

The MacScouter's Big “A Scout is Reverent” Resource Book



**A Compilation of Resources to Support
Preparations for the Scouts Own and
to Support Spiritual Growth within the Troop**

Table of Contents

Paragraph Title

Page

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Table of Contents

Paragraph Title	Page
INTRODUCTION	10
An Introduction to the Scouts Own	10
An Introduction to Spiritual Development	11
Acknowledgments	11
SUMMARIES OF SOME OF WORLD RELIGIONS	12
Hinduism	12
Judaism	12
Christianity	13
Islam	13
Sikhism	13
Buddhism	14
THE SCOUTS OWN	15
An Outline Scouts' Own For a Formal Situation	15
Some Ideas on Scouts' Owns	15
SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES	16
Wisdom (To develop an inner discipline and training.)	16
Scout Section	16
Wisdom (To develop an inner discipline and training.)	16
Venture / older Scout Section	16
Work (To be involved in corporate activities.)	17
Scout Section	17
Work (To be involved in corporate activities.)	18
Venture / older Scout Activities	18
Wonder (To understand the natural world around us.)	18
Scout Section	18
Wonder (To understand the natural world around us.)	18
Venture / older Scout Activities	18
Welcome (To help create a more tolerant and caring society.)	19
Scout Section	19
Welcome (To help create a more tolerant & caring society.)	19
Venture / older Scouting Section	19
Worship (To discover the need for prayer and worship.)	20
Scout Section	20
Worship (To discover the need for prayer and worship.)	20
Venture / older Scout Activities	20
CALLS TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATIONS	22
A PSALM FOR THE THANK OFFERING	22
PRAYERS	24
Thanksgiving for Scout Brotherhood	24
A Scout is a Friend to All	24
Thanks for the Beauty of Children	24
For Harmony Amongst Ourselves	24
Leadership	24
The Quest of Beauty	24
Live Together in Love and Joy and Peace	24
To Be Scoutlike	24
For Our Country	25
For Courage and Strength	25
A Closing Prayer	25
Benediction	25
Prayers for Peace from Westminster Abbey	25
For the Joy of the Year	25

Table of Contents

Paragraph Title	Page
Prayer of Thanks Giving	25
Prayer of Thanks for the Founder	25
God of the Open Air	25
God of the Sea	26
We Thank Thee	26
Camping in the Snow	26
Beaver Prayer	26
A Scout's Prayer	26
Prayer for Peace	26
Sioux Prayer	26
Thanks Be to God	26
Beaver Prayer II	27
Lord We Thank You	27
We Thank You Lord	27
Please help us	27
Jamaican Camp Grace	27
Lord's Prayer	27
Canoeing Prayer	27
Beaver Prayer III	27
Guide us Through and Out	27
God of the Universe	28
Gaelic Prayer	28
Prayer from the West Indies	28
Lord's Prayer for Beavers	28
Black Elk: Earth Prayer & The Sunset	28
The Sunset	28
Great Spirit Prayer	28
Clean Hands	29
Wae Wae Non Ne Mot	29
Big Thunder (Bedagi), late 19th century Algonquin	29
Wisdom, Knowledge and Understanding	29
The Circle Of Life	30
An Indian Prayer	30
Second Step Prayer	31
Third Step Prayer	31
Fourth Step Prayer	31
Seventh Step Prayer	31
OH, GREAT SPIRIT	31
SONGS	32
Michael Row the Boat Ashore	32
Amazing Grace	32
This is my Father's World	32
Scout Vespers	32
Kum Ba Ya	32
God Bless America	33
Let There Be Peace on Earth	33
For the Beauty of the Earth	33
Morning Has Broken	33
America the Beautiful	33
Kum bah yah	34
Church in the Wildwood	34
On Top of Old Smokey (Scout Version)	34
Morning Has Broken	34
SHORT SUBJECTS	35

Table of Contents

Paragraph Title	Page
This Is The Beginning Of A Brand New Day	35
Help Us To Understand Our Promise Better	35
As I Start Upon My Chosen Way	35
Silent Prayer For Our Brothers	35
Your tasks - To build a better world	35
Salutation to the Dawn	36
Wood Campfires	36
Some Thoughts	36
Real Religion	36
God Give Me A Task Too Big	36
Could You Afford It?	37
I Know Not Where	37
The Log in the Woods	37
The Precious Pearl	38
Let Me Live Each Day	38
God Forgive Me When I Whine	38
I Thank You Just for Life	39
An Irish Blessing	39
Simple Easy and Wrong	39
Gifts	40
Clear Morning	40
Love	40
A Thought	40
Declaration	40
Good News	41
Present Tense	41
Take Time	41
Campers	42
Rainbow	42
A True Friend	42
Needs	43
A Camper's Ten Commandments	43
Give Thanks	43
Isn't It Funny	43
Some Thoughts	44
Measurements	44
Some Thoughts	44
God Surrounds Us	44
Be At Peace	44
Think Truly	44
Friendship: from India	44
The Spirit Lives	45
Success	46
The Best We Can Be	46
The Rule of Three	46
Count That Day Lost	46
Three Things Come Not Back	47
It Couldn't Be Done	47
Broken Dreams	47
Native American Commandments	48
Desiderata	49
Don't Quit	49
Footprints	49
The Gal in the Glass	50

Table of Contents

Paragraph Title	Page
The Man in the Glass	50
Just for today	50
Risk	51
Sanskrit proverb	51
Prayer of Saint Francis Assisi	51
Take Time	51
Today's Thought	51
Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow	52
RESPONSIVE READINGS	53
The Boy Scout Promise: A Responsive Reading	53
Psalm 23	53
The Scout Law: A Responsive Reading	54
The Scout Law Litany	55
The Scout Oath	56
The Boy Scout Law I	56
The Boy Scout Law II	57
The Boy Scout Law III	58
The Girl Scout Law	59
INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS AND MESSAGES	60
The Golden Principle	60
The Scout Beatitudes	60
Understanding	60
The Deck of Cards	61
The Deck of Cards (Tex Ritter Version)	61
Servants	62
Sermons We See	62
Lincoln as Pastor and Lawyer	63
Different Approaches to God	64
A Strong Combination	64
Not A Man's Footprint	64
Reverence	64
Peace and Brotherhood (readings from the Koran, of Islam)	64
Pure Thought	65
Good Neighbor and Sharing	65
People of All Colors	65
Who Is Listening?	65
An Examination of Conscience for Scouts	66
Twelve Guidelines for Living ...	67
A Friend	68
Our Vision for Tomorrow	68
Not Without Getting Wet	69
The Way of Tolerance	69
Which Am I?	69
God's Creatures	70
Created Equal	70
On Reverence	70
I Am A Link	70
Footsteps	70
Measuring Men	70
Peace	71
Differing Opinions	71
Planting Seeds of Peace	71
To Think About	71
Prayer 1	71

Table of Contents

Paragraph Title	Page
Prayer 2 The Prayer of St. Francis	71
O Lord, Reform the World -- Beginning With Me.	71
Results Reached Far	72
Trust	72
From "The Gospel of the Redman" Concept of Peace	72
DRAMA	74
I didn't call you, I'm Praying! Worship Skit	74
BENEDICTIONS	77
Short Benedictions	77
An Old Irish Blessing	77
The Scoutmaster's Benediction	77
A thought for Closing	77
Closing Ceremony Thoughts	77
Rope Circle Closing	78
GRACES	79
God Has Created A New Day	79
Hark To The Chimes	79
If We Have Earned The Right	79
Neath These Tall Green Trees	79
Scottish Grace	79
Wayfarer's Grace	79
Blessing Hymn	79
Amazing Grace	79
Like The Pearl	79
May God Bless	79
Orchard And Ocean	79
Time To Eat	80
Let's Join Hands	80
Amen	80
We Know, We Know	80
World Hunger Grace	80
Namaste	80
Thank Thee	80
God Is Great	80
Thank The Lord	80
He Hears	80
Lord, God Of Power	80
Forever And A Day	80
God Made The Mountains	81
May	81
God Is So Very Good	81
Spirit Eternal	81
Before The Night	81
Merci Beaucoup	81
Hawaiian Grace	81
Alleluia	81
Be Present	81
For Health And Strength	82
Jubilate Deo	82
Gelobet	82
Gracias Senor	82
Everyday	82
Thanks Be To God	82
Indian Taps	82

Table of Contents

Paragraph Title	Page
Let Us Break Bread Together	82
Thanks To God	82
God Our Father	82
Good Morning God	83
Bless Our Food	83
Thank You For The World So Sweet	83
We Gather Together	83
Mountain Meadows Grace	83
A Grateful Heart	83
A Kindergartner's Prayer	83
A Blessing	83
Bless This House	83
God Is Great, God Is Good, Alleluia	83
God Our Father	83
Health and Strength	83
Johnny Appleseed	84
Peace Is	84
Thank Thee Heavenly Father	84
Thank You For The Food We Eat	84
The World Hunger Grace	84
Another "Indian/Native" Thanks	84
God is Great Rock Grace	84
Alleluia, Amen	84
The Sailors Grace	84
The Back of the Bread	84
Camp Tippicanoe Grace	85
Amen (Clap)	85
Board Is Spread	85
Praise Ye The Lord	85
Thank You Lord	85
Do We Ever?	85
Camp Graces	86
REFERENCE MATERIAL	87
Internet Resources:	87
Print Resources:	87
DATES OF RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES	89
Dates Of Religious Observances	90
EXPLANATORY NOTES	90
COMPLETE SCOUTS OWN SERVICES	92
Pack 92 Scouts Own Service, April 14, 1996	93
CALL TO PRAYER	93
Invocation	93
OPENING SONG	93
RESPONSIVE READING	93
A TRADITIONAL SCOUTING SONG	93
Reading	94
SILENT OBSERVANCE	94
A Thought for Scout Sunday	94
BENEDICTION	94
A Scouts' Own Service	95
Call to Worship	95
Opening Hymn	95
Invocation	95
Hymn	96

Table of Contents

Paragraph Title	Page
Responsive Reading	96
Meditation	96
Message	96
Benediction	97
A Scouts Own	98
Prayer - Venturer.	98
Yarn - Leader.	98
Prayer - Venturer 2.	98
Closing Prayer - Venturers.	98
A Scouts Own Service	100
Call To Worship (Chaplain Aide):	100
Opening Prayer (All):	100
Song: America (All)	100
Responsive Reading: The Scout Oath	100
Hymn: Oh Beautiful (All)	100
Prayer (chaplain aide):	100
Benediction (chaplain aide):	101
Interfaith Service	102
INVOCATION	102
HYMN	102
MEDITATION	102
HYMN	102
SERMON	102
OFFERING FOR WORLD FRIENDSHIP FUND	102
HYMN	102
SCOUTMASTER MINUTE	102
CLOSING PRAYER	102
GREAT SPIRIT PRAYER	102
MORNING GRACE	103
NOON GRACE	103
EVENING GRACE	103
Non-Denominational Worship Service For Worship In The Outdoors	104
CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 100: 1 - 3	104
OPENING HYMN - "Morning Has Broken"	104
SILENT PRAYER	104
PRAYER	104
OFFERING - For the World Friendship Fund	104
CLOSING HYMN - "This is My Father's World"	104
BENEDICTION - (sung to the tune: Edelweiss)	104
All-Faiths Service For Worship In The Outdoors	106
CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 100: 1 - 3	106
OPENING HYMN - "AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"	106
RESPONSIVE READING: - "Canticle of the Sun"	106
SONG: They That Wait Upon the Lord (in the songbook)	106
A Vietnam Buddhist Chant of Incense:	106
Silent Prayer:	107
HOMILY: "A Tell of Three Trees" - <i>as retold by Angela Elwell Hunt</i>	107
OFFERING - For the World Friendship Fund	107
CLOSING HYMN - "God Bless America"	107
BENEDICTION - (spoken or sung to the tune: Edelweiss)	107

Introduction

This book is a compilation of Scouts Own and religious resources gathered from a wide variety of sources. These resources arrived directly from Scouters and were also gathered from many World Wide Web sites. The goal here is to gather together sufficient resources in one location, so that it can be provided to a Troop or group of adult Scouters, to aid in the regular preparation of the Scouts Own, and also to support spiritual growth within the organization.

"The scout, in his promise, undertakes to do his duty to his king and country only in the second place; his first duty is to God. It is with this idea before us and reckoning that God is the one Father of us all, that we scouts count ourselves a brotherhood despite the differences among us of country, creed, or class. We realize that in addition to the interest of our particular country, there is a higher mission before us - namely, the promotion of the kingdom of God; that is, the rule of peace and goodwill on earth. In the Scouts, each form of religion is respected and its active practice encouraged, and through the spread of brotherhood in all countries, we have the opportunity of developing the spirit of mutual goodwill and understanding.

"There is no religious side of the movement. The whole of it is based on religion that is, on the realization and service to God.

"Let us, therefore, in training our Scouts, keep the higher aims in the forefront, not let themselves get too absorbed in the steps. Don't let the technical outweigh the moral, Field efficiency, backwoodsmanship, camping, hiking, good turns, jamboree, and comradeship are, by all means not the end. The end is character with a purpose.

"And that purpose, that the next generation may be sane in a insane world, and develop the higher realization of service, active service of love, and duty to God and neighbor.

"Our objective in the scout movement is to give such help as we can in bringing about God's kingdom on earth by inoculating among the youth the spirit and the daily practice in their lives of selfish goodwill and cooperation."

-- Baden-Powell

An Introduction to the Scouts Own

The founder of Scouting, Robert Baden-Powell, believed that Reverence and Duty to God should be an important part of the Scout Movement and of every Scout and Scouter. He originated the notion of Scout's Own ..."a gathering the Scouts for the worship of God and to promote fuller realization of the Scout Law and Promise, but supplementary to, and not in substitution for, regular religious observances." (Aids to Scoutmastership, p.38)

Let us first consider what Scouts' Owns are not.

- They are not Church Services, nor are they meant to be a substitute for them.
- They are not a structured liturgy like the Book of Common Order, etc.
- They are not a good opportunity for the Leader to bang home some truths with a little bit of God added for effect.
- They are not necessarily the Chaplains or Leaders' department or duty.

Given those guidelines, let's define what Scouts' Owns are. This is not what they ought to be - this is what they are; and if they do not fulfill one or more of these categories, they are not Scouts' Owns.

- They are an acknowledgment of God and his creation and ourselves as part of it, expressed in a way that all the faiths that Scouting embraces can share together.
- They are a pause in our activity to discover something deeper and more permanent in the things we are trying to achieve or learn or enjoy.
- They are a response to the Creator for the gift of life.

Which means, of course, they can be almost everything from a time of silence through a single sentence right up to a kind of service of worship that might include music and singing and stories and readings and prayers. In other words, although the next few paragraphs and pages suggest some material that could be useful for a Scouts' Own and end with a couple of outlines that might be useful for a colony/pack/troop/unit evening or in camp, there really is no "proper form."

For example, a group of Venture Scouts [older Scouts or high adventure group] may get to the summit of a mountain after a difficult or challenging rock climb and as they stand or sit down to recover and enjoy the view, one of them says, with feeling, "Thank God we made it!" and the others respond "Too right" (in context, another word for "Amen"), conscious or not, they have experienced a Scouts' Own, because they have recognized both their achievement and their growing because of it. The glory of a sunset and the breaking of the dawn; the sky at night, the hills by day and the flickering friendship round a camp-fire are absolutely natural settings for thinking --

sometimes silently, sometimes aloud -- about the power that is the beginning and end of everything and our human place in the complex order of the universe. And that's a Scouts' Own, without the need, even, for a mention of God by name -- only by implication. You see the point? A Scout's Own is really a spiritual experience that happens.

But sometimes, especially at the younger ages, it has to be underlined. So a game or an activity that has demanded effort in body or mind or in tolerance and team-work can, on the spot, be turned into a Scouts' Own with a thought and a "thank-you" for God -- no necessity for hymns or uniforms or readings. Of course, there is a place for a Scouts' Own with songs and readings -- when a time is set aside for God. Then it can be good to tell a story of adventure or challenge, where the people have relied on their faith -- whatever their faith -- in the Creator God to achieve their goal; and sing a campfire song or two about sharing and caring and serving. The song "Al lelu, alleluia, praise ye the Lord" can be fun, because, divided into two groups, one does the 'Alleluias' and the other the 'Praise ye the Lord' and whenever they are singing they stand and when not they sit. This is praise that is ordered chaos and fun. Maybe that's a good description of a true Scouts' Own.

And prayers. A lot of young folk today find prayer difficult, yet the best prayers come from them. The young Cub Scout who prays "Thank you God for making me" has hit the nail on the head that's a Scouts' Own in a sentence. So it is far better to let the young people make up their own prayers - maybe creating a Group book of prayers and use it, updating it year by year. As a Leader you will never quite match, for them, the depth of their own thinking.

Finally, having, hopefully, done away with the mystique surrounding and the necessity of formality or a formal structure for Scouts' Owns, we suggest you go and get on with them - and enjoy them!

An Introduction to Spiritual Development

Spiritual development within the organization may take on the aspects of a particularly religion, faith or sect, depending on the circumstances. This is where the sponsoring organization may or may not take on a significant role in this development. In general, we accept these principles of spiritual development.

- To develop an inner discipline and training
- To be involved in corporate activities
- To understand the natural world around them
- To help to create a more tolerant and caring society
- To discover the need for prayer and worship

Acknowledgments

This book is a compilation of Scouts Own resources from many different sources. Included are resources from the *Scout Is Reverent A Resource Packet* by the Programme and Training Committee, the Scottish Council, the Scout Association. (The Rev. Douglas Aitken, Karen Fulton, Gordon McCormack, Graham Usher, and Norrie Wilson are the writers.)

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Summaries of Some of World Religions

In our society today, it is very likely that you will have boys from different cultures and different religions in your Troop. Not just from the standpoint of Scouts Own preparation, but also to better understand your boys and be sensitive to their beliefs, it is a good idea to learn just a little bit about their religion. Here you will find brief descriptions of some of the world's major religions.

Hinduism

If you ever have a young person from the Hindu faith in your section or District, you are in touch with the distant eras of history, because Hinduism is the oldest of the world's religions and, partly because of that, it is different from most of the others. For example, it has no rigid set of beliefs, though the Hindu follower will pray with deep devotion before his Dharma or guiding spirit

To be a Hindu only two things are required -- to seek the truth and to do no harm to anyone. (Failing to help someone in need can be understood as doing them harm). In order to be able to do these two things properly, the Hindu must prepare his or her mind and body to be capable of undertaking them. Which is very much the heart of Scouting.

The Temple is the Hindu's holy place of prayer, but a room set aside for the purpose, or a tent is quite suitable for prayer and meditation. In fact, a Hindu will normally be prepared to use a church or other place of worship for his or her own devotions.

The Hindu symbol is important. Hindus do not have a word for God like Jews, Christians and Muslims. The essence of their faith is in the syllable AUM - the symbol - which describes the relationship of the "Spirit" or Brahman to the world: "A" stands for the power of God to create the universe; "U" stands for the power of God to preserve the universe; and "M" stands for the power of God to dissolve this universe.

