quoting these sources.
10. Read the presentation, "Why Jesus?—The Historical Jesus." (see Apologetics Resources) Tell what you found most convincing.

Divinity of Jesus

Christianity traditionally teaches that Jesus was more than just a man; they believe that Jesus is both fully God and fully man.

11. Do a Bible Study.
- a. Read Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 1:1; Philippians 2:5-8; John 10:30; John 1:1, 14; John 20:28; Matthew 14:33.
 - b. List all those who took Jesus to be divine.
12. Create a presentation for the Liar, Lunatic, or Lord argument.
13. Create a skit discussing the divinity of Jesus.

Resurrection

The resurrection of Jesus is a key belief and doctrine of the Christian faith.

14. Research passages for the resurrection: Matthew 27:62-66; Matthew 28:1-7; Mark 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-7; John 20:1-9; 1 Corinthians 15:17. Tell what you learned regarding the resurrection.
15. Research what is known about how each of the following of Jesus disciples died: Andrew, Bartholomew, James Alphaeus, James Zebedee, Jude, Mathew, Peter, Simon, and Thomas. Discuss if they would have died in these manners if Jesus was not resurrected.

- 16. Research how many eyewitnesses the New Testament says saw the resurrected Christ. List the passages.
- 17. Read Deut. 19:15. Are eyewitnesses considered "direct evidence" at court? Create a court room skit with witnesses.
- 18. Doubters propose various alternatives to resurrection. Among these are the swoon, hallucination, and theft theories. Research what they are and form an apologetic response to these arguments.

Direct Apologetic Engagement:

Perform any one (1) of the below (19-25) direct uses of apologetics and write a one-page paper regarding your experiences.

- 19. Engage in a formal debate or informal debate with a non-Christian.
- 20. Spend one hour on a high school or college campus doing evangelistic surveys and dialogue with the students.
- 21. Describe any conversation you have had in the past with an unbelieving friend, neighbor or family member and recount how the conversation went. What occurred, what arguments were exchanged and what would you have done differently if you had to do it over again.
- 22. Share the Four Spiritual Laws, Evangelism Explosion's Two Question Test or some other evangelistic tool that shares the Gospel with another person.
- 23. Stage a mock debate with another Christian who pretends to make the arguments of an atheist or skeptic before some group of people.
- 24. Research and discuss with a Trail Badge Mentor who shares your faith tradition three areas of Theological disagreement among Christian faith traditions. Discuss the opposing viewpoints, how the differences arose, and what can be done to promote unity among the Church.
- 25. Under the supervision of your parent or adult guardian and Trail Badge Mentor, research an apologetics question of interest to you from a credible source. Discuss why you researched that particular question and what you learned.

Trail Badge Mentor Signature

Date

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Apologetics Resources

If your specific faith tradition relies on a Catechism or similar published teaching instrument that is viewed within your tradition as authoritative inasmuch as it clarifies, reinforces, and supplements the lessons of Holy Scripture, consult that published resource. Discuss these teachings with a Trail Badge Mentor who shares your faith tradition.

Existence of God Resources:

As of April 2018, "Twenty Arguments for God's Existence" can be found on Dr. Peter Kreeft's website at http://www.peterkreeft.com/topics-more/20_arguments-gods-existence.htm

Historicity of Jesus Resources:

As of April 2018, the presentation "Why Jesus?—The Historical Jesus" can be found at http://www.apologetics315.com/2013/07/free-essential-apologetics-powerpoint_29.html

Activity Resources:

Some possible apologetics movies include: *The Case for Christ* or one of the *God's not Dead* movies.

Some possible apologetics ministries include:

Ravi Zacharias Ministries - <http://rzim.org>

Reasonable Faith (William Lane Craig) - <http://www.reasonablefaith.org>

Josh McDowell Ministry - <http://www.josh.org>

Stand to Reason (Greg Koukl, et. al.) - <https://www.str.org>

Some possible apologists include: Justin Martyr, Thomas Aquinas, Blaise Pascal, C. S. Lewis, or Francis Schaeffer.

Some possible apologetics books include:

- Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis
- More than a Carpenter* by Josh McDowell
- The Reason for God* by Tim Keller
- The God Who is There* by Francis Schaeffer
- Orthodoxy* by G. K. Chesterton

General Resources:

There are many handbooks and reference books on apologetics. A few popular ones are:

- Handbook of Christian Apologetics* by Kreeft & Tacelli
- Holman QuickSource Guide to Christian Apologetics* by Doug Powell
- Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics* by Norman Geisler
- www.Formed.org, www.Catholic.com, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- New Dictionary of Christian Apologetics* by Evans, Campbell-Jack, McGrath
- Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith* by Douglas Groothius

This Elective Badge has been reviewed and approved by the National Catholic Committee for Trail Life USA.