
WE’RE AMERICANS AND WE’RE MUSLIMS

The members of Santa Clara Muslim Girl Scout Troop #856 have made a pledge to serve their community, their country and God. The American values that we all cherish—like service, charity and tolerance—are the same values that Muslims are taught to uphold in daily life.

Muslim life and worship are structured around the Five Pillars of Islam—faith, prayer, helping the needy, fasting, and pilgrimage. The third pillar teaches that all things belong to God and are only held in trust by humans, so as Muslims we are expected to share a percentage of our wealth every year to help the poor.

Devotion to God and the teachings of Islam strengthen our commitment to community and country. Like Americans of all faiths, we use the principles of our religion to guide us in an ever-changing world, and we teach our children to respect the values that make our country a secure place for all Americans.

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CAIR
COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS

Number two of fifty-two in the *Islam in America* series. To learn more about the series, visit www.americansmuslims.info
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MY NAME IS AMINAH KAPADIA, and I’m a wife, a mom and a student. I’m studying for a Masters degree in education, and I volunteer at our children’s school, where I’m also active in the PTA. I was born in Philadelphia, to Puerto Rican parents, and have lived in the United States my entire life. My husband, Zubin, is from India, but has called America home for more than thirty years. He’s an attorney and former economic officer for the U.S. Department of State. Now he spends his time running a consulting firm and coaching our sons’ T-ball and soccer teams.

Like many Americans, my husband and I face the challenge of raising our children in an unpredictable world. That’s why the basic principles of our religion, like tolerance, justice and devotion to family, are a central part of our lives. As the Prophet Muhammad told us, “The best of you is he who is best to his family. None of you will have faith until he wants for his brother what he wishes for himself.”

We believe the security of our nation is dependent upon the strength of our families, and Islam teaches us the values that provide that strength.

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