There are two sets of holy writings - the "Isruti" which are divine and eternal; and the "smriti" which are less so. There are 1,000 chants or hymns. The Hindu believes that the great spirit appears in three forms - Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, using many different guises, human and animal. They also believe in the doctrine of reincarnation - that after this life we shall be born again in another body. The quality of a person's life this time helps determine in what kind of body they will appear next.

Most Hindus are vegetarian but some may enjoy chicken and lamb. Beef is strictly forbidden. Hindu Scouts are normally immaculately turned out and will readily join in a Scout's Own. Other Scouts will be welcome in the Hindu Temple.

The main Hindu festival is Diwali, the festival of lights celebrated toward the end of November. It would be good to ask a Hindu Scout to tell about it or tell a yarn from the long history of his faith.

Judaism

There are some Jewish Scout Groups and Jewish Scouts may find a place in one of them. But where there is no large Jewish community, it is very possible that a Jewish boy may want to join your Group and it is important that he is welcomed and his needs met.

Jews base their religious practice on the Law of God, the "Torah" found in the five Books of Moses -- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Although the stories in the early part of Genesis tell of the Creation of the world, the history of Judaism as such really begins with Abraham more than 3,000 years ago, who first recognized that there was only one Supreme Being. It was Abraham's trust in one God that was really the birth of Judaism. It was further developed when Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt towards the promised land. This was somewhere around 1300 BC. Two events from that time are much in the center of Jewish faith today. The first was the final plague on the people of Egypt, which persuaded Pharaoh to release the Israelites - the spirit of death killed the first-born of every Egyptian family. But it passed over the homes of the Israelites because their door posts were marked with the blood of a lamb. And the other event was the giving of the Ten commandments to Moses. Judaism was then, and still is today, based on a firm belief and active trust in God and in obedience to the rules of life contained in the Ten Commandments.

Jewish Scouts will want to keep the Sabbath, their holy day, which runs from sunset of Friday to sunset on Saturday. During these hours no work is done and families gather for a special meal on Friday to welcome the Sabbath, thanking God for his providence. They will go to worship in the Synagogue on the Sabbath. They will also keep the Passover, a festival remembering the spirit of death passing over the Israelite homes in Egypt. That is around mid April - it moves with the day of the new moon. And they will want to keep "Rosh Hashanah" (New

Year) and "Yom Kippur ('day of Atonement), very devotional festival around September. Jews do not eat pork and for festivals and holy days use special pots, pans and dishes for their festival food. Jewish Scouts will join in a Scout's Own and most normal Scout activities.

Christianity

In Britain and America, many Scouts come from a Christian background. Christianity grew out of Judaism. It's leader, Jesus of Nazareth, believed that he was chosen by God to call the people to a true faith and trust in God. His teaching was that God didn't just want people to keep the Jewish laws as a kind of ritual, He wanted them to live out their lives in love and care for their neighbors and for anyone in need - especially the poor and the oppressed. He criticized the chief Priests for keeping God in the Temple and turning the Temple into a business which made it hard for the poor to go to worship. The Chief Priests reacted by plotting to have Jesus killed. They persuaded the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, that Jesus was a political danger to him because the common people followed him and, although Pilate couldn't find any proof of the charge, he had Jesus whipped and crucified - nailed to a wooden cross - which was the Roman method of execution at the time. This was done on a Friday - the eve of the Jewish Sabbath. Christians call it Good Friday because they believe that when Jesus died, the forgiveness of God was released for human failure to love, serve and trust in God. Christians also believe that Jesus, having been buried in a cave, rose from the dead on the Sunday (Easter Day) and was seen by his followers many times over several weeks. Certainly, they believed this happened because many of them were executed for saying so and you don't die for something that you know isn't true. Those early followers were all Jews and it wasn't for some time that non-Jews were able to join the new community. It was probably about 30 years before they were called "Christians". It is estimated that there are about 12 billion people in the world who say they follow Jesus. They have special services and celebrations to mark his birth

- Christmas Day (25th December) and usually a service at midnight the night before; and at Easter on the Sunday before Easter (Palm Sunday), on Good Friday and, of course on Easter Day. Easter weekend often being a four day holiday, care should be taken to make sure that the significance of Easter for Christians at camp is not forgotten.

Islam

If you have a Muslim boy in your Group, you have a follower of a world religion of some billion members. And it is almost certain that your member will be a boy because it is unlikely that any Muslim girl will be allowed into Scouting - at least not yet. Islam is a way of life. Muslims are people of the "Book" - the "quar'an" or as we pronounce it, the "Koran". There are some common origins with Judaism - Arabs (Muslims) are said to be descended from Ishmael, who was the son of Hagar, the maidservant of Abraham's wife; Jews are descended from Isaac, the son of Sarah, Abraham's wife. So Islam, Judaism and Christianity are all very closely linked and while Jews and Muslims do not accept that Jesus was the Son of God, Muslims do accept him as a prophet. So Muslim Scouts ought to have no difficulty in sharing fully in a Scout's Own, where it is God who is worshipped. The Muslim boy has to learn the Koran by heart and will want to do his duty to Allah, which is his name for God. His religion has two pails, faith and action and both are essential to him. He has five pillars of faith. First, he believes in the unity of God and in Mohammed (Peace be unto Him) as His Last Messenger. Second, if he is of Scout age he will have to say prayers five times a day - and time must be allowed for this at camp and other events. And he will have to fulfill a special ritual washing before his prayers. Other boys should expect to see him at prayer and respect him for it. Then, third in the month of Ramadan, the Muslim boy will have to fast - have no food or drink - from sunrise to sunset. This is to help the rich experience the pain of the poor. But it will need understanding on the part of other boys and Leaders. At camp a Muslim will eat beef, chicken and lamb if it has been properly killed, but he will not eat pork. It is probably better to provide fish for meals along with cereals and vegetables and so on, because there will be no problem with them. The fourth pillar of the faith involves his giving to the needy, and fifth, if possible, is a pilgrimage to Mecca. The five pointed star in the symbol is a reminder of the five pillars, while the crescent is the sign that the Islamic month begins with the appearance of each new moon. A Muslim will be supported by his parents.

Sikhism

If you have a Sikh in you Group, there will be no mistaking him for he will be wearing a turban on his head to cover his uncut hair. Sometimes, for sport and games and in camp he will dispense with the turban and tie his hair in a knot or bun on the top of his head with a kind of folded handkerchief on it. This is known as a Pukta. That will

give him more flexibility to join in the fun. But the turban to a Sikh is very important because it symbolizes generosity, truthfulness, maturity, piety and fearlessness. Maybe that's why most Sikhs have the name "Singh" which means "lion".

The Sikh faith is really a break-away from the Hindu faith and dates back to the second half of the 15th Century when its founder - Guru Nanek - lived. Guru really means "teacher" and the most commonly used name for God in the Sikh Faith is Sat Guru - being the teacher. The name "Sikh" literally means disciple.

The reason this religion was founded was to provide a faith that crossed the barriers between religions. The very first thing that Guru Nanek said was "There is no Hindu, there is no Muslim."

The whole practice of the Sikh religion is the brotherhood of all people - something like the concept of Scouting. They believe in one God whose name is true, who is the Creator and who has been, is now and will be in every age. But the Sikh believes that it is impossible to gain a concept of God; it is his duty only to worship him and follow his way. The Sikh faith has no ministers or priests and anyone can lead worship. Sikh hymns are usually played on drums and sitars (that's a kind of Guitar). There are no restrictions on food, though many Sikhs are vegetarian.

Sikh girls are treated as equals in orthodox families, so they may be interested in sharing in a Venture Scout Unit [Explorer Post] or as a leader in one of the other sections. Both boys and girls, young men and young women will be happy to share in a Scouts' Own because they are encouraged to pray to God as much as possible and to share their goods with the needy. Anyone is welcome at a Gurdwara, which is the name for a Sikh Temple. Sikh's celebrate the birthdays of Guru Nanek at the end of November and Guru Gobind Singh around Christmas time.

Buddhism

There aren't a great many Buddhists outside Asia and the far East, but many of Scouts from Japan, for example, who attend Jamborees and Jamborettes are Buddhist by Faith. [Note: Many US Scouts of South-east Asian decent are Buddhist.] Buddhism was founded by Siddhartha Gautama who was born about 563 BC. He realized that the ills that strike humanity come from inside the human being and that human life is suffering. His realization came around 528 BC so that is a point from which we can say Buddhism comes. It is a very old faith.

It is quite a difficult religion to explain. Buddhists believe that it is possible to move from the suffering of humanity to a state of perfection or salvation called 'Nirvana'. But this state takes a very long time - many lifetimes - to achieve. When someone dies it does not mean that they cease to exist, but that they move into another state of existence. And in this world nothing is permanent even time is a flow of milliseconds having no permanence.

The Scouts Own

An Outline Scouts' Own For a Formal Situation

The most useful structure is simple - it consists of an Introduction - with or without singing. The second element is the Story. There are hundreds of stories that would be suitable - stories about Baden-Powell or modern adventure and achievement. Something that can be illustrated by audience participation in some way is usually more effective but not absolutely essential. It could simply be a yarn read from a book - but better retold by the leader without the book! And the third element is the Devotional. Nothing complicated or fancy, just a drawing together of things that are eternal like love and beauty and truth and justice and peace - and a suggestion of the vital place that Members of the Scout Movement of all ages have in the winning and maintaining of them. Which is how we do our duty to the Creator Power (God) who is the beginning and the end of everything.

Without question, the best and most effective Scouts' Owns are constructed by Scouts themselves. Therefore it should be the practice to involve them in the preparation for the occasion as well as participation in it. You might have to tell the yarn or story; but it might be just as effective for you to give a group a theme and tell them to present it whatever way they feel would be most effective. They may well come up with songs, even things to be read, that you wouldn't have dreamed about, but for their peers it will make the point better than anything you can say.

So you might like to suggest themes like these:

- Caring for God's World and the people in it
- Working for Peace and Justice for everybody
- Making the best use of the life God had given to us
- How to cope with hurt or handicap

Of course there are more obvious themes like holidays, camp, Scouting, friendships, and adventure and so on. All of these have a Scouting significance. You might ask about the abstract - love, hope, beauty, wonder, despair, sadness, forgiveness. Or, why not take the bull by the horns and ask them to express in word, song and mime/drama what they understand about God, Creation, the Universe, themselves. The point is that, formal or not, it doesn't have to be professional - only honest. And it doesn't have to last half an hour - only as long as it takes to say what is necessary. Our bet is that you'll be pleasantly surprised by the things they come up with. And as we said before - enjoy it.

And from our Founder:

Some Ideas on Scouts' Owns

For an open Troop, or for Troops in camp, I think the Scouts' Own should be open to all denominations, and carried on in such manner as to offend none. There should not be any special form, but it should abound in the right spirit, and should be conducted not from any ecclesiastical point of view, but from that of the boy. Everything likely to make an artificial atmosphere should be avoided. We do not want a kind of imposed Church Parade, but a voluntary uplifting of their hearts by the boys in thanksgiving for the joys of life, and a desire on their part to seek inspiration and strength for greater love and service for others.

A Scouts' Own should have as big an effect on the boys as any service in Church, if in conducting the Scouts' Own we remember that boys are not grown men, and if we go by the pace of the youngest and most uneducated of those present. Boredom is not reverence, nor will it breed religion.

To interest the boys, the Scouts' Own must be a cheery and varied function. Short hymns (three verses are as a rule quite enough-never more than four); understandable prayers; a good address from a man who really understands boys (a homely "talk" rather than an address), which grips the boys, and in which they may laugh or applaud as the spirit moves them, so that they take a real interest in what is said. If a man cannot make his point to keen boys in ten minutes he ought to be shot! If he has not got them keen, it would be better not to hold a Scouts' Own at all.

By Baden Powell
Printed in "The Scouter"
November 1928

Spiritual Development Activities

Wisdom (To develop an inner discipline and training.)

Scout Section

Activity 1 - Game - Blind Pirate. An individual Scout is selected to be the blind pirate. He is blindfolded and sits in the middle of the floor cross-legged. A bell, or bunch of keys or anything noisy is placed in front of him. One at a time Scouts who are sitting around cross-legged in a circle try to get up, sneak out, take the bell and return to their places without making a sound. The 'pirate' tries to point to the individual that is moving. If he succeeds they change over.

This game like many others often played in Scouts develops a particular discipline. It might be worth spending five minutes at the end of the game or at the end of the evening discussing how they felt having to keep silent for long periods.

Activity 2 - Project - Keep a diary for a week. If you have the facility, produce an eight page diary covering one week for each Scout. (Two sheets of paper folded with the days and perhaps the dates). Get them to keep as accurately as they can an hour by hour time table of what they have done for the week: time they went to bed, got up, started breakfast, finished breakfast, left for school, got to school, etc.

Then at your next meeting (it might be helpful to have calculators) analyze how much time has been spent on each of a number of activities during the week. You might make a list like sleeping, eating, at school, doing homework, watching TV, Scout activities, etc. Produce league tables, or bar charts or whatever the troop wants. Finally consider what this shows about priorities, inner discipline, etc.

Activity 3 - Project - What influences you? Ask them to conduct a survey during the week using questions like:

- What makes you decide which TV programs to watch?
- Who or what influences what you wear? How you spend you money? Your aims in life?
- Who or what influences the things you think are right and wrong?

For some it may be enough for them to consider this for themselves. Others may be able to get a few answers from friends and family. Collate the answers. Then discuss who or what they follow. Discuss why they follow who or whatever and how this affects their life. Do they think that this will change as they get older?

Activity 4 - Game - The waiting game. Provide a bucket half full of water and a large denomination coin in the bottom. this one could cost you!) Give each person a penny to drop in to try to cover the large coin. It is almost impossible. The trick takes time and patience. Discuss the need for patience, and when and why it may be appropriate.

Activity 5 - Who am I? There are millions of people in the world, we are all unique, and all are citizens of the world. Get the scouts to write a page or draw a poster about themselves and the gifts that they have. Write a prayer based on this information.

Wisdom (To develop an inner discipline and training.)

Venture / older Scout Section

Activity 1 - Safety. As a Unit formulate a set of safety rules for Unit activities. Talk about why rules are needed for activities. See how close your activity rules come to those in The Scout Association's "Policy, Organization and Rules." If you have thought of rules that are not in Policy Organization and Rules but would enhance your safety further then implement them.

Activity 2-Alcohol and Drugs. As a Unit discuss the use of alcohol and drugs by young people. Formulate a Unit policy and implement it.

Activity 3 - Let's talk about sex. Talk about sex and relationships. Invite someone with knowledge about relationships, HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases or contraception to speak to the Unit. Think how these things affect you.

Activity 4 - Do you follow the crowd? As a Unit think of the pressures that young people are under. Do you always follow the crowd, or do you make a stance? Think about such issues as sexist comments, racist remarks or reading pornography.

Activity 5 - Who am I? On a piece of paper each member of the Unit writes down the ten most important things in their life. They are then asked to cross one off, and so it continues until only one thing is left. Members are then asked to explore this together.

Activity 6 - Hopes in flames. Members are asked to write down their biggest hope on a piece of paper. These are then collected and set fire to, or thrown into a camp-fire. Members are reminded that many people have hopes that never come to anything; young people in some parts of Africa hope for rain, and in Northern Ireland young people hope for peace. We can be reminded to have many hopes by our Founder, Lord Baden-Powell when he said "look wide, and even when you think you are looking wide - look wider still."

Work (To be involved in corporate activities.)

Scout Section

Activity 1 - Project - Produce a picture story. This can be done over several sessions at a camp or over several weeks on troop nights. Each Patrol or Team needs access to a camera. Each should be provided with one roll of film and a photograph album.

The Scouts then need to select some story. This could be from the Bible or other Holy Book or a favorite story or a story written by themselves. The next step is to produce a story board as they will have seen in comics or on TV, being careful that they have a fixed number of photographs on the roll. Then set up and take the photographs. Get the photos developed at a fast outlet. Finally they can put the pictures into the album with appropriate words alongside.

Activity 2 -- Team work. Many activities can be used to illustrate team work. Provide each Patrol or Team with a list of things to find out. Such as:

- What number of bus stops at the bus stop in the High Street?
- What color is the gate of 22 Low Street?
- How much does a fish supper cost in the chip shop? What is the phone number of Safeway?

Then leave them to get on with it and have a cup of tea. The teams which all rush round together will not do as well as those who plan and divide up the task. Discuss the benefits of planning, team-work, using the strengths and weaknesses of the team, etc.

Activity 3 - Friends. What is it that makes someone a friend? Encourage the Scouts to think about friendship by thinking of something friendly to do for a new Scout?

Activity 4- Money. Ask the Scouts to keep a record of how they spend their pocket money, what they spend it on and how much they save, etc. Encourage them to discuss as a Patrol how much should be spent, saved or given away?

Activity 5 - Helping others. As a Troop think of an organization which you could help and explain their work at a Troop family gathering. Consider what you might do, as Patrols or as a Troop, to help this organization.

Activity 6- The Scout Family. How does everyone work together to form Scouting? Explain to the Troop the structure of local Scouting. Why are the young people the most important?

Activity 7 - Sport. Have the Scouts design a poster showing lots of team games. Then ask the Scouts why they take part in games and write the answers around the pictures.

Work (To be involved in corporate activities.)

Venture / older Scout Activities

Activity 1 - Unit activities. As a Unit think of a charity that you would like to support. Organize fundraising events or voluntary help. Write to the local media to tell them what you are doing.

Activity 2 - Helping other Units. Offer to help to run an event for another Unit in your District. Liaise with the other Leaders and learn about some of the practical problems which they face.

Activity 3 - Overseas. Think internationally and make contact with a Venture (older Scout) Scout Unit abroad through your International Department or International Commissioner. This may well lead to exchange visits to take part in a camp or other activity.

Activity 4- A shared world. As a Unit think about sharing in the world. You could invite someone from an aid agency such as Oxfam, Christian Aid, or Unicef to talk about the uneven distribution of the world's resources. What can we do in the West to even this balance out? Can you do anything to help these organizations?

Activity 5 - Help. or is it? Find out about this country's welfare benefits. Are all of these benefits available to young people?

Wonder (To understand the natural world around us.)

Scout Section

Activity 1 - A blindfold meal. At a camp, get everyone to eat a simple meal or undertake a simple activity blindfolded. Care needs to be taken that no one gets burnt or hurts themselves. Afterwards encourage the Scouts to consider how wonderful their gift of sight is. This could develop into a discussion on the idea that there are different types of blindness. Blindness to the needs of others, blindness to the world that we live in, blindness to the obvious existence of God.

Activity 2 - Deny a sense. Undertake some game or activity without using an essential sense. As in #1 above it could be blindfold or without talking, or with one hand tied behind your back or with fingers taped together, or legs tied together, etc. Perhaps each Scout could be denied a different sense. Later discuss how hard it is to do without and how wonderful these senses are.

Activity 3 - Project - Think Rubbish. If you are at a camp, or meeting place, see what can be done to collect different types of rubbish (glass, metal, paper) in different containers and then dispose of them in your local recycling system.

Wonder (To understand the natural world around us.)

Venture / older Scout Activities

Activity 1 - Conservation. As a Unit undertake a conservation project in your local area. A local Wildlife Trust will be able to give you practical ideas for this.

Activity 2- Environmental camp. Plan a camp on the environmental theme. Think about transport to get there, the way energy is used at the camp, the ecological impact of the camp, and the recycling of waste products.

Activity 3 - Animal Rights. As a Unit think about animal rights. Visit an animal sanctuary. Invite someone who is against the testing of products on animals to speak to the Unit. What is the reaction of members?

Activity 4- Natural things. Ask each member to find something natural and to talk for 1-2 minutes on why it impresses them.

Activity 5 - Water. Water is a vital resource throughout the world. Find out about how different countries in the world collect and clean water for use. Find Out about how your local Unit can help to bring clean water to parts of the developing world.

Welcome (To help create a more tolerant and caring society.)

Scout Section

Activity 1 - "What is the cost?" Have ready a selection of every day items such as a Mars Bar, an audio cassette, a pair of socks and so on. You also need to know how much each of these items cost to buy. Then play an inter-Patrol/team game of "The price is right". Produce your items one at a time. Get each Patrol/team to suggest "What is the cost?" Each team takes it in turn to start. No one is allowed to say the same price as some other team. Two points for being exactly right, one for being the closest. Then move on to part two.

Produce a sheet of paper for each team, headed up with one of the following or similar:

- What is the cost of learning to play the piano?
- What is the cost of keeping up a friendship?
- What is the cost of owning a dog?

Activity 2 - Game - Helping the blind man. Each team selects a member to be blindfolded. Once the blindfold has been put on set up a very simple slalom course with chairs. Teams then have to steer their blind man through the course by shouting instructions. Afterwards get them to say how it felt, (dependence, frustration, fear, etc.). If you wish, this discussion can move on to the problems blind people have, or perhaps faith, and the faith that blind people have to put in guide dogs, etc.

Activity 3 - Helping Others. Encourage the Scouts to adopt a grandparent. This works well if three or four are "allocated" to each grandparent. They will soon realize that visits are greatly appreciated.

Activity 4 - Communication games. There are large number of games such as charades and Pictionary which are basically about communication. Spend time thinking about those who find communicating difficult. This could lead on to considering the issues of distrust and social unrest and the theory that much of it is based on a lack of understanding of others.

Activity 5 - Illness. Have any of the Scouts been in hospital? Ask the Scouts to think of how they, as a Patrol, can help to make young people happier in hospital. Ask a nurse or doctor, or a patient for guidance.

Activity 6 - Sign Language. Learn a few words, letters of the alphabet and then try to communicate messages. Are there any times when this form of communication would be useful?

Living Space

Take four Scouts out to the front and stand them at the four corners of a square 8 feet by 8 feet. Take four others from the group and tell them to sit down inside the square. See how much - or little - space there is left. Make the point that more than half the population of the world lives in huts and shacks little larger than the 8 foot square and, some, in smaller spaces. See how much of the ordinary things of living - dressing, sleeping, cooking, eating and so on can be done in the tiny space. And the promise we make as Scouts is to make it possible for people who have to live like that to be able to live better, freer lives.

-- from "God. are you still in there?"

Welcome (To help create a more tolerant & caring society.)

Venture / older Scouting Section

Activity 1 - Helping others. As a Unit decide to help a group of people in your local area. For example, help elderly people in a nursing home, or help distribute meals at a soup kitchen. Visiting someone who is lonely can bring a lot of happiness.

Activity 2 - Peace in the world. Find out about the work of the United Nations and its role as a peace maker in the world. Simulate a problem and as a Unit think of a world wide response.

Activity 3 - Think about sex discrimination. In small single-sexed groups write down on a piece of paper the good and bad sides of being a woman/man in society. Discuss the results with other groups and think about how men and women can be helped to achieve their full potential.

Activity 4 - The games children play. In small single-sexed groups write down a list of all of the toys which you had as a child. Compare the lists with other groups. Discuss whether you think it was natural to play with these toys or whether family and friends thought they were the most suitable.

Activity 5 - Thank you. It is all too easy to forget what others do for us. Organize an event to thank all those who have helped you Unit over the past year.

Activity 6 - Multi-faith society. Find Out how different faiths come together in your community. Talk with a religious leader from a faith community other than your own and, if it is appropriate, attend worship of this community.

Activity 7 - National stereotypes. Write up the names of five or six countries in the world, e.g.. America, Australia, Japan, Mexico, Ethiopia, Scotland, England, Germany. List the images which are identified with the country and the people. Discuss why these stereotypes exist and what you can do to counteract them.

Worship follows from a recognition that there is a being far greater and more powerful than ourselves. The idea that God exists will come from the successful delivery of Principle 3 - Wonder

- "To understand the natural world around us". Many young people have had bad experiences of acts of worship, because they have been delivered in over formal and boring ways. Scout Leaders who basically understand what young people enjoy, are the ideal people to devise and in some measure deliver, enjoyable and meaningful acts of worship for them.

Worship (To discover the need for prayer and worship.)

Scout Section

Activity 1 - Hope. Ask the Scouts to write down their hopes. Draw five footsteps and ask them to identify five things they will need to do to realize their hopes. Discuss with them how easy or difficult this will be.

Activity 2 - God is love. What is love? Ask the Scouts to identify what love is and how people express love. The word 'love' is widely used. Encourage the Scouts to think about love in its widest sense: Love for friends, family, animals, activities in addition to boy/girl friends.

Activity 3 - World Faiths. Many other Faiths involve food a great deal in certain ceremonies. Ask the Scouts as a Patrol, to find out about a traditional religious meal from a particular Faith. Have them prepare some or all the meal and allow the other Patrols to try some.

Activity 4 - Scouts Own. Have the Patrols prepare a short Scouts Own on a theme. Remember that this does not have to be in a traditional format. Discuss how you think a short Scouts' Own should be run, then do it.

Activity 5 - Sunrise. Encourage the Scouts to plan an overnight hike or walk in order to be in a suitable place to watch the sunrise. Try to make the venue as spectacular as possible to fully appreciate the experience.

Worship (To discover the need for prayer and worship.)

Venture / older Scout Activities

Activity 1 - How accessible is our faith? Consider as small groups the following extract:

"From my bedroom window I can look out across this city and see the roofs, spires, towers, and parapets which mark out the places of worship to the people of this city. But, how full are these buildings? How open are they? How can they evolve and open their doors to the young and troubled people of today's society?"

"I am thinking about this because last month my Venture [older Scout] group went to church with the rest of Scouts. Well, when I say the Ventures, I mean three of us: one says that she is "born again", Bob and I just went to see the Rangers [girls]. I was so bored. The singing was terrible - the church was full of operatic (and geriatric) old grannies. I could not really understand what the Minister was saying. When I laughed at the wrong place in the sermon I received glares. Why can it not be more fun?"

Have you had a similar experience? How can we make our faith more accessible? What do you think should happen at meetings of your faith? Can you approach the local leaders of your faith to speak about your feelings?

Activity 2 - The world's faiths. Invite members of the world's faiths to speak to the Unit about their beliefs. Search for the important ideas that they have and see if there is a common link between the world's different faiths.

Activity 3 - Meditation. At a Unit event (perhaps after completing an activity) ask the members to find a space far from other people, to sit quietly and to think about what things they have learned, what it means to them, and how it may change them.

Activity 4 - The power of God. During a Unit event the time might be just right to underline the power of God. An occasion might be at the top of a mountain, watching the tides or at the end of a campfire. Simple words can be used and it can be very short.

Activity 5 - Music. Music can be used to create a spiritual atmosphere. Music such as the Pachelbel Canon or pan-pipe music. Even some modern music if used in the right context can be used. Religious music can also be used; some Taize music can be used by all faiths.

(See the section on Songs)

Calls to Worship and Invocations

Come let us sing unto the Lord: Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands. Let us serve the Lord with gladness and came into his presence with singing.

--Psalm 100

Blessed is the spot, and the house, and the place, and the city, and the heart, and the mountain, and the refuge, and the cave, and the valley, and the land, and the sea, and the island, and the meadow where mention of God hath been made and His praise glorified.

--From the Baha'i Writings

O Great Spirit! Watch over us as we begin this day. Protect us as we live in your care. Give us bounty and hold us from harm. We are your children and wish only to please you. We hold our Mother Earth close to our hearts and wish her goodness. We thank You for your love.

--American Indian

A PSALM FOR THE THANK OFFERING

From the Book of Psalms, Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into His presence with singing!

Know that the Lord is GOD!
It is He that made us, and we are His;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And His courts with praise!
Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

For the Lord is good;
His steadfast love endures for ever,
And His faithfulness to all generations.

--Thanks to Lew Orans, Houston TX, lporans@onramp.net, as presented at Wood Badge Course EC 462 W, Sunday, September 27, 1992

May the time be not too distant, O LORD, when all your children will understand that they are brothers and sisters, so that, one in spirit and one in fellowship, they may be for ever united before you. Then shall your kingdom be established on earth, and the word of your prophet shall be fulfilled: "The Lord will reign for ever and ever." Amen

-- From the Jewish Sabbath Service

Lord, stay with us as we come together; let all the earth keep silence in your presence.

Dear Lord, bless all those everywhere who contribute to shape the hearts, minds, and bodies of young people. Let us remember what they have taught and apply it daily.

When facing deceit and dishonesty, let us be Trustworthy. If we see hypocrisy and faithlessness, let us be Loyal. Where disregard of others and mere materialism prevail, let us be Helpful. In an atmosphere of ill manner, let us be Courteous. Where some measure manliness in brutality and crudeness, let us be Kind. Though lawbreaking and rule-scoffing are common, let us be Obedient. While others grumble and grouch, let us be Cheerful. In an environment blighted by waste and extravagance, let us be Thrifty. When confronted with danger and temptation, let us be Brave. As we see filth and pollution everywhere, let us be Clean. While witnessing impiety and irreligion, let us remember to be Reverent.

In short, in a world that has for generation after generation lamented the lack of good examples, let us, as Scouts, stand out, grow up, and be real adults.

Amen

Prayers

Thanksgiving for Scout Brotherhood

O Lord, we give You thanks for the gift of Scouting. We thank You for the wisdom and foresight of our Chief, whose first camp on Brownsea was the forerunner of our Brotherhood. We thank You for the enthusiasm and self-sacrifice of those, his immediate followers, to whom the early guidance of our Movement was entrusted. Above all, O Lord, we thank You that You have permitted us, Your servants to take our share in the service of the boyhood of our country; and for all the inspiration and happiness that Scouting has brought into our own lives.

We ask for Your blessing on our Chief, upon the boys whom we are privileged to lead, and upon the Brotherhood of Scouts throughout the world.

May we go forward re-dedicated to this, Your service, and in humble gratitude for Your many mercies.

Grant this, O Lord, for the sake of Your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

-- Brownsea Island, April 1927, Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.32

A Scout is a Friend to All

Fill us, O Lord, with Your spirit that we may observe Your command, "Love one another, even as I loved you." May we know the love that sees only the good and is patient and forbearing; that grows stronger when difficulties increase; and that overleaps the barriers of class, of creed, and of country. Help us to love the neighbor we know so that we may learn to love our fellow-men whom we have not seen. Strengthen the bond between Scout and Scout in our Group, in our land, and throughout the World. So may we further the coming of Your Kingdom of goodwill and love; following the example of Jesus Christ. Amen

-- Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.37

Thanks for the Beauty of Children

We give thanks for the beauty of children and their joy in all beautiful things, for their mirth and laughter, and for the joy and light they bring into the world, for their enthusiasm, their abounding energy and their love of the heroic and adventurous, for their candid generous trust in those around them, and for their quick response to calls of love and service. Amen.

-- Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.41

For Harmony Amongst Ourselves

Father, we pray for harmony; as we seek to preserve in our Scouts the natural spirit of mutual good will, help us to show them a true example. Grant that the relations between all Scouters may ever be those of hearty cooperation and true affection. Let no class, race or policy divide us. Let personal ambition be far from us, and may we ever regard it as our chief privilege to serve You in this holy labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

-- Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.42

Leadership

O Lord, grant that we may so carry out in our lives the spirit of the Scout Law that we may teach it to others by living it ourselves. Grant also, O Lord, that we may understand the true meaning of Service for others, and humbly follow the great example of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.43

The Quest of Beauty

O God, who has made the world so full of beauty, keep us, from the evil which the sin of man has brought into it. Teach us to love whatever is beautiful and true and good in nature, in art and in the lives of men; strengthen us that we may accept all the activity of life as a gift from You and enable us to be fellow-workers with Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.52

Live Together in Love and Joy and Peace

O God, who has joined us together in the fellowship of our Troop, teach us to live together in love and joy and peace. Help us to guard our Honor and to live loyal to You, our leaders and all our friends; that, with gallant and high-hearted happiness, we may strive for the setting up of Your Kingdom in the world; through Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.59

To Be Scoutlike

Grant to us, Lord, the spirit to think and to think and to do always such things as be Scoutlike; that we, who cannot do any good thing without You, may

by You be enabled to live according to our Promise and Law; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.59

For Our Country

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, bless our Country that it may be a blessing to the world. Grant that our ideals and aspirations may be in accordance with Your will, and help us to see ourselves as others see us. Keep us from hypocrisy in feeling or action. Grant us sound government and just laws, good education and clean lives, justice in our relations with one another, and, above all a spirit of service which will abolish pride of place and inequality of opportunity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.77

For Courage and Strength

O God help us always to be of good cheer. Let us not be disheartened by our difficulties. Let us never doubt Your love or any of Your promises. Give us grace to be encouragers of others, never discouragers. Let us not go about with sadness or fear among men, but let us always make life easier, never harder, for those who come within our influence; for the sake of Jesus Christ

Amen.

Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.86

A Closing Prayer

May the blessing of Almighty God rest upon us and upon all our work; may He give us Light to guide us, Courage to support us, and Love to unite us, now and evermore. Amen.

Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.91

Benediction

May the Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious to us; the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us and give us peace, this day (or night) and for evermore. Amen. (Adapted from the Aaronic Blessing, Bible, Numbers 6, 24.)

Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.93

Prayers for Peace from Westminster Abbey

O God, the Father of all mankind, strengthen, we pray thee, all who are striving after true brotherhood and who are working for righteousness and peace. Guide the hearts and minds of rulers and statesmen, that they may seek first thy kingdom and the

establishing of justice and freedom for all peoples, both great and small. Amen

Lord, make us instruments of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy; for thy mercy and for thy truth's sake. Amen

For the Joy of the Year

Our Lord and creator,
We thank You today for the beauty of our world.
For sunshine and flowers,
Storm-cloud and starry nights,
For the first radiance of dawn
And the last glow of sunset.

We thank you for physical joy,
For clear water to swim in,
For the fresh smell of rain on dry ground,
For hills to climb and work to do together.

Make our hearts wide open to these gifts,
And help us to live in thanksgiving to You,
Our Lord and our creator.

Prayer of Thanks Giving

We thank you today
For the adventure of Scouting,
For the unselfishness of parents,
For the patience of teachers
And for the encouragement of friends.

Prayer of Thanks for the Founder

We give thee thanks, O Lord, for our Founder's life of service and for his gift of Scouting to the world. Help us to hold firmly to the Law which he gave us for guidance and so to understand more fully thy will. Inspire us to find a way of life, in which the youth of all nations, may find unity and true brotherhood.

Amen.

God of the Open Air

God of the open air, we kneel reverently in this temple not made with hands.

The tall pines lift our thoughts above us to the Source of all this beauty.

The singing of the feather-throated choir puts a melody in our hearts, a song of joy and praise and trust.

All the discordant notes of the world are muted; all the problems of life are forgotten.

We are filled with an inner peace and know that here we have found Thee.

As we leave this hallowed spot, may the reality of Thy presence go with us to give us courage and strength for our daily tasks.

Amen.
-- Dorothy Wells Pease

God of the Sea

God of the sea, the winds, the tides, we praise thee for the greatness of thy power and the certainty of thy laws. We see careless picnickers throw their litter to be carried far out into the sea by the outgoing tide, but the next morning it lies stranded on the beach where the high tide has left it.

So it is, our Father, in our lives. We throw out a careless word, an unkind thought, and it comes back to us in resentments and friendlessness. A selfish act, a yielding to temptation, or a deed left undone comes back as a haunting memory, another's failure, or a missed opportunity.

Help us, Our Father, to cast only good upon the waters that good may come back with the tide.
Amen.

-Dorothy Wells Pease

We Thank Thee

We thank Thee
For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass so fresh and sweet;
For song of bird and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear and see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Camping in the Snow

Lord, we are camping in the snow today;
We may fear the cold,
But we trust that your Spirit
Will guide and warm us.

Beaver Prayer

The air we breathe, the friends we meet,
The walk to use our eyes and feet,
The things around us make us say,
Thank you, God, for each new day!

-- From Scouting (U.K.) magazine

A Scout's Prayer

We have hiked along life's pathway,
Our packs upon our backs,
We have pitched our tents and rested
Here and there along the tracks.
We have used our compass wisely
To guide us on our way
And hope to reach the campsite
Of our Great Chief Scout some day.

We have tried to be trustworthy -
Kept our honor high and clean,
We have been as loyal as any
To our Country and our Queen.

We have done our best at all times -
Kept our Promise - been prepared,
And hope our good deeds please Him
When at last our souls are bared.

We have lightened others' burdens,
With our smiles along the way,
We have kept our hand in God's hand,
Walked beside Him day by day.
And when our span of life runs out,
We'll make this gentle plea -
May we sit around His Campfire
At the Final Jamboree.
-- from "Scouting in New South Wales"

Prayer for Peace

God, make me an instrument of Your Peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy;
That I may seek to console, rather than to be
consoled,
To understand rather than to be understood,
To love rather than to be loved:
For it is in giving that we receive,
In self-forgetfulness that we find our true selves,
In forgiving that we are forgiven:
God, make me an instrument of Your Peace.
-From the organizers of "A Million Minutes of
Peace"

Sioux Prayer

Ho! Great Spirit, Grandfather, you have made everything and are in everything. You sustain everything, guide everything, provide everything, and protect everything, because everything belongs to you. I am weak, poor and lowly; nevertheless, help me to care, in appreciation and gratitude to you and for everything.

I love the stars, the sun and the moon, and I thank you for our beautiful mother, the Earth, whose many breasts nourish the fish, the fowls and the animals, too. May I never deceive Mother Earth; may I never deceive my people; may I never deceive myself; and above all, may I never deceive you.

Thanks Be to God

Thanks to God for things we see,
The growing flower, the waving tree,
Our mother's face, the bright blue sky
Where birds and clouds go floating by;
Thanks be to Dog for seeing.

Thanks to God for things we hear,

For sounds of friends who laugh and cheer,
The merry bells, the songs of birds,
For stories, tunes, and kindly words;
Thanks be to God for hearing.

-- from Hazel Tagg

Beaver Prayer II

Now, before I run to play,
Don't let me forget to pray
To God who keeps me through the night
And wakes me up with morning light;
Help me, Lord, to love you more
Than I have ever loved before,
In my work and in my play;
Thank you, God, for another day.

- 8th Belleville Beavers

Lord We Thank You

Lord, we thank you for this day.
Help us to do our best every day,
And forgive use when we slip.

Teach us to be kind to other people
and to help them at all times
Bless our parents and teachers and leaders
and all the members of Scouting

Bless us, Lord in your love for us
Help us to be a better Scouts
and let us do our best for you

Amen

We Thank You Lord

For the lives of Lord and Lady B.P.

For all the fun and adventures we have in
Scouting

For the worldwide brotherhood of Scouts
For the beauty of the world and all the marvelous
things

You have made in nature

For keeping us fit and well and happy

For our homes, our parents, and all who look
after us

Please help us

To be good sportsmen, fair and honest in work
as in play and in everything we do.

To find ways of serving you by helping other
people as best we can

To be worthy of our uniform and loyal to our
promise,

Behaving as true brothers to all mankind

To look after your creation and keep this world
as lovely a place as you intended it to be

To help all children who are not so lucky as we,

Especially those who are hungry or lonely, sick
or sad

To be loving and caring as we grow older and to
do our

Best to repay your blessings in every way we
can.

Thanks to Hazel Addis, Scouting (UK.)

Jamaican Camp Grace

Lift up your hearts;
Hearts and minds and voices all give thanks
For this our bread;
Hearts and minds and voices all give thanks
For these our friends;
Hearts and minds and voices all give thanks
For this our camp;
Hearts and minds and voices all give thanks

(continued ...)

For this our world;
Hearts and minds and voices all give thanks
We thank the Lord;
Hearts and minds and voices all give thanks

Lord's Prayer

(Translated from Chinook)

Our father who stayeth in the above
God in our hearts be Thy name,
God Thou Chief among all people
God Thy will upon earth
As in the above.
Give us every day our food;
If we do evil,
Be not Thou very angry, and if
Anyone evil towards us
Not we angry towards them
Send away far from us all evil.

Canoeing Prayer

Lord, we will be canoeing today;
We shall be very busy;
If, during the course of the day
We forget about you,
Please don't forget about us.

Beaver Prayer III

Thank you God, who loves us,
For every happy day,
For trees and grass and flowers and sun,
For friends to share our games and fun,
Thank you God, we love you.
Amen

Guide us Through and Out

Our Father, who art in heaven and who art on
earth, even journeying with your people, thank you
for being faithful and for never abandoning us. When
we are in the wilderness, guide us through and out.
When we are lost, please find us. When we cry out ,

please hear us - in the name of the One who said,
"Lo, I am with you always." Amen

-- From "Meditation" by Bruce Miles, Presbyterian
Record March 1985

God of the Universe

God of the universe, help us to see the hope of a better future for all your people. Help us to rise above our own likes and dislikes when there are more important things to consider, and to play our part in achieving some great good for our country and for the world. Amen.

Gaelic Prayer

Be Thou a bright flame before me,
Be Thou a guiding star above me,
Be Thou a smooth path below me,
And be a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today, tonight and forever.

Prayer from the West Indies

Oh God, who has made the earth so varied and cast the races of man in so many different molds, we who live in these lovely islands of the western sea pray for all your children. Grant that we, with all men everywhere, may enter into the full joyous life of Your Kingdom.

-- From 'Scouting' (U.K.)

Lord's Prayer for Beavers

Our Father who art in heaven, and who art very near to us.

Help us to keep thy name holy, and never to use it in wrong ways;

Help us to do what you want us to, as the angels do in heaven;

Give us this day the food we need, and may we help to feed the hungry;

Forgive us when we are naughty as we forgive those who are naughty to us;

Keep us from wanting to do wrong and help us to do right;

For thine is the kingdom and the glory and the power, for ever and ever. Amen.

Black Elk: Earth Prayer & The Sunset

Black Elk, Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux, 1863-1950

Earth Prayer

"Grandfather, Great Spirit, once more behold me on earth and lean to hear my feeble voice. You lived first, and you are older than all need, older than all prayer. All things belong to you -- the two-legged, the four-legged, the wings of the air, and all green things that live.

"You have set the powers of the four quarters of the earth to cross each other. You have made me cross the good road and road of difficulties, and where they cross, the place is holy. Day in, day out, forevermore, you are the life of things."

Hey! Lean to hear my feeble voice. At the center of the sacred hoop You have said that I should make the tree to bloom.

With tears running, O Great Spirit, my Grandfather, With running eyes I must say The tree has never bloomed

Here I stand, and the tree is withered. Again, I recall the great vision you gave me.

It may be that some little root of the sacred tree still lives. Nourish it then That it may leaf And bloom And fill with singing birds!

Hear me, that the people may once again Find the good road And the shielding tree.

The Sunset

Then I was standing on the highest mountain of them all, and round about beneath me was the whole hoop of the world. And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell and I understood more than I saw; for I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must live together like one being.

And I say the sacred hoop of my people was one of the many hoops that made one circle, wide as daylight and as starlight, and in the center grew one mighty flowering tree to shelter all the children of one mother and one father. And I saw that it was holy...

But anywhere is the center of the world.

Great Spirit Prayer

"Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the wind, Whose breath gives life to all the world. Hear me; I need your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people.

Help me to remain calm and strong in the face of all that comes towards me. Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

Help me seek pure thoughts and act with the intention of helping others. Help me find compassion without empathy overwhelming me.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy

- Myself.

Clean Hands

Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes. So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

Wae Wae Non Ne Mot

Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin

"The Creator above is the Great Spirit and the Great Mystery, His gifts are plentiful therefore you want not. He holds out a branch of love and protection and He draws you to where the ground is undisturbed, where the air is pure and the water is clear and clean enough to give life. You walk, you breathe, you feed, for you are pleased. The times when your heart is weak, your circle is out of balance, He lifts you up again and draws you to the good Menominee road, for He is strength and wisdom."

(part of The Menominee Version of the 23rd Psalm)

Black Elk: Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux

"Grandfather, Great Spirit, once more behold me on earth and lean to hear my feeble voice. You lived first, and you are older than all need, older than all prayer. All things belong to you -- the two-legged, the four-legged, the wings of the air, and all green things that live.

"You have set the powers of the four quarters of the earth to cross each other. You have made me cross the good road and road of difficulties, and where they cross, the place is holy. Day in, day out, forevermore, you are the life of things."

Big Thunder (Bedagi), late 19th century Algonquin

"The Great Spirit is in all things, is in the air we breathe. The Great Spirit is our Father, but the Earth is our Mother. She nourishes us; that which we put into the ground, She returns to us...."

Give us hearts to understand;

Never to take from creation's beauty more than we give; never to destroy wantonly for the furtherance of greed;

Never to deny to give our hands for the building of earth's beauty; never to take from her what we cannot use.

Give us hearts to understand

That to destroy earth's music is to create confusion; that to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty;

That to callously pollute her fragrance is to make a house of stench; that as we care for her she will care for us.

We have forgotten who we are.

We have sought only our own security.

We have exploited simply for our own ends.

We have distorted our knowledge.

We have abused our power.

Great Spirit, whose dry lands thirst,

Help us to find the way to refresh your lands.

Great Spirit, whose waters are choked with debris and pollution, help us to find the way to cleanse your waters.

Great Spirit, whose beautiful earth grows ugly with misuse, help us to find the way to restore beauty to your handiwork.

Great Spirit, whose creatures are being destroyed, help us to find a way to replenish them.

Great Spirit, whose gifts to us are being lost in selfishness and corruption, help us to find the way to restore our humanity.

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the wind, whose breath gives life to the world, hear me; I need your strength and wisdom. May I walk in Beauty.

Wisdom, Knowledge and Understanding

by Larry Kibby

Great Spirit Grandfather, I send these words to you, Hear my prayer. For these are my words, To Father Sun, To Grandmother Moon, To Mother Earth To all my relations, That have been Created as I. To the Four Winds, That bring us the Seasons of Life.

To the East Where Father Sun rises Bringing to us a new day A new meaning of life, A light in which to see The path before us.

To the South Where the warm air comes to us Bringing heat and warmth, The seasons of spring And summer. To the West Where Father Sun goes To bring to us darkness, So as we may see the universe And search for the questions Of our life.

To the North Where the cold winds come from Bringing to us the seasons Of fall and winter.

Oh Great Spirit Hear my words For to you I offer My heart and soul You made me What I am And I am Indian America's Prisoners of War I pray for my people of the past Whose blood covers this our Mother Earth I pray now as an Indian Blood of my Ancestors.

Great Spirit Grandfather, Look down upon Your people, For we are humble Before you. We seek your guidance, So that we your people May walk forever In a proud manner Before you.

Great Spirit Grandfather, You gave your people The breath of life, So that we may live With dignity and pride, To always know And understand That life was meant for us Your most humble Traditional people,

And all that Was Created And given The breath of life.

Great Spirit Grandfather, Let my heart Soul and mind Be always strong with Wisdom, knowledge And Understanding.

Great Spirit Grandfather Hear my words For wisdom So that I may open My eyes and See all that Is good around me.

Great Spirit Grandfather Hear my words For wisdom So that I may open my ears And hear all that is good Around me. For I am humble Before you. I seek the strength To continue on this path That I travel on before you In a most Sacred manner.

Great Spirit Grandfather Hear my words For they are words That come from the Heart, soul and mind, And are filled with Wisdom, knowledge and Understanding.

Great Spirit Grandfather My words are for you To know and understand That in a most Sacred manner I honor and respect The life you have put before me, I seek the strength To forever continue Upon this Sacred path.

Great Spirit Grandfather Upon the four winds Are my words for strength For they come from the Heart, soul and mind Words I send to you In a Sacred manner.

Great Spirit Grandfather Let all The wisdom, knowledge and understanding Be my strength To continue on this path That I travel on before you As a Traditional Native American Indian, Now and forever.

The Circle Of Life

by Larry Kibby

Oh Great Spirit
Of the Indian People
Hear my words
For they are words that come
From the heart, soul and mind.

Oh Great Spirit
Be my mind,
Be my eyes,
Be my ears,
Be my heart,
Be my soul,
So that I may walk
With dignity and pride.

Oh Great Spirit
Of the Indian People
Know of me.

For I am of your people.
I am Indian,
An Indian of the Circle of Life
A prisoner of War
In my own Land!

Oh Great Spirit,
Of the Indian people,
Hear my words
For they are for you.
They are of you.
You are my way of life
In the Circle of Life.

An Indian Prayer

by H. Kent Craig

My grandfather is the fire
My grandmother is the wind
The Earth is my mother
The Great Spirit is my father

The World stopped at my birth
and laid itself at my feet

And I shall swallow the Earth whole
when I die
and the Earth and I will be one

Hail The Great Spirit, my father
without him no one could exist
because there would be no will to live

Hail The Earth, my mother
without which no food could be grown
and so cause the will to live to starve

Hail the wind, my grandmother
for she brings loving, life-giving rain
nourishing us as she nourishes our crops

Hail the fire, my grandfather
for the light, the warmth, the comfort he brings
without which we be animals, not men

Hail my parent and grandparents
without which
not I
nor you
nor anyone else
could have existed

Life gives life
which gives unto itself
a promise of new life

Hail the Great Spirit, The Earth, the wind, the fire
praise my parents loudly for they are your parents,
too

Oh, Great Spirit, giver of my life please accept
this humble offering of prayer this offering of praise
this honest reverence of my love for you.

Second Step Prayer

I pray for an open mind so I may come to believe
in a Power greater than myself.

I pray for humility and the continued opportunity
to increase my faith.

I don't want to be crazy anymore.

Third Step Prayer

God, I offer myself to Thee

To build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt.

Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may
better do Thy will.

Take away my difficulties, that victory over them
may bear witness to those I would help of Thy
Power,

Thy Love and
Thy Way of life,
May I do Thy will always!

Fourth Step Prayer

Dear God,

It is I who have
made my life a mess.

I have done it,
but I cannot undo it.

My mistakes are mine,
and I will begin a
searching and fearless
moral inventory.

I will write down my wrongs,
but I will also include that which is good.

I pray for the strength to complete the task.

Seventh Step Prayer

My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all
of me, good and bad.

I pray that you now remove from me every single
defect of character which
stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my
fellows. Grant me

strength, as I go out from here to do your
bidding. Amen

OH, GREAT SPIRIT

O Great Spirit,

Whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose
breath gives life to all the world, hear me! I am small
and weak, I need Your strength and wisdom. Let me
walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the
red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things You have
made, and my ears sharp to hear Your voice.

Make me wise so that I may understand the
things You have taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in
every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my
brother, but to fight my greatest enemy; myself.

Make me always ready to come to you with
clean hands and straight eyes.

So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my
spirit may come to You without shame.

Songs

Michael Row the Boat Ashore

Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia,
Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia.

Jordan's River is chilly and cold, Alleluia,
Kills the body but not the soul, Alleluia.

Jordan's River is deep and wide, Alleluia,
Meet my mother on the other side, Alleluia.

Gabriel, blow the trumpet horn, Alleluia,
Blow the trumpet loud and long, Alleluia.

Brother, lend a helping hand, Alleluia,
Brother, lend a helping hand, Alleluia.

Michael's boat's a gospel boat, Alleluia,
Michael's boat's a gospel boat, Alleluia.

Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia,
Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fear relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come.
'Twas grace that brought us safe this far,
And grace will bring us home.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see

This is my Father's World

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears,
All nature sings and 'round me rings
The music of the spheres
This is my Father's world.
I rest me in the thought,
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
His hand the wonders wrought.

The Scout is Reverent Book

This is my Father's world. The birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world.
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

Scout Vespers

Softly falls the light of day,
As our campfire fades away.
Silently, each Scout should ask,
"Have I done my daily task?"

"Have I cared and have I tried,
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared,
Every thing to be prepared?"

Kum Ba Ya

Kum ba ya, My Lord, Kum ba ya.
Kum ba ya, My Lord, Kum ba ya.
Kum ba ya, My Lord, Kum ba ya.
Oh Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's crying Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's laughing Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's shouting Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's praying Lord, Kum ba ya.

Kum ba ya, My Lord Kum ba ya.

Kum Ba Ya -- The Scout Law Version

Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

A Scout's trustworthy Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is loyal, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is helpful, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

A Scout is friendly, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is courteous, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is kind, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

(continued ...)

A Scout's obedient, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is cheerful, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is thrifty, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

A Scout is brave, Lord, Kum-ba-yah
A Scout is clean, Lord, Kum-ba-yah
A Scout is reverent, Lord, Kum-ba-yah
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

God Bless America

God Bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her, and guide her,
Through the night with the light from above,
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the ocean, white with foam,
God bless America, my home sweet home.
God bless America, my home sweet home.

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant
to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace
eternally!

Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me.

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the Beauty of the Earth, For the Beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth, over and around us
lies
Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour, of the day and of the
night
Hill and vale, tree and flower, sun and moon and stars
of light
Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's
delight
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and
sight
Lord of all to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken, Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken, Like the first bird,
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the word.

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dew fall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness Where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea!

Kum bah yah

Kum bah yah my Lord, Kum bah yah
Kum bah yah my Lord, Kum bah yah
Kum bah yah my Lord, Kum bah yah
O Lord, Kum bah yah

Someone's waiting Lord, Kum bah yah
And debating Lord, Kum bah yah
Contemplating Lord, Kum bah yah
O Lord, Kum bah yah
Someone's teach Lord, Kum bah yah
Someone's preaching Lord, Kum bah yah
Someone's reaching Lord, Kum bah yah
O Lord, Kum bah yah

Someone's learning Lord, Kum bah yah
Someone's burning Lord, Kum bah yah
Someone's turning Lord, Kum bah yah
O Lord, Kum bah yah

Someone's praying Lord, Kum bah yah
And obeying Lord, Kum bah yah
And they're staying Lord, Kum bah yah
O Lord, Kum bah yah

Kum bah yah my Lord, Kum bah yah
Kum bah yah my Lord, Kum bah yah
Kum bah yah my Lord, Kum bah yah
O Lord, Kum bah yah

Church in the Wildwood

There's a church in the valley by the Wildwood.
No lovelier place in the dale,
No spot is so dear to my childhood,
As the Little Brown Church in the vale.

CHORUS:

O, come, come, come, come,
Come to the Church in the Wildwood,
O, Come to the church in the dale.
No spot is so dear to my childhood,
As the Little Brown Church in the vale.

How sweet on a bright Sabbath morning,
To listen to the clear ringing bells;
It's tones so sweetly are calling,
O, come to the church in the vale.

On Top of Old Smokey (Scout Version)

On top of Old Smokey, all covered with snow,
I learned a great lesson, all people should know.
I met a Scoutmaster, a helper of youth,
He was roaming God's mountain, in search of the truth.

He told me he'd found it, in the red sunset's glow;
In the voice of the thunder, in the touch of the snow.
His truth was quite simple, as plain as could be,
I'll never forget what, that Leader told me.

Do your duty to God, to the red, white, and blue.
To all others be helpful, to thine own self be true

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken, like the first morning.
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning.
Praise for them springing fresh from the word.

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from heaven.
Like the first dew fall, on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden.
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning.
Born of the one light Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning.
God's re-creation of the new day.

Short Subjects

This Is The Beginning Of A Brand New Day

This is the beginning of a brand new day.
I can waste it or use it for good.
What I do today is important because I am exchanging a day of my life for it.
When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place
What I have traded for it.
I want it to be gain, not loss -- good, not evil -- success, not failure -- so that I shall never regret the price I paid for today.

Help Us To Understand Our Promise Better

God our Father, Bless us as we gather here today.
Help us to understand our promise better.
Teach us to love you more and to love all your people and to do our very best every day.
Amen

As I Start Upon My Chosen Way

Lord, as I start upon my chosen way,
In all I do, my thoughts, my work, my play,
Grant as I promise, Courage new for me,
To be the best, the best that I can be.

Silent Prayer For Our Brothers

B.P wrote:

First love and serve God.
Second love and serve your neighbor.
In doing you duty to God always be grateful to him.
Whenever you enjoy a pleasure or a good game, or succeed in doing a good thing, thank Him for it, if only with a word or two.

Let us each now say a silent prayer for our brother on our right.... For our brother on our left...
And now for our brother Scouts around the world.

Your tasks - To build a better world

"Your task -
To build a better world", God said.
I answered, "How?
The world is such a large, vast place,
So complicated now.
And I so small and useless am,
There's nothing I can do."
In all His wisdom said,
"Just build a better you."

Salutation to the Dawn

Look to this day
For it is life; the very life of life.
In its brief path lie all the verities and realities of our existence,
The bliss of growth,
The glory of action,
The splendor of beauty.
For yesterday is but a dream
And tomorrow is only a vision,
But today well lived
Makes every yesterday a dream of happiness
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.
Look well therefore to this day.

Wood Campfires

Kneel always when you light a fire!
Kneel reverently,
And grateful be
To God for His unfailing charity.
- John Oxenham

Some Thoughts

O God, Thou hast given so much to us, give one thing more - a grateful heart. Amen.
-George Herbert

To be closer to God, be closer to people.
-Kahlil Gibran

When praying, do not give God instructions - report for duty.

Real Religion

Real religion is a way of life, not a white cloak to be worn only on Sundays and then tossed aside into the weekday closet of unconcern.
-William A. Ward

God Give Me A Task Too Big

God give me a task too big,
Too hard for human hands.
Then I shall come at length
To lean on Thee;
And leaning, find my strength.
-Wilbur Humphrey Fowler

Could You Afford It?

Suppose God charged us for the rain,
Or put a price on a song-bird's strain
Of music-the dawn-mist on the plain.
How much would autumn landscapes cost,
Or a window etched with winter's frost,
And the rainbow's glory so quickly lost?
Suppose that people had to pay
To see the sunset's crimson play
And the magic stars of the Milky Way.
Suppose it was fifty cents a night
To watch a gull in graceful flight.
How much, I wonder, would it be worth
To smell the good, brown, fragrant earth
In spring? The miracle of birth-
How much do you think people would pay
For a baby's laugh at the close of day?
Suppose God charged us for them, I say!
Suppose we paid to look at the hills,
For the rippling mountain rills,
Or the mating song of the whippoorwills,
Or curving breakers of the sea,
For grace, and beauty, and majesty?
And all these things He gives us free!
-Author Unknown

I Know Not Where

I know not where the white road runs,
nor what the blue hills are,
But man can have the sun for a friend,
and for his guide a star;
And there's no end of voyaging when once
the voice is heard.
For the river calls and the road calls,
and oh, the call of a bird!

The Log in the Woods

The old log in the woods will never be a great tree again, things never go back, yet lying there, covered with moss, it is creating new life, which in turn will be great and beautiful...
The fish eats the insect, the bird the fish, The mammal the bird, and the insect the mammal, as each, in universal rhythm is creating new life, for there is no life except life which comes from life...
Waters flow where daisies grew, Trees grow where swans once swam
All things upon this earth are developing into new things, from what is here must come what is to be.... There is no other material.
-- Gwen Frostic

The Precious Pearl

Each day, a precious pearl, to you is given
That you must string upon the silver thread of life
And once strung, can never be unthreaded but stays,
An undying record of your faith and skill.
Each golden link you then must weld into the chain of hours
That is no stronger than its weakest link.
Into your hands is given all the wealth and power
To make your life just what you will.
God gives to you, free and unstinted, twelve glorious months
Of soothing rain and sunshine golden.
The days for work and play, the nights for peaceful slumber.
All that He has, He gives, with love unspoken.
All that He asks - you keep the faith unbroken.

Let Me Live Each Day

Let me live each day as if it were my last.
Let me enjoy each fleeting hour of time.
Let me give of myself to those who need me.
Let me make each passing face to glow and shine.
Let me bring hope to those who haven't any.
Let me be a friend to those who claim they've none.
Let me show the way, to those who've lost it.
Let me share well with those who've fought and won.
Let me be truthful, where truth cannot let down.
Let me lead, where leaders are most wanted.
Let me smile, when others want to frown.

Let me be, as Thou must well have wanted.
Let me always pay my way, my earthly lease.
Let me richly fill the space Thou givest me.
Let me, finally come to Thee, in peace.

God Forgive Me When I Whine

Today, upon a bus,
I saw a girl with golden hair,
I envied her, she seemed so gay.
When she rose to leave,
I saw her hobble down the aisle.
She had one leg, and used a crutch,
But as she passed, she smiled.

Oh God, forgive me when I whine,
I have two legs, The world is mine.

I stopped to buy some candy,
The lad who sold it had such charm,
I talked with him, he seemed so glad,
and as I left he said to me,
"I thank you. You have been so kind,
it's nice to talk to folks like you,
you see," he said, "I'm blind."

Oh God, forgive me when I whine,
I have two eyes, the world is mine.
(Continued)

Later, when walking down the street,
I saw a child with eyes of blue.
He stood and watched the others play,
I stopped a moment, then said,
"Why don't you join the others dear?"
He looked ahead without a word
and then I knew he couldn't hear.

Oh God, forgive me when I whine,
I have two ears, the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I want to go,
with eyes to see the sunset's glow,
with ears to hear what I would know,
Oh God, forgive me when I whine,
I'm blessed indeed.
The world is mine.

You gave me eyes to see and I see,
but yet I see so little.
You gave me ears to hear,
and I listen not enough.
You gave me a mind to think
but so many times I don't.
You gave me hands to reach out to others,
but so many times I don't reach out far enough.
You gave me a heart to be filled with love,
but so many times it doesn't show.
Help me Lord to use to the fullest,
the things You have given me.

I Thank You Just for Life

I thank You just for life.
The chance to live, to be alive!
So great Your gift,
if You do nothing give besides,
it is enough.

To breathe Your air,
to walk the woodland sod,
to feel the play of mighty winds,
to look You in the face,
and call You God.

An Irish Blessing

May the blessed sunlight shine upon you and warm your heart until it glows like a great fire, so that a stranger may come and warm himself at it, and also a friend.

Simple Easy and Wrong

For every complex and difficult issue, there is always an answer that is simple, easy and wrong.
-H.L. Mencken

Gifts

The best thing to give to your enemy is forgiveness
to an opponent, tolerance
to a friend, understanding
to a child, a good example
to your father, deference
to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you
to yourself, respect
to all men, charity.

-Arthur James Balfour

Clear Morning

My will slowly forces my resting eyes to peer into the land of the awake
The orange light through the tent shatters the work of my will by slamming my eyelids together.
I try again
Now, I am prepared
The morning is fresh and crisp clear
The sun dawns over the mountains reaching for the sky
The snow, white, clean glistens and shines
I walk to meet nature
The reunion lasts.....

-By Venturer Gavin De Lint

Love

Love all God's creation,
both the whole and every grain of sand.
Love every leaf, every ray of light.
Love the animals, love the plants,
love each separate thing.
If you love each thing,
you will perceive the mystery of God in all;
and when once you perceive this,
you will thence-forward grow every day
to a fuller understanding of it,
until you come at last to love the whole world
with a love that will then be all embracing and universal.

A Thought

If fun is good, truth is still better, and love best of all.

Declaration

The world is my country,
The human race is my race,
The spirit of man is my god,
The future of man is my heaven.

-F.R. Scott

Good News

Everyone has inside himself a piece of good news.
The good news is that you really don't know....
How great you can be,
How much you can love,
What you can accomplish, or what your potential is.
How can you top good news like that?
-Anne Frank, From her diary

Present Tense

It was spring, but it was summer I wanted,
The warm days, and the great outdoors.

It was summer, but it was fall I wanted,
The colorful leaves, and the cool, dry air.

It was fall, but it was winter I wanted,
The beautiful snow, and the joy of the holiday season.

It was winter, but it was spring I wanted,
The warmth, and the blossoming of nature.

I was a child, but it was adulthood I wanted,
The freedom, and the respect.

I was 20, but it was 30 I wanted,
To be mature, and sophisticated.

I was middle aged, but it was 20 I wanted,
The youth, and the free spirit.

I was retired, but it was middle age I wanted,
The presence of mind, without limitations.

My life was over. but I never got what I wanted.
-- Jason Leham (age 14)

Take Time

Take time to work,
It is the price of success.
Take time to think,
It is the source of power.
Take time to read,
It is the foundation of knowledge.
Take time to give to others,
It will bring you happiness.
Take time to love,
It is the sacrament of life.
Take time to dream,
It hitches the soul to the stars.
Take time to laugh,
It lightens the highway to eternal life.
Take time to plan,
And you will have time for all the rest.
- From Jo-Anne Wood

Campers

Campers are very special people:
They have felt the cool wind of dawn;
They have known the slow march of the stars along the milky way;
They have reached out their hands to new friends;
They have stood tiptoe to the meaning of life, and found it good:
Their eyes have caught the vision of the shining future,
Their hearts have encompassed all the bounds of the earth.
And their minds have listened to God.

-from "Campfires, A Collection of Favorites
compiled by Linda Kish

Rainbow

Rainbow, rainbow
The heavenly miracle of -
Rainbow, rainbow,
A rainbow colored with love.

Gem conjured out of the shadows,
Miracle wrought in the rain,
We see in each shimmering rainbow
Life's wonderful colors again;
Like poppies ablaze in the cornfield,
With midsummer blue skies above,
Like butterflies' wings and all living things,
The rainbow is colored with love.

Rainbow, rainbow,
That sunshine caught in the rain;
Rainbow, rainbow,
A sunshine caught in the rain.

(continued ...)

The Lord made mankind in His image,
To dwell on the earth in His place,
And just as He colored the rainbow,
He colored the folk of each race;
So children are brothers and sisters,
Whatever the language, they prove,
With eyes shining bright and face black or white;
They radiate friendship and love.

Rainbow, rainbow,
You tell us the sun's close by;
Rainbow, rainbow,
A smile in our troubled sky.

- Words by Jack Macfarlane, written to celebrate the rainbow theme Cub Scouts in the U.K. are following this year. Thanks to Scouting (U.K.) magazine.

A True Friend

A true friend is one to whom you can tip out all the contents of your heart, chaff and grain together, knowing that the gentlest hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping and, with the breath of kindness, blow the rest away.

-an Arabian definition of a friend

Needs

You need enough happiness to keep you serene;
Enough troubles to make you strong;
Enough suffering to make you human;
Enough hopes to keep you optimistic;
Enough failures to keep you humble;
Enough success to keep you confident;
Enough friends to give you comfort;
Enough enthusiasm to make you dare boldly;
Enough faith to banish depression;
Enough love to keep you young in heart;
Enough time to sing your joy;
And enough peace to keep you happy.

- "The Needs of Human Beings", Dr. Klies, Scouting U.K.

A Camper's Ten Commandments

Thou shalt do thy share and more;
Thou shalt keep thy sense of humor;
Thou shalt do thy camp duties to the best of thy ability;
Thou shalt not cry over burnt food;
Thou shalt treat other people as you would wish them to treat you;
Thou shalt not pollute or destroy;
Thou shalt not giggle all night;
Thou shalt not forget about personal cleanliness;
Thou shalt spread thy friendship to someone new;
Thou shalt listen to thy leaders, for they are wise in the ways of making camp a happy time for everyone.
-from the Columbia Valley District, B.C.

Give Thanks

Give thanks for sun and sky around,
And all the riches of the ground,
For all our blessings and this food,
For life and friends and all that's good.

Isn't It Funny

When the other fellow takes a long time to do something, he's slow. But when I take a long time to do something, I'm thorough.

When the other fellow doesn't do it, he's too lazy. But when I don't do it, I'm too busy.

When the other fellow goes ahead and does something without being told, he's overstepping his bounds. But when I do something without being told, that's initiative!

When the other fellow states his side of a question strongly, he's bull-headed. But when I state my side of a question strongly, I'm being firm.

When the other fellow overlooks a few of the rules of etiquette, he's rude. But when I skip a few of the rules, I'm being original.

When the other fellow does something that pleases higher-ups, he's polishing the brass. But when I do something that pleases them, that's cooperation.

When the other fellow gets ahead, he sure had the lucky breaks. But when I manage to get ahead - well, man! it was hard work that did it.

Funny, isn't it? Or is it?

-New Brunswick Scouting News

Some Thoughts

If you can't see the bright side, polish up the dark one and look at that.
-Colin McKay

Remember that it takes both sunshine and rain to make a rainbow.

The Lord asks of you only this; to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God.

Measurements

When God measures man. He puts the tape measure around the heart, not the head.

Some Thoughts

Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes.
-Mohandas Gandhi

A Leader is a person who finds out where everybody is heading, then shuffles around to get in front!
-'Scout', Australia

God Surrounds Us

God's light surrounds us,
God's love enfolds us,
God's power protects us,
God's presence watches over us;
Wherever we are, God is.

Be At Peace

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore, be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be and, whatever your labors and aspirations in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world...

-- From an inscription in St. Paul's Church, Baltimore

Think Truly

Think truly, and thy thoughts shall the world's family feed;
Speak truly, and each word of thine shall be a fruitful; seed;
Live truly, and thy life shall be a great and noble creed.

Friendship: from India

There is beauty in the earth,
The mountains high, the valleys green,
The rippling brook, the waterfall.
The wild sweet rose so oft unseen;
The song of birds, the smell of spring
Autumn colors bright and gay,
A thousand treasures we can find
If we but look about each day;
Yes, gracious is the bounty
That God to man does send;
Then, as a crowning glory,
God gave to men - a friend.

The Spirit Lives

The Spirit lives, there is no doubt,
Within the heart of every Scout,
The hope lives on, the dreams survive,
The Scouting spirit is alive!

In England, many years ago,
There lived a man who sought to sow
The seeds of brotherhood of man,
And there the spirit first began.

The Scouting spirit spread about
To nations east, west, north and south,
And soon, on every land and shore,
Young men were taught the Scouting Law.

We camped and learned of nature's ways,
We gloried in our youthful days,
We ventured where all others feared,
Because we knew we were prepared.

The world has changed as years went by,
Society's values went awry,
And many ask, "What is the worth
of Scouting on this wretched earth?"

(continued ...)

But each new Scout who learns our law
Brings with him hope, and much, much more;
Each generation of Scouts gives
The proof that Scouting's spirit lives.

The treasured values of the past
Still guide Scouts of today; they last
In spite of changes that we see
Around us in society.

And still, adventures filled with fun
Await today's Scouts, every one;
In them that spirit, born of old
May yet transform this sorry world.

And so we say without a doubt,
That in the heart of every Scout
The hope lives on, the dreams survive,
The Scouting spirit is alive!

-- By G.K. Sammy, former Scout of 31st Trinidad, dedicated to the Naparima District Scouts, who attended the XV World Jamboree, 1983

Success

Success is in the way you walk,
The paths of life each day;
It's in the little things you do
And in the things you say.
Success is not in getting rich
Or rising high to fame;
It's not alone in winning goals
Which all men hope to claim.
It's being faithful to your friends
And to the strangers kind,
It's in the children whom you love
And all they learn from you;
Success depends on character
And everything you do.

The Best We Can Be

If you can't be a pine on top of the hill
Be a scrub in the valley-
but be the best little scrub on the side of the hill
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

If you can't be a bush be a bit of grass
Some highway to happier make.

If you can't be a muskie then just be a bass,
But the liveliest bass in the lake.

We can't all be captains, we've got to have crew,
There's something for all of us here.
There's big work to do and there's lesser work too
And the task we must do is near.

If you can't be a highway, then just be a trail.
If you can't be the sun, be a star.
It isn't by size that you win or fail.
Be the best of whatever you are.

The Rule of Three

Three things to govern: Temper, tongue and conduct.
Three things to cultivate: Courage, affection and gentleness.
Three things to comment: thrift, industry, and promptness.
Three things to give: help to the needy, comfort to the sad, and appreciation to the worthy.

Count That Day Lost

If you sit down at set of sun
And count the acts that you have done,
And, counting find
One self-denying deed, one word
That eased the heart of him who heard;
One glance most kind,
That fell like sunshine where it went-
Then you may count that day well spent.
But if, through all the livelong day,
You've cheered no heart, by yea or nay-
If, through it all
You've nothing done that you can trace
That brought the sunshine to one face-
No act most small
That helped some soul and nothing cost-
Then count that day as worse than lost.

-George Eliot

Three Things Come Not Back

Remember three things come not back;
The arrow sent upon its track-
It will not swerve, it will not stay
Its speed; it files to wound, or slay.
The spoken word so soon forgot
By thee; but it has perished not;
In other hearts 'tis living still
And doing work for good or ill.
And the lost opportunity
That cometh back no more to thee,
In vain thou weapest, in vain dost yearn,
Those three will nevermore return.
-- From the Arabick

It Couldn't Be Done

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he, with a chuckle, replied
That maybe it couldn't, but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with a trace of a grin
On his face; if he worried, he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done - and he did it.

Somebody scoffed, "Oh, you'll never do that,
At least, no one ever has done it;"
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done - and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you - one by one
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing
That cannot be done - and you'll do it.
-- By Edgar A. Guest

Broken Dreams

As children bring their broken toys
with tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to God
because he was my friend.

But then instead of leaving Him
to peace to work alone,
I hung around and tried to help
with ways that were my own.

At last I snatched them back and cried,
"How can you be so slow!"

"My child," He said,
"What could I do?
You never let them go."

Native American Commandments

Treat the Earth and all that dwell thereon with respect.
Remain close to the Great Spirit.
Show great respect for your fellow beings.
Work together for the benefit of all Mankind.
Give assistance and kindness wherever needed.
Do what you know to be right.
Look after the well being of mind and body.
Dedicate a share of your efforts to the greater good.
Be truthful and honest at all times.
Take full responsibility for your actions.

Great Spirit, give us hearts to understand;

never to take from creation's beauty more than we give;
never to destroy wantonly for the furtherance of greed;
never to deny to give our hands for the building of earth's beauty;
never to take from her what we cannot use.

Give us hearts to understand

that to destroy earth's music is to create confusion;
that to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty;
that to callously pollute her fragrance is to make a house of stench;
that as we care for her she will care for us.

We have forgotten who we are.
We have sought only our own security.
We have exploited simply for our own ends.
We have distorted our knowledge.
We have abused our power.

Great Spirit, whose dry lands thirst,
help us to find the way to refresh your lands.

Great Spirit, whose waters are choked with debris and pollution,
help us to find the way to cleanse your waters.

Great Spirit, whose beautiful earth grows ugly with misuse,
help us to find the way to restore beauty to your handiwork.

Great Spirit, whose creatures are being destroyed,
help us to find a way to replenish them.

Great Spirit, whose gifts to us are being lost in selfishness and corruption,
help us to find the way to restore our humanity.

Source: Earth Prayers by Glenn Welker

Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and haste,
and remember what peace there may be in silence.
As far as possible, without surrender,
be on good terms with all persons.
Speak your truth quietly and clearly;
and listen to others, even dull and ignorant;
they too have their story.
Avoid loud and aggressive persons;
they are vexations to the spirit.
If you compare yourself with others,
you may become vain and bitter;
for always there will be greater
and lesser persons than yourself.
Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.
Keep interested in your own career, however
humble;
it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of
time.
Exercise caution in your business affairs;
for the world is full of trickery.
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is;
many persons strive for high ideals;
and everywhere life is full of heroism.
Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection.
Neither be cynical about love for in the
face of all aridity and disenchantment
it is perennial as the grass.
Take kindly the counsel of the years,
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in
sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself
with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue
and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline,
be gentle with yourself.
You are a child of the universe,
no less than the trees and the stars;
you have a right to be here.
And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.
Therefore be at peace with God,
whatever you conceive Him to be,
and whatever your labors and aspirations,
in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your
soul.
With all its shams, drudgery,
and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.
Strive to be happy.

Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low, and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won had he stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow,
You may succeed with another blow.

Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver lint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far,
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,
It's when things seem worse,
That you must not quit.

Footprints

Author Known

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he
was walking along the beach with the LORD.
Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each
scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand;
one belonging to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before
him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He
noticed that many times along the path of his life
there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed
that it happened at the very lowest and saddest
times in his life.

This greatly bothered him and he questioned the
LORD about it. "LORD you said that once I decided
to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I
have noticed that during the most troublesome
times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I
don't understand why when I needed you most you
would leave me."

The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child.
I love you and I would never leave you. During your
times of trial and suffering, when you see only one
set of footprints, It was then that I carried you."

The Gal in the Glass

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you queen for a day,
Just go to a mirror and look at yourself,
And see what THAT gal has to say.

For it isn't your husband or family or friend
Who judgment upon you must pass;
The gal whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the one staring back from the glass.

Some people may think you a straight-shootin' chum
And call you a person of place,
But the gal in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look her straight in the eye.

She's the gal to please, never mind all the rest
For she's with you clear to the end,
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test
If the gal in glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass,
But your final reward will be heartaches and tears
If you've cheated the gal in the glass

The Man in the Glass

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to a mirror and look at yourself,
And see what THAT man has to say.

For it isn't your father or mother or wife
Who judgment upon you must pass;
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the one staring back from the glass.

Some people may think you a straight-shootin' chum
And call you a wonderful guy,
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest
For he's with you clear to the end,
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test
If the man in glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass,
But your final reward will be heartaches and tears
If you've cheated the man in the glass.

Just for today

Just for today, I WILL TRY TO LIVE THROUGH THIS DAY ONLY, and not tackle my whole life problem at once. I can do some things for twelve hours that would appall me if I felt I had to keep them up for a lifetime.

Just for today, I WILL BE HAPPY. This assumes what Abraham Lincoln said is true that "Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be." Happiness is from within and is not a matter of externals.

Just for today, I WILL ADJUST MYSELF TO WHAT IS, and not try to adjust everything to my own desires. I will take my "luck" as it comes, and fit myself to it.

Just for today, I WILL STRENGTHEN MY MIND. I will learn something useful and will study something that challenges my mental ability. I will not be a mental loafer all day. I will read something that requires thought and concentration.

Just for today, I WILL EXERCISE MY SOUL IN AT LEAST THREE WAYS: namely, I will do somebody a good turn and not brag about it; in fact, I will seek to keep myself from view. I will do what William James once suggested: do at least two things that I do not want to do just for exercise. And then, I will not show anyone that my feelings are hurt, if in the course of the day somebody hurts them.

Just for today, I WILL BE AGREEABLE. I will look as well as I can, dress as becomingly as possible, talk low, act courteously, not withholding a word of praise, will not criticize one bit, not find fault with anything, and not try to regulate or improve anyone.

Just for today, I WILL HAVE A PROGRAM. I will write down just what I expect to do each hour of the day. I may not follow it exactly, but I will have it and if I can follow it somewhat, it will save me from two modern sins - hurry and indecision.

Just for today, I WILL HAVE A QUIET HALF-HOUR, sometime, and will review my day and I will think of God, so as to get a little more perspective to my life.

Just for today, I WILL BE UNAFRAID, I will keep the door shut to fear. Especially will I be unafraid to be happy, to enjoy the beautiful, to love and to believe that those I love, love me.

Risk

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.
To weep is to risk being called sentimental.
To reach out to another is to risk involvement.
To expose feeling is to risk showing your true self.
To place your ideas and dreams before the crowd is
to risk being called naive.
To love is to risk not being loved in return.
To live is to risk dying.
To hope is to risk despair.
To try is to risk failure.
But risks must be taken,
Because the greatest risk in life is to risk nothing.
The people who risk nothing do nothing,
Have nothing, are nothing, and become nothing.
They may avoid suffering and sorrow,
But they simply cannot learn to feel,
And change, and grow, and love, and live.
Chained by their servitude, they are slaves;
They have forfeited their freedom.
Only the people who risk are truly free.

Sanskrit proverb

Look to this day,
For it is life,
The very life of life.
In its brief course lies all
The realities and verities of existence,
The bliss of growth,
The splendor of action,
The glory of power.
For yesterday is but a dream,
And tomorrow is only a vision.
But today, well lived,
Makes every yesterday
A dream of happiness
And every tomorrow
A vision of hope.
Look well, therefore,
To this day.

God, grant me SERENITY to accept the things
I cannot change
COURAGE to change the things I can and
WISDOM to know the difference:

Living one day at a time enjoying one moment
at a time accepting hardship as a pathway to
peace, taking this sinful world as it is, not as I would
have it; trusting that you will make all things right if I
surrender to Your Will; so that I may be reasonably
happy in this life and supremely happy with you
forever in the next.

AMEN

-- Reinhold Niebuhr

Prayer of Saint Francis Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace!
That where there is hatred,
I may bring love
That where there is wrong,
I may bring the spirit of forgiveness
That where there is discord,
I may bring harmony
That where there is error,
I may bring truth
That where there is doubt,
I may bring faith
That where there is despair,
I may bring hope
That where there are shadows,
I may bring light
That where there is sadness,
I may bring joy.
Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort,
than to be comforted
To understand,
than to be understood
To love,
than to be loved.

For it is by self-forgetting that one finds.
It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.
It is by dying that one awakens to
Eternal Life.

Take Time

Today I pray that I can:
Take Time to think. It is the source of power.
Take time to play. It is the secret of perpetual
youth.
Take time to read. It is the fountain of wisdom.
Take time to pray. It is the greatest Power on
earth.
Take time to be friendly. It is the road to happiness.
Take time to laugh. It is the music of the soul.
Take time to give. It is too short a day to be selfish.
Take time to work. It is the price of success.
Take time to do charity. It is the key to Heaven.

Today's Thought

I am but one,
But I am one;
I can't do everything,
But I can do SOMETHING;
What I can do,
I ought to do,
What I ought to do,
God helping me,
I WILL DO.

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry, two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is YESTERDAY with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, it aches and pains. YESTERDAY has passed forever beyond our control.

All the money in the world cannot bring back YESTERDAY. We cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot erase a single word we said YESTERDAY is gone.

The other day we should not worry about is TOMORROW with its possible adversaries, its burdens, its large and poor performance. TOMORROW is also beyond our immediate control.

TOMORROW's sun will rise, either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds-but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in TOMORROW for it is as yet unborn.

This leaves only one day, TODAY. Any person can fight the battle of just one day. It is only when you and I add the YESTERDAY and TOMORROW that we break down.

It is not the experience of TODAY that drives people mad, it is remorse or bitterness for something which happened YESTERDAY and the dread of what TOMORROW may bring.

Let us, therefore, live but; One Day At A Time!

Responsive Readings

The Boy Scout Promise: A Responsive Reading

- Leader: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart. (Deuteronomy 6:5)
Scouts: **I promise to do my best to do my duty to God.**
- Leader: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. (Psalms 33:12)
Scouts: **I promise to do my best to do my duty to my country.**
- Leader: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (Romans 13:9)
Scouts: **I promise to do my best to help other people.**
- Leader: My son, forget not My law; but let thine heart keep My commandments. (Proverbs 3:1)
Scouts: **I promise to do my best to obey the Scout Law.**
- Leader: Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people; and walk in all the ways that I command you. (Jeremiah 7:23)
Scouts: **I promise to do my best to keep myself physically strong.**
- Leader: A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength. (Proverbs 24:5)
Scouts: **I promise to do my best to keep myself mentally awake.**
- Leader: Thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord. (Deuteronomy 6:18)
Scouts: **I promise to do my best to keep myself morally straight.**
- Leader: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your path. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Psalm 23

- Leader: The LORD is my shepherd;
Group: **I have everything I need.**
- Leader: He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.
Group: **He gives me new strength.**
- Leader: he guides me in the right paths, as he has promised.
Group: **Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, LORD, for you are with me.**
- Leader: Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me.
Group: **You prepare a banquet for me, where all my enemies can see me; you welcome me as an honored guest and fill my cup to the brim.**
- All: **I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life; and your house will be my home as long as I live.**

The Scout Law: A Responsive Reading

- Leader: The Scout Law is a guiding light to millions of boys and men throughout the world today, but the principles of the law have been brought to us from ancient days. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbors. Exodus 20:13)
- Scouts: A Scout is Trustworthy.**
- Leader: He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least, is also unjust in much. (Luke 16:10)
- Scouts: A Scout is Loyal.**
- Leader: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (Leviticus 19:18) Thou shalt surely open thy hand unto thy poor and needy brother in thy land. (Deuteronomy 15:11)
- Scouts: A Scout is Helpful.**
- Leader: Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another. (Romans 12:10) Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity. (Psalms 133:1)
- Scouts: A Scout is Friendly.**
- Leader: Let no bad word pass your lips, but only such speech as is good for edification. As occasion may require, use words that are gracious and a means of grace to those that hear them. Ephesians 4:29)
- Scouts: A Scout is Courteous.**
- Leader: A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast. (Proverbs 12:10)
- Scouts: A Scout is Kind.**
- Leader: Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor thy father and thy mother, which is the first commandment with promise; that is may be well with thee and thou mayest live only on the earth. Ephesians 6:1-3)
- Scouts: A Scout is Obedient.**
- Leader: A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but a sad heart breaks the spirit. For the hapless, every day is hard, but a cheerful heart is an unending feast. (Proverbs 15:13)
- Scouts: A Scout is Cheerful.**
- Leader: Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise; which, having no chief, overseer or ruler, provides her bread in the summer and gathers her food in the harvest. (Proverbs 6:6)
- Scouts: A Scout is Thrifty.**
- Leader: Be strong, be brave, fear not, be not terrified of them, for it is the eternal, your God, who goes with you. He will never fail nor forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)
- Scouts: A Scout is Brave.**
- Leader: Who shall ascend unto the mountain of the Lord, and who shall stand in His holy place? He that has clean hands and a pure heart, who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. (Psalms 24:3)
- Scouts: A Scout is Clean.**
- Leader: And thou shalt love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength; this is the first commandment. (Mark 12:30)
- Scouts: A Scout is Reverent. He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others.**

The Scout Law Litany

- S) *A Scouts Honor is to be trusted.***
L) We pray Thee, Lord, for fearless honest, that knowing neither "but" nor "if" we may be known as trustworthy men.
- A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.***
- S) *A Scout is loyal to the Queen, his country, his Scouters, his parents, his employers, and to those under him.***
L) We pray Thee, Lord, for every knightly virtue, that no ignoble quest or untrue thing may dim the splendor of our loyalties.
- A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.***
- S) *A Scout's duty is to be useful and helpful to others.***
L) We pray Thee, Lord, for happy diligence, that as apprentices of Him who served mankind, we may master the virtue of helpfulness.
- A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.***
- S) *A Scout is a friend to all, and a brother to every other Scout.***
L) We pray Thee, Lord, for friendly hearts, that neither class nor creed, nor color, nor accident of birth may blind us to claims of brotherhood.
- A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.***
- S) *A Scout is courteous.***
L) We pray Thee, Lord, for simple courtesy, that being strong we may uphold the weak, and being men, may yet be gentlemen.
- A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.***
- S) *A Scout is a friend to animals.***
L) We pray Thee, Lord, for all the speechless subjects of God's kingdom, that we may be humble to learn the lessons they can teach us, and eager to befriend them.
- A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.***
- S) *A Scout obeys orders of his parents, Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster without question.***
L) We pray Thee, Lord, for vigorous free obedience, that being masters of ourselves, we may be willing servants of authority.
- A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.***
- S) *A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties.***
L) We pray Thee, Lord, for joyful humor, that we may not run before the gale, but beat into the wind with hearts held high, and gay and gallant constancy.
- A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.***
- S) *A Scout is thrifty.***
L) We pray Thee, Lord, for generous thrift, that we may save the gifts of God and yet be set on giving more than getting.
- A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.***
- S) *A Scout is clean in thought, word and deed.***

L) We pray Thee, Lord, for Thy presence in our hearts, that all befouling things may drop away from us as dead desires.

A) Make us good Scouts, Lord.

L) Truly our Law is founded as a house upon a rock. It is rooted in the principles of God. Let us then with pride and purpose renew our Scout Promise.

A) The Scout Promise. (Make the Scout sigh and repeat) I Promise to do my best, to love and serve God, My Queen, my country and my fellow men, And to live by the Scout Law.

----- A) All S) A Scout L) Leader -----

The Scout Oath

Leader: Our honor is a quality we possess because of our dignity as human beings and children of GOD. Our 'best' means to give all we have. It means to keep striving to do what we know is right, and in the Oath it means we will try to be good Scouts by fulfilling our Scout duties as expressed in the Scout Law.

Congregation: ON MY HONOR I WILL DO MY BEST.

Leader: Our duty to GOD and country means chiefly two things: obedience and loyalty. The duties we owe to the House of GOD, to our country, to parents, to one another, and to ourselves come from some command of GOD. the Scout Law sums up all the qualities a Scout should have and without which he can not be a good Scout.

Congregation: TO DO MY DUTY TO GOD AND MY COUNTRY AND TO OBEY THE SCOUT LAW.

Leader: Our Lord told us that love of our neighbor was like the first law of love of GOD. The first children of GOD were known by the love they had for one another. Real human charity or love prompts us to want to help others at all times. Our Scout training will give us skills and knowledge that will put us in a better position to do this.

Congregation: TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES.

Leader: Scouting offers us many opportunities to grow strong physically. To be alert and ready requires us to give special care to those gifts of soul - intellect and will - that make us unto GOD. 'Morally straight' means we must try to know what is right and true, and to love what is good and choose it.

Congregation: TO KEEP MYSELF PHYSICALLY STRONG, MENTALLY AWAKE, AND MORALLY STRAIGHT.

The Boy Scout Law I

Leader "The person who is dishonest shall not live in My house; the person who is untruthful shall not stand before My eyes." Psalms 101: 7

People: A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY

Leader: And Ruth said: "Do not beg me to leave you or to return from following after you, for where you go I will go; and where you stay, I will stay." Ruth 1: 16

People: A SCOUT IS LOYAL,

Leader: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" Leviticus 19: 18

People: A SCOUT IS HELPFUL

Leader: "Can two walk together unless they agree?"

People: A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY

Leader: "Honor your Father and your Mother." Exodus 20: 12

People: **A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS**

Leader: "Withhold not good from the person to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it"
Proverbs 3: 27

People: **A SCOUT IS KIND**

Leader: "Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to the words of knowledge." Proverbs 23: 12

People: **A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT**

Leader: "A glad heart is good medicine." Proverbs 17: 22

People: **A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL**

Leader: "Precious treasure remains in a wise person's dwelling, but a foolish person uses it up." Proverbs
20:12

People: **A SCOUT IS THRIFTY**

Leader: "Be strong and of good courage." First Chronicles 28: 20

People: **A SCOUT IS BRAVE**

Leader: "Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? 'Me person who
has clean hands and a pure heart. Psalms 24: 3-4

People: **A SCOUT IS CLEAN**

Leader: "It has been told to you what is good, and what the Lord requires of you; Only to do justly, and to love
mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6: 8

People: **A SCOUT IS REVERENT**

The Boy Scout Law II

A Responsive Reading based on the Twelve Points of the [Boy] Scout Law

A Scout is Trustworthy

**No one who practices deceit shall remain in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue in my
presence. Psalm 101:7**

A Scout is Loyal

**It is a loyal thing you do when you render any service to the friends, even though they are strangers
to you. 3 John 1:5**

A Scout is Helpful

**In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must help the weak, remembering the
words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Acts 20:35**

A Scout is Friendly

**Some friends play at friendship, but a true friend sticks close than one's nearest kin.
Proverbs 18:24**

A Scout is Courteous

**Remind them to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show courtesy to
everyone. Titus 3:2**

A Scout is Kind

**Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.
Ephesians 4:32**

A Scout is Obedient

So, Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. Luke 2:51

A Scout is Cheerful

In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. John 16:33

A Scout is Thrifty

Precious treasure remains in the house of the wise, but the fool devours it. Proverbs 21:20

A Scout is Brave

Be strong and of good courage. 1 Chronicles 28:20

A Scout is Clean

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts. Psalm 24:3

A Scout is Reverent

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

--Thanks to Alan Houser, troop24@emf.net

The Boy Scout Law III

Leader: A true and worthy person recognizes his obligations and does them without being watched or compelled.

People: A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY.

Leader: We owe much to many - to home, school, community, nation, and to God.

People: A SCOUT IS LOYAL.

Leader: The good Samaritan showed the spirit of doing a Good Turn.

People: A SCOUT IS HELPFUL.

Leader: Courtesy is the mark of all faiths. It is shown in thoughtful acts and kindly respect for everyone.

People: A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS.

Leader: Kindliness is the way people show respect for others.

People: A SCOUT IS KIND.

Leader: Life is filled with things that we must do whether we like them or not. One of the marks of growing up is our readiness to accept responsibilities willingly.

People: A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT.

Leader: Our moods make our days. If we are grouchy, our day is gloomy. If we are happy, our day is always happier.

People: A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL.

Leader: The world offers many gifts. A wise person uses them with care.

People: A SCOUT IS THRIFTY.

Leader: To each of us comes danger, difficult tasks, and temptations. In choice of courage or cowardice, may we be brave.

People: A SCOUT IS BRAVE.

Leader: Cleanliness is next to Godliness. To have a clean body, a clean mind, and a clean record is a rewarding achievement.

People: A SCOUT IS CLEAN.

Leader: Character is determined by the things we worship. If we respect ourselves and our brothers and sisters, and see them as gifts of the goodness of God, we live on a high plane.

People: A SCOUT IS REVERENT.

All: GIVE US CLEAN HANDS, CLEAN WORDS, AND CLEAN THOUGHTS, O GOD. TEACH US TO WORK HARD AND PLAY FAIRLY. FORGIVE US WHEN WE ARE UNKIND AND HELP US TO HELP OTHERS. SEND US STRENGTH TO DO A GOOD TURN EACH DAY AND SO LIVE AFTER THY WILL.

The Girl Scout Law A Responsive Reading Based on the Girl Scout Law

I will do my best...

To be honest

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. Exodus 20:16

To be fair

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31

To help where I am needed

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God. Matthew 5:16

To be cheerful

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Psalm 100

To be friendly and considerate

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! Psalm 133:1

To be a sister to every Girl Scout

Then the prophet Miriam took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. Exodus 15:20

To respect authority

Listen to advice and accept instruction that you may gain wisdom for the future. Proverbs 19:20

To use resources wisely

Precious treasure remains in the house of the wise. Proverbs 21:20

To protect and improve the world around me

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. Psalm 24:1

To show respect for myself and others through my words and actions.

You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:39

--Thanks to Alan Houser, troop24@emf.net

Inspirational Thoughts and Messages

The Golden Principle

Blessed are those who prefer others before themselves. -- Baha'i Faith
Hurt not others in ways that you would yourself find hurtful. -- Buddhism
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. --Christianity
This is the sum of all duty: treat others as you yourself would be treated. -- Hinduism
No one of you is a believer until you desire for another that which you desire for yourself. -- Islam
In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief, regard all creatures as you would regard your own self. -- Jainism
What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. -- Judaism
Be not estranged from another for God dwells in every heart. -- Sikhism
Human nature is good only when it does not do unto another whatever is not good for its own self. -- Zoroastrianism

The Scout Beatitudes

Blessed are the Scouts who are taught to see beauty in all things around them...for their world will be a place of grace and wonder.
Blessed are the Scouts who are led with patience and understanding... for they will learn the strength of endurance and the gift of tolerance.
Blessed are the Scouts who are provided a home where family members dwell in harmony and close communion...for they shall become the peacemakers of the world.
Blessed are the Scouts who are taught the value and power of truth...for they shall search for knowledge and use it with wisdom and discernment.
Blessed are the Scouts who are guided by those with faith in a loving God...for they will find Him early and will walk with Him through life.
Blessed are the Scouts who are loved and know that they are loved...for they shall sow seeds of love in the world and reap joy for themselves and others.

Understanding

Happy is the man who finds wisdom,
And the man who gets understanding,
For the gain from it is better than gain from silver,
And its profit is better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels,
And nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand;
In her left hand are riches and honor
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
And all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
Those who hold her fast are called happy. The Lord by wisdom founded the earth;
By understanding he established the heavens; By His knowledge the deeps broke forth,
And the clouds drop down the dew.
My son, keep sound wisdom and discretion;
Let them not escape from your sight,
And they will be life for your soul
And adornment for your neck.
Then you will surely walk on your way securely
And your foot will not stumble.
If you sit down, you will not be afraid;
When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.
Do not be afraid of sudden panic, or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes;
For the Lord will be your confidence and
will keep your foot from being caught.
--Proverbs 3:13-26

The Deck of Cards

By T. Texas Tyler

During the North American campaign a bunch of soldier boys had been on a long hike. They arrived in a little town called Cassino and the next day being Sunday, several boys went to church. After the chaplain read the prayer, the text was taken up. Those of the boys who had prayer books took them out, but one boy had only a deck of cards, so he spread them out. The sergeant who commanded the boys saw the cards and said "Soldier, put away those cards."

After the service was over the soldier was taken prisoner and brought before the provost marshal. The marshal said "Sergeant why have you brought this man here?" "For playing cards in church, Sir." "And what have you to say for yourself, Son?" "Much, Sir", The soldier replied. The marshal said "I hope so, for if not I shall punish you severely."

The soldier said "You see, Sir, I have been on the march for six days and I had neither bible nor prayer book, But I hope to satisfy you, Sir, with the purity of my intentions.

You see, Sir, when I look at the Ace it reminds me there is but one God.

When I see the Deuce it reminds me that the Bible is divided into two parts, the Old and the New Testaments.

When I see the Tray, I think of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

When I see the Four, I think of the four evangelists who preached the gospel. There were Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

When I see the Five it reminds me of the five Wise Virgins who trimmed their lamps; There were ten of them, five were wise and were saved, five were foolish and were shut out.

When I see the Six it reminds me that in six days God made this great Heaven and Earth.

When I see the Seven it reminds me that on the seventh day God rested.

When I see the eight, I think of the eight righteous persons God saved when he destroyed this earth. There was Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives.

And when I see the Nine I think of the lepers our Savior cleansed, and nine of the ten didn't even thank Him.

When I see the Ten I think of the ten commandments God handed to Moses on the table of stone.

When I see the King it reminds me once again there is but one King of Heaven, God Almighty.

When I see the Queen, I think of the blessed Virgin Mary, who is Queen of Heaven.

And the Jack of Knave is the Devil.

When I count the number of spots on a deck of cards I find three hundred and sixty five, the number of days in a year.

There are fifty two cards, the number of weeks in a year.

There are thirteen tricks, the number of weeks in a quarter.

There are four suits, the number of weeks in a month.

There are twelve picture cards, the number of months in a year.

So you see, Sir, my deck of cards has served me as a Bible, Almanac and prayer book.

And, friends, this story is true. I know, because I was that soldier.

-- Thanks to Bill Wheeler

The Deck of Cards (Tex Ritter Version)

"Friends, this is Tex Ritter with a strange story about a soldier boy and a deck of cards. During a North African campaign a bunch of soldier boys had been on a long hike, and they arrived in a little town called Casino. The next morning being Sunday several of the boys went to church. A Sergeant commanded the boys in church, and after the Chaplain had read the prayer the text was taken up next. Those of the boys who had a prayer book took them out, but this one boy only had a deck of cards, and so he spread them out. The Sergeant saw the cards and said, 'Soldier, put away those cards.' After the services were over the soldier was taken prisoner and brought before the Provost Marshall. The Marshall said, 'Sergeant, why have you brought this man here?' 'For playing cards in church, sir.' 'And what have you to say for yourself, son?' 'Not much, sir,' replied the soldier.

'The Marshall said, 'I hope so, for if not, I shall punish you more than any man was ever punished.' The soldier said, 'Sir, I have been on a march for about six days, and I had neither Bible nor Prayer Book, but I hope to satisfy you, Sir, with the purity of my intentions. With that the boy started his story. 'You see, Sir, when I look at the Ace it reminds me that there is but one God. The deuce reminds me that the Bible is divided into two parts; the Old and New Testaments. And when I see the tray I think of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. When I see the four I think of the four evangelist who preached the Gospel. There was Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. And when I see the five it reminds me of the five wise virgins who trimmed their lamps. Ten of 'em; five who were wise and were saved; five were foolish and were shut out. And when I see the six it reminds me that in six days God made

this great heaven and earth. And when I see the seven it reminds me that on the seventh day God rested from His great work. When I see the eight I think of the eight righteous persons God saved when he destroyed this earth. There was Noah, his wife, their three sons, and their wives. And when I see the nine I think of the lepers our Savior cleansed, and nine of the ten didn't even thank Him.

When I see the ten I think of the Ten Commandments God handed down to Moses on a tablet of stone. When I see the King it reminds me that there is but one King of Heaven, God Almighty. And when I see the queen I think of the Blessed Virgin Mary who is Queen of Heaven. And the jacks or knaves it's the devil. And when I count the number of spots on a deck of cards I find three hundred sixty-five the number of days in a year. Fifty-two cards, the number of weeks in a year. Four suits, the number of weeks in a month. Twelve picture cards, the number of months in a year. Thirteen tricks, the number of weeks in a quarter. So you see, Sir, my pack of cards serve me as a Bible, almanac, and prayer book.' Friends, I know this story is true, because I knew that soldier."

-- Thanks to J. Phil Gilbreath, Math, John R. Lowrance Middle School, Jacksboro, TX

Servants

The true servants of the Gracious GOD are the following:

Those who walk upon earth with humility and when they are tempted by the evil ones, they respond: Peace;

Those who pass the hours of the night in prayers and standing before the Lord;

Those who pray: Lord turn away from us the punishments of hell, for it is a heavy torment, it is indeed an evil dwelling place;

Those who are neither extravagant nor stingy in spending, but keep a balance between the two;

Those who repent and believe and do good deeds.

--From the Koran, Al-Furqan, Part 19, Chapter 25

Sermons We See

by Edgar A. Guest

I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one any day;

I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.

The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear;

Fine council is confusing, but example's always clear;

And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,

For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.

I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done;

I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.

And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true;

But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do.

For I might misunderstand you and the high advice you give,

But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind.

When a weaker brother stumbles and a strong man stays behind

Just to see if he can help him, then the wish grows strong in me,

To become as big and thoughtful as I know that I can be.

And all the travelers can witness that the best of guides today

Is not the one who tells you, but the one who shows the way.

One good man teaches many, men believe what they behold;

One deed of kindness noticed is worth forty that are told.

Who stands with men of honor learns to hold his honor dear,

for right living speaks a language which to everyone is clear.

Though an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say,

I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day. □

Lincoln as Pastor and Lawyer

from Lincoln by Lucy Foster Madison, courtesy of Hampton Publishing Company

Often in his legal capacity he found occasion to act the part of comforter. Such an incident occurred during the summer.

"Greene," said Lincoln one day to Gilbert J. Greene, a young printer living in Springfield at the time, "I've got to ride into the country tomorrow to draw a will for a woman who is believed to be on her deathbed. I may want you as a witness. If you haven't anything else to do I'd like to have you go along."

"I'll be glad to go, Mr. Lincoln," answered the young fellow greatly pleased.

On the way to the farmhouse the lawyer and the printer chatted delightfully, cementing a friendship that was fast ripening into real affection. They soon reached the farmhouse and found the woman to be near her end. With great gentleness Lincoln drew up the document disposing of her property as she desired. Neighbors and relatives were present making it unnecessary to call on Greene to witness the instrument. After the will was signed the woman turned to Lincoln and said with a smile:

"Now I have my affairs of this world arranged satisfactorily. I am thankful to say that long before this I made preparations for the other life I am about to enter. I do not fear death, Mr. Lincoln, I am really glad that my time has come."

Lincoln, evincing sympathy in every look and gesture, bent towards the woman and said: "Your faith in Christ is wise and strong; your hope of a future life is blessed. You are to be congratulated in passing through life so usefully, and into the life beyond so hopefully."

"Mr. Lincoln," said she, "won't you read a few verses out of the Bible for me?"

A member of the family offered him the family Bible. Instead of taking it, Lincoln began reciting from the Twenty-third Psalm by memory, laying emphasis upon -- "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me..."

Still without referring to the Bible he began with the fourteenth chapter of John: "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." And so on, through all that wonderful chapter.

And as he continued to give other quotations from the scriptures those about the bedside wondered where he had learned so many of them. Where? Ah! where but back in the hills of Kentucky where his mother recited these passages as she went about her work. Thoughts of her now crowded into Lincoln's mind, and with a tenderness and pathos that enthralled every one in the room he recited the last stanza of the hymn, "Rock of Ages."

While I draw this fleeting breath
When mine eyes shall close in death
When I rise to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

While he was reciting this stanza a look of peace lighted up the countenance of the dying woman, and quietly she passed away.

The journey back to Springfield was begun in silence. It was the younger man who finally said:

"Mr. Lincoln, ever since what has just happened back there in the farmhouse, I have been thinking that it is very extraordinary that you should so perfectly have acted as pastor as well as attorney."

For a long time Lincoln did not speak; finally he said: "God, Eternity, and Heaven were very near to me today."

The Earnest Promise of a Scout

The Scout Oath or Promise is a tool to help encourage each Scout to set goals for himself crystal clear, specific goals in sharp focus, definite objectives that will expand through the years as he lives as an enthusiastic Scout, as his character develops and unfolds.

"On my honor," the Scout says, and the words of the phrase help him to focus upon the importance of his personal integrity. His earnest desire to live on a high level is strengthened and reinforced.

--Walter MacPeck, from The Scout Oath in Action

Different Approaches to God

You see many stars at night in the sky but find them not when the sun rises, can you say there are no stars in the heaven by day? So, O man! Because you behold not God in the days of your ignorance, say not that there is no God. As one and the same material, water is called by different names by different peoples, one calling it water, another calling it eau, a third aqua, and another pani, so the one Satchitananda, the everlasting intelligent-bliss, is invoked by some as God, by some as Allah, by some as Jehovah, by some as Hari, and by others as Brahman.

As one can ascend to the top of a house by means of a ladder or a bamboo or a staircase or a rope, so divers are the ways and means to approach God, and every religion in the world shows one of these ways. Different creeds are but different paths to reach the Almighty.

-- Sri Ramakrishna from Searching, p.76

A Strong Combination

The statement of the Oath and the adjectives that make up the Law cover any possible description of a well-adjusted human; and, if a whole nation ever reached halfway for these goals, it would be approaching Utopia. The concept of honor and the description of courage are vital ideas, almost lost by the wayside in this age of expediency and behavior analysis.

Here is a mixture of common sense and high ideals - for every citizen, not just every Scout. God bless Scouting.

-- Hugh Downs, from The Scout Oath in Action,

Not A Man's Footprint

A man was crossing the desert with an Arab guide. Day after day the Arab never failed to kneel on the burning sand and call upon his God. At last one evening, the man said to the Arab, "How do you know there is a God?" The guide fixed his eye upon the scoffer for a moment, and then replied; "How do I know there is a God? How did I know that a camel and not a man passed last night? Was it not by the print of his hoof in the sand?" And pointing to the sun whose rays were fading over the horizon, he added, "That footprint is not of man."

Reverence

Reverence to God and reverence for one's neighbor and reverence for oneself as a servant of God, is the basis of every form of religion. The method of expression of reverence to God varies with every sect and denomination. What sect or denomination a boy belongs to depends, as a rule on his parents' wishes. It is they who decide. It is our business to respect their wishes and to second their efforts to inculcate reverence, what ever form of the religion the boy professes.

--Robert Baden-Powell, Aids to Scoutmastership, p.38

Peace and Brotherhood (readings from the Koran, of Islam)

"O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and female, and made you into Nations and tribes, that you may know each other (not that ye may despise each other)" [49:13]

"And their Lord hath accepted of them, and answered them: 'Never will I suffer to be lost the work of any of you be he male or female; Ye are members, one of another...'1 (3:195]

"The Believers are but a single brotherhood; so make peace and reconciliation between your two (contending) brothers; and fear God that ye may receive mercy." [49:10]

"And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God (stretches out for you) and be not divided among yourselves; and remember with gratitude God's favor on you " [3:103]

"They ask thee concerning orphans. Say: 'The best thing to do is what is for their good; if ye mix their affairs with yours, they are your brethren; ...' [2:220]

"But the god fearing shall be amidst gardens and fountains: 'Enter you them, in peace and security!' We shall strip away all rancor that is in their breasts; as brothers they shall be upon couches set face to face." [15:45)

Pure Thought

All that we are is the result of what we have thought: it is founded on our thoughts; it is made up of our thoughts. If a man speaks or acts with an evil thought, pain follows him as the wheel follows the foot of the ox that draws the carriage.

All that we are is the result of what we have thought: it is founded on our thoughts; it is made up of our thoughts. If a man speaks or acts with an evil thought, pain follows him, like a shadow that never leaves him.

'He abused me, he beat me, he defeated me, he robbed me' -- in those who harbor such thoughts hatred will never cease. For hatred does not cease by hatred at any time; hatred ceases by love -this is an old rule.

The world does not know that we must all come to an end here; but those who know it' their quarrels cease at once.

-- Buddhist Buddha from Sharing, p.20

Good Neighbor and Sharing

Not long ago there was a severe drought in one part of India and in one village the water tanks went dry. There was no water for the crops and it looked as if they must fail. This would be disaster, for the failure of the harvest might mean starvation.

One man in the village had water -- a farmer who owned the only well. But he was afraid that if he allowed the whole village to use his well, there might not be enough water for his own crops. And yet he felt that, as a good neighbor, he should be willing to share what he had. In despair he asked God what he should do; and then he waited for the answer. It came. The thought came into his mind as clearly as if God had actually spoken to him. 'As long as your heart does not dry up with selfishness, the well will not dry up.' So he gave the water and there was enough for everyone.

-- Hindu from Sharing, p.30

People of All Colors

I was born with a bronze skin, and I like it. Some of my friends were born white or black or yellow. They were not consulted. But that's all right. There are yellow roses, white roses and red roses, and the fragrance of the one is about as nice as another. I hope my children will live in a world where people of all colors can sit and work together.

-- Native American Chief Walking Buffalo of the Stoney Indians from Sharing, p.35

Who Is Listening?

I saw two people walking, Talking with great animation, Both of them speaking at the same time. Could they hear each other, Or were they just talking and not listening? Would one say tomorrow:

"But I told you yesterday," And the other reply, "Did you? I don't remember that."

Beneath the chatter and the flow of clichés,
About the weather, the football and last night's TV,
Are people saying things that I do not want to hear?
Beneath the banter of lunch time,
Are cries for help drowned in the coffee?
Is there a scream I cannot hear
Behind the tired smiles and the shouts of
"See you in the morning?"

Friends talk, without hearing.
Committees talk, and no one listens.
Families talk, and no one pays attention.
The lonely weep, but their neighbors are deaf.
In the High Street, God himself speaks of His love.
Every day He offers eternal life,
But His voice is lost in the roar of the traffic.

Lord, forgive me that I choose not to hear
 The voices that disturb me.
 Help me to hear when someone sighs.
 To notice a face, see the eyes,
 To be aware, to be sensitive to the silent shout of a friend in need.
 Teach me to hear between the words.
 Open my inward ear so that I will hear Your voice
 When You speak to me.
 Remind me, again and again, that You are always listening
 -- From "Pause for Thought: by Frank Topping, as found in Let Us Pray

An Examination of Conscience for Scouts

1. A Scout is trustworthy. Did I tell the truth (lie)? Say kind (mean) things about others? Praise (injure) others in word? Was I true to who I am? Have I returned to the rightful owner things that are not mine? Have I asked permission before taking or using things that are not mine?
2. A Scout is loyal. Was I true to my religious beliefs, country, family friends, and acknowledge them? Remember (neglect) my prayers? Willfully strengthen (endanger) my faith by readings or associations with others? Do I support the Church?
3. A Scout is helpful. Was I supportive and helpful (jealous or envious) to others? Did I use wisely (waste) time, others' or mine?
4. A Scout is friendly. Did I try to be a friend to everyone? Was I agreeable, (angry)? Compromising(stubborn)? Humble (proud)? Did I make peace (fight or quarrel)? Lead others to peace (fight)?
5. A Scout is courteous. Did I compliment (make fun of) others? Did I treat the elderly, the deaf, the blind, or disabled with (without) respect? Did I help uplift (look down on) others?
6. A Scout is kind. Was I kind (unkind or mean) to others? Did I respect (disrespect) others? Wish good (ill) on others? Was I kind to animals?
7. A Scout is obedient. Did I obey (disobey) my parents? Teachers? Was I kind (mean) towards my parents or teachers or leaders? Did I listen to those in authority over me?
8. A Scout is cheerful. Am I content with what I have? Did I wish to make others' lives happier (unpleasant) by being cheerful (grouchy)?
9. A Scout is thrifty. Did I use wisely (foolishly) my time, talents, money, and materials?
10. A Scout is brave. Have I stood up for what I believe? Am I willing to face danger even if I am afraid?
11. A Scout is clean. Have I kept my body clean and healthy? Have my thoughts and words been clean?
12. A Scout is reverent. Have I used God's name reverently (irreverently)? Have I prayed frequently? Was I tolerant (intolerant) of the beliefs of others?

Twelve Guidelines for Living ... A Biblical Perspective on the Scout Law

In 1911, The Official Handbook for Boys was published by the fledgling Boy Scouts of America. This book presented to Americans an organization with a framework of duty to God and country and a cornerstone of unselfish service to mankind. Under girding this organization was to be a firm foundation called the Scout Law.

In the more than three-quarters of a century since the Official Handbook for Boys went to press, Scouting has kept pace with modern approaches while broadening its scope. Yet the foundation remains firm, offering to today's youth the same moral guidance espoused in 1911.

Upon studying the 12 points of the Scout Law, Christians quickly recognize a well-balanced guide for living. Each of these 12 points finds positive support from the pages of the Holy Bible. As evidence of this biblical support a sampling of passages is provided.

- I. A Scout is Trustworthy - I Corinthians 4:1-2 (NASV) - "Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy."
 - II. A Scout is Loyal - Proverbs 19:22a (RSV) - "What is desired in a man is loyalty."
 - III. A Scout is Helpful - Matthew 25:35-36 (KJV) - "For I was hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in: Naked and ye clothed me: I was sick and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." Proverbs (Moffatt) - "Never refuse help to your neighbor, when you can render it."
 - IV. A Scout is Friendly - John 15:12-13 (NASV) - (Jesus said) "This is my commandment, that you love on another just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."
 - V. A Scout is Courteous - I Peter 3:8 (KJV) - "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion of one another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous."
 - VI. A Scout is Kind - Ephesians 4:32 (NASV) - "And be kind to on another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."
 - VII. A Scout is Obedient - Hebrews 13:17a (NASV) - "Obey your leaders and submit to them for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give account." Ephesians 6:1 (NASV) "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."
 - VIII. A Scout is Cheerful - Proverbs 17:22a (RSV) - "A cheerful heart is good medicine."
 - IX. A Scout is Thrifty ("he does not wantonly destroy property. He works faithfully, waste nothing and makes the best use of his opportunities. He saves money so that he may pay his own way, he is generous to those in need and helpful to worthy objects.")* -Proverbs 21:5a (KJV) - "The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness." Romans 12:10-11 (NASV) - "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, persevering in tribulation, devoted in prayer....." Proverbs 28:27 (KJV) - "He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack."
- * The Boy Scouts of America, The official Handbook for Boys (New York: Doubleday, Page and Company, 1911), PP. 15-16.
- X. A Scout is Brave - II Timothy 1:7 (NASV)"For God has not given us a spirit of timidity but of power and lover and discipline." Joshua 1:6 (Moffatt) - "....be strong and brave ... turning neither to the right not to the left, so that you may succeed wherever you go."
 - XI. A Scout is Clean - Psalm 51:10 (NASV) "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 24:3 = "Who may ascend into the hills of the Lord and who may stand in His Holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood, and has not sworn deceitfully. He shall receive a blessing from the Lord and righteousness from God of his salvation."

XII. A Scout is Reverent - Proverbs 19:23 (LB) - "Reverence for God gives life, happiness, and protection from harm." Psalm 34:9 (Moffatt) - "Revere the Eternal, O ye saints of his, the reverent never want for anything."

Yes, the Scout Law offers 12 quality guidelines with biblical precedent. Millions of young people have been positively influenced by this foundation of Scouting. And, as long as young people are led in Scouting adventure by Christians committed to the truths of the Scout Law, America has in store for her a brighter future!

-- R. Chip Turner, Executive Committee Member. Association of Baptist for Scouting

A Friend

An Arab had 17 camels. When he died, he left half his camels to his eldest son; a third to his second son and a ninth to his youngest. Trouble is that 17 will not divide by two, three or nine. A friend heard about the problem and lent the boys a camel. That made 18. Half of 18 is 9; a third is 6; and a ninth is 2. $9+6+2 = 17$. So the friend got his camel back and the sons got what was right for each of them. A good Scout will always do what the friend did - whatever the cost - to make his neighbors happy. The promise is, of course, that if you sacrifice something (like an expensive camel) you will never lose and others might gain - which is the beginning of happiness. OK?

-- from "God. are you still in there?"

Our Vision for Tomorrow

Our vision for tomorrow

	Will circle the world
	We sing of hope and lasting peace
So. Africa	Peace around the earth.
Sudan	There's a chance to see tomorrow
Jordan	A purpose for tomorrow
New Zealand	And hope for many tomorrows
Venezuela	Many tomorrows
Israel	One world: one mind
Gambia	One world: one heart
Sierra Leone	One world: one family
Zambia	A world of evil free,
Guatemala	With food for all
Thailand	And jobs for all;
Cote d'Ivoire	A caring and sharing world;
Ecuador	A world of smiles and happiness;
Sri Lanka	A world of love.
Netherlands	Variety makes us whole
St. Vincent & The Grenadines	Unity is our goal.
Mexico	Unity round a torch of love
Thdia	Unity in diversity
Papua New Guinea	Respect for human dignity]
Honduras	And rights that never cease.
Nicaragua	We all need a future,
Kuwait	Where love is peace will follow --
Philippines	Peace means survival
Cyprus	(Life beyond survival) --
Nepal	Keep the beauty of the world.
	Let us bring our song
	From the Kenya dawn
	To the hearts of all mankind
Fiji	Sing our love for all mankind
	With a call of harambee!
	We'll all pull together
Greece	With arms just for loving,
Ghana	As friends understanding
Liberia	Our hope for the future:
	To see God's Kingdom on earth!

-- Our Chalet Song Book II, p.8

Not Without Getting Wet

Have you heard about the Scout who was turned down on his swimming merit badge? He showed up at the waterfront in a new pair of designer swim trunks. He had memorized the seven requirements for earning the badge. He knew the safety rules. He could describe all the body coordination involved in the backstroke, breaststroke, crawl and trudgen. But, when the instructor asked him to get into the water and demonstrate these skills, his reply was "I didn't know it involved that. I don't believe in getting wet."

Vick, you ask, did that really happen? Well, of course not. But you probably heard what did happen ... A Scout came before his Board of Review for the Life Scout Award. He had the proper merit badges and skill awards. He had served the proper time limits in some leadership role in his Troop. In Troop meetings, Courts of Honor, and other Scout functions, he had regularly raised his hand to the Scout Sign and said, "On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God..." But when the Review Committee asked him to explain what Duty to God means in his life, he said, "I don't believe in God, so I didn't think that applied to me."

A Scout cannot earn a swimming merit badge without getting wet. A Scout cannot earn the Life Award without a personal commitment to the Duty to God concept of Scouting.

Do the Scouts in your Troop have a regular association with that concept through your example and through activities designed to make them aware of God in their life? A recognition of this fundamental value must be cultivated long before the Scout reaches his Life Review.

-- Sign's Up, p.59

The Way of Tolerance

What is so extraordinary from the point of view of history of religions is that the spread of Buddhism was totally peaceful. The dharma first received state patronage in the third century BC under the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka, who adopted it after being disgusted by a particularly bloody military campaign in Orissa. With the fervor of the newly converted, he had his new faith spread rapidly throughout much of northern India and Pakistan. Some of the earliest Buddhist archaeological remains date from this time: the famous Ashokan columns -- pillars etched with quotes from the texts and directions to fellow-Buddhists -- and rocks carved with inscriptions in a similar vein. One of these well conveys the mood of serene tolerance that informed the propagation:

One should not honor only one's own religion and condemn the religions of others, but one would honor others' religions for this or that reason ... In acting otherwise one digs the grave of one's own religion and also does harm to other religions. Whosoever honors his own religion and condemns other religions does so, indeed, through devotion to his own religion, thinking: "I will glorify my own religion." But on the contrary, in so doing he injures his own religion more gravely. So concord is good: let all listen, and be willing to listen to the doctrines professed by others.

Ashokan Rock Edict No.12 from Buddha. The Intelligent heart p.25

Which Am I?

I watched them tearing a building down,
A gang of men in a busy town,
With a 'ho heave ho' and a lusty yell,
They swung a beam and a side wall fell.

I asked the foreman, "are those men skilled, and the men you'd hire if you had to build?" He gave a laugh and said, "No indeed, just a common laborer is all I need."

"I can easily wreck in a day or two
What builders have taken a year to do."
And I thought to myself as I went my way
Which of these roles have I tried to play.

Am I a builder who works with care,
Measuring life by the rule and square?
Am I shaping my deeds to a well made plan,
Patiently doing the best I can?
Or am I a wrecker who walks the town,
Content with the labor of tearing down?

God's Creatures

I will remember a moment when we were sitting around the cooking fire when a great, ugly beetle crawled across the area. Scouts and Scouters alike were commenting on its size and its ugliness until one of the committeemen remarked, "one of God's creatures!" This simple remark at that moment made more of an impression than any number of sermons.

Created Equal

We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.
from the Declaration of Independence

On Reverence

The old knights were very religious. They were always careful to attend religious service, especially before going into battle or undertaking any serious difficulty. They considered it the right thing always to be prepared for death. Besides worshipping God in church, the knights always recognized His work in the things which He made, such as animals, plants and all nature.

And so it is with peace scouts today. Wherever they go they love the woodlands, the mountains, and the prairies, and they like to watch and know about the animals that inhabit them, and the wonders of the flowers and plants.

No man is much good unless he believes in God and obeys His laws. So every Scout should have a religion.
Scouting for Boys, by Robert Baden-Powell, p.261

I Am A Link

I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good. I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place while not intending it -- if I keep His commandments.

from Let Us Pray

Footsteps

A man who had just died was reviewing the footsteps he had taken in his life. He noticed that over all the mountainous trails and the very difficult places he had traveled there was one set of footprints, but -- over the plains and down the hills there were two sets of footprints. He turned to God and asked, "There is something I don't understand. Why is it, that when I walked the down hill trails and over the smooth and easy paces, you walked beside me, but on the difficult trails, I walked alone?" God answered, "It is true that while your life was easy I walked at your side, but when the walking was hard and the paths difficult, I realized that was the time you needed Me most, so I carried you."

Measuring Men

You may measure the height of a mountain, or the number of miles from the sun;
You can time the flight of a rocket, or the bullet when fired from the gun;
The size of a brooklet or river, as the landscape you casually scan;
The contents of hamper or basket - but how may you measure a man?

Surely not by his girth or the inches that reach from his head to his feet;
And not by the transit or level - and not by the plumb or the square;
And certainly not by the car that he drives, or the sort of pin he may wear.

Not by the sum of the years he has lived, or his portion in civic affairs;
Ant not by the place in the church or the State, or the size of the hat he wears.
Surely not by the riches he hoarded away, or successful investments he made;
Nor the time that he worked, as the years sped along, but rather how much he played.

Perhaps by his friends and his neighbors, the good cheer he dispenses each day;
The kind deeds he does, or the loads that he shares, as he journeys along life's highway.
Maybe by the frowns he erases and the bright smiles to which he gives birth
Will help us to set up a standard that will accurately measure his worth.

For we're tiring of sham and of falsehood and we're looking for standards not shown,
That will measure all men by their output, and not by their income alone;
And when we have added the figures and have totaled the things that are best,
We shall find that it's true - as it always has been - that it's service that measures success.

-- Bill Brown (1941)

Peace

I had a paint box, but it didn't have the color red for the blood of the wounded, nor the white for the hearts and faces of the dead.

It didn't have yellow either for the burning sands of the desert.

Instead it had orange for the dawn and the sunset and blue for new skies and pink for the dreams of young people.

I sat down and painted peace.

-- from Young People Talking With God, written by a ten-year-old from Latin America]

Differing Opinions

When you meet those whose opinions differ from your own, do not turn away your face from them. All are seeking truth, and there are many roads leading thereto. Truth has many aspects, but it remains always and for ever one.

-- Bahai Abdu'l-Baha from Sharing, p.35

Planting Seeds of Peace

"And goodness is the harvest that is produced from the seeds the peacemakers plant in peace."

-- Bible, James 3:18

To Think About

Think about the good things which people have done for you today. Make a list of these good things. How have these things helped you find peace?

Prayer 1

God of peace, I give You thanks for each and every person who has done good things for me today. I thank You for _____ who helped me by _____. Their actions have helped me find Your peace. I am happy that these people have done good things for me and that their actions show Your love. Help me to care for them and show them Your love and peace. Amen

Prayer 2 The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace; Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

-- from Pathways to Worship, p.25

O Lord, Reform the World -- Beginning With Me.

"O Lord, reform the world - beginning with me." That is the prayer of a Chinese Christian. I wonder if we are humble enough to pray the same prayer? Do you wonder at the things you see and hear in the news? Fighting? Strikes? Riots? Bombings? All of these things are caused because men are selfish beings. They want what is best for themselves and don't care what happens to others in the getting. They want to gain everything and give nothing.

Michel Quoist says, "Love is a one-way street. It always moves away from self in the direction of the other.' In other words, love means doing something for someone else without thinking of yourself. Christ did this. He came to earth, worked first as a carpenter and then as a missionary. Those who knew Him saw that He was Love. He saw a great deal of sin in people and, because of this died for us. He certainly didn't put Himself first, did He? If everyone in the world prayed this prayer sincerely there would be international peace at one.

-- from Sharing, p.10

Results Reached Far

A group of sullen, disconsolate German Prisoners of war were being marched ashore at Plymouth, England, during World War II. One in particular, hardly more than a boy, looked so utterly discouraged and forlorn that a King's Scout [like Eagle Scout in America] who was watching was moved to give him a warm, friendly smile. To his surprise the German prisoner's face lighted up and he responded with the Scout salute, recognizing the uniform the English Scout was wearing. The King Scout fell into step beside the German boy, chatting with him as long as the authorities permitted it.

At the World Jamboree in Bad Ischl, Austria, one the Section Chiefs, relating the incident, commented, "That simple act of Scout friendliness was the thing which aroused in the heart of that half-sick, dejected, defeated German soldier the determination to stick it out and to continue in Scouting when release came. I know, for I was that German soldier."

-- from The Scout Law In Action

Trust

Hans was a little shepherd boy who lived in Germany. One day, when he was keeping his master's sheep, a hunter rode up to him out of the forest. 'How far is it to the nearest village, my boy?' asked the hunter, 'It is six miles, sir,' replied Hans. 'But the road is only a sheep track. You might easily miss your way.' 'My boy,' said the hunter, leaning down from his horse, 'if you will take me there I will pay you well.' Hans shook his head. 'I cannot leave the sheep, sir,' he said. 'They would stray in the forest and the wolves might eat them.' 'But if one or two sheep are lost or eaten,' said the hunter, 'I will pay you well for them. I will give you more than you can earn in a year.' 'No, sir,' said Hans. 'The sheep belong to my master. If they are lost, I should be to blame.' 'If you cannot take me to the village,' the hunter went on, 'will you get me a guide? I will take care of your sheep while you are gone.' Again Hans shook his head. 'I cannot do that,' he said. 'The sheep do not know your voice and I do not know if you would take good care of them. 'Can't you trust me?' asked the hunter. 'No sir,' said Hans. 'You have tried to make me break my promise to my master; how do I know that you will keep your promise to me?' The hunter laughed. 'You are right,' he said. 'I wish I could trust my servants as your master can trust you.'

Just then several men rode out of the forest and seeing the hunter they spurred their horses towards him. 'Sire!' they shouted joyfully. 'We thought you were lost!' Then Hans learned to his great surprise that the hunter was a prince of the kingdom. He was afraid that the great man would punish him. But the prince only smiled and spoke in praise of him and then they all rode away. Some days later a servant came from the prince and took Hans to the palace. 'Hans,' said the prince, 'I want you to leave your sheep and to come and serve me. I know that you are a boy whom I can trust.' Hans was very happy over his good fortune but he replied, 'If my master can find another boy to take my place, then I will come and serve you.' So Hans went back and looked after the sheep until his master found another boy. After that he served the prince for many years.

-- Assemblies for Primaries from Searching, p.36

From "The Gospel of the Redman" Concept of Peace

Peace was not, as they conceived it, a negative thing, the mere absence of war or an interval between wars, to be recognized only as the stepchild of the law -- as unfortunately has been the case with most Western peoples, among whom the laws of peace, in the international field, have been recognized by jurists as an after thought to laws of war.

To the Iroquois, peace was the law. They used the same word for both. Peace (the Law) was righteousness in action, the practice of justice between individuals and nations. If they ever recognized it as a mystic presence, they found it not in some imagined retreat from the world, but in human institutions, especially in a good government. Their own Confederacy, which they named the Great Peace, was sacred. The chiefs who administered the League were their priests.

In their thought, peace was so inseparable from the life of man that they had no separate term by which to denominate it. It was thought of and spoken of in terms of its component elements: as Health (soundness of body and sanity of mind), Law (Justice codified to meet particular cases), and Authority (which gives confidence that justice will prevail).

Peace was a way of life, characterized by wisdom and graciousness. Their symbol for this Peace was a Tree, and the Tree had roots in the earth....

Like the spire of our churches, the Great White Pine which 'pierces the sky' and 'reaches the sun' lifted the thoughts of the Iroquois to the meanings of peace-- the Good News which they believed the Great Spirit... had sent Deganawidah [the promulgator of the League] to impart them.

In general, the Tree signified the Law, that is, the constitution, which expressed the terms of their union. But there were other important elements in the symbol.

The Branches signified shelter, the protection and security that people found in union under the shadow of the Law.

The Roots, which stretched to the four quarters of the earth, signified the extensions of the Law, the Peace, to embrace all mankind. Other nations, not yet members of the League, would see the roots as they grew outward, and, if they were people of goodwill would desire to follow them to their source and take shelter with others under the Tree.

The Eagle that sees afar, which Deganawidah placed on the very summit of the Tree, signified watchfulness. And the meaning of placing the Eagle on top of the tree, is to watch the roots extend to the North and to the South and to the west and to the East, and the Eagle will discover if any evil is approaching your Confederacy, and will scream and give the alarm and come to the front.

The Eagle shall have your power. It was a reminder to his people that the best political contrivance was that the wit of man can devise is impotent to keep the peace unless a watchful people stands always on guard to defend it.

The Deganawidah uprooted the Tree, and under it disclosed a Cavern through which a stream of water, passing out of sight into unknown regions under the earth. Into this current he cast the weapons of war, the hatchets and war clubs, saying, we here rid the earth of these things of an evil mind.

Then, replacing the Tree, thus he said shall the Great Peace be established, and hostilities shall no longer be known between the Five Nations, but peace to the United People.

Drama

I didn't call you, I'm Praying! Worship Skit

Instructions: The second person should be heard but not seen.

1. "Our Father who art in Heaven...
2. Yes.

1. Don't interrupt me. I'm praying.
2. But you called me.

1. Called you? I didn't call you. I'm praying. "Our Father who art in Heaven..."
2. There, you did it again.

1. Did what?
2. Called me. You said: "Our Father who art in Heaven." Here I am, what's on your mind?

1. But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good; kind of like getting a duty done.
2. all right, go on.

1. "Hallowed by Thy name...
2. Hold it. What did you mean by that?

1. By what?
2. By "hallowed be Thy name?"

1. It means... It means... Good grief, I don't know what it means. How should I know? It's just part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?
2. It means honored, holy, wonderful.

1. Hey, that makes sense. I never thought what hallowed meant before. "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
2. Do you really mean that?

1. Sure, why not?
2. What are you doing about it?

1. Doing? Nothing, I guess. I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control of everything down here like you have up there.
2. Do I have control of you?

1. Well, I go to church.
2. That isn't what I asked you. What about your attitudes? Do you really believe you are a person filled with my love? Do you treat others with respect?

1. Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of the rest of those phonies at church.
2. Excuse me. I thought you were praying for my will to be done. If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it. Like you, for example.

1. Oh all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some.
2. So could I.

1. I haven't thought about it very much until now. But I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free.

(continued ...)

2. Good. Now we're getting somewhere. Well we'll work together, you and I. Some victories can truly be won. I'm proud of you.
1. Look, Lord, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. "Give us this day our daily bread."
2. You need to cut out some of the bread. You're overweight as it is.
1. Hey, wait a minute! What is this? Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of sudden You break in and remind me of all my hang-ups.
2. Praying is a dangerous thing. You could wind up changed, you know. That's what I'm trying to get across to you. You called me, and here I am. It's too late to stop now. Keep praying, I'm interested in the next part of your prayer... (pause) ... well, go on.
1. I'm scared to.
2. Scared? Of what?
1. I know what you'll say.
2. Try me and see.
1. "Forgive us our trespasses [debts) as we forgive those who trespass against us [our debtors]."
2. What about Linda?
1. See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up. Why, Lord, she told lies about me, cheated me out of some money. She never paid back that debt she owes me. I've sworn to get even with her.
2. But what about your prayer?
1. I didn't mean it.
2. Well, at least you're honest. But it's not much fun carrying that load of bitterness around inside, is it?
1. No. But I'll feel better soon as I get even. Boy, have I got some plans for old Linda. She'll wish she never did me any harm.
2. You won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think of how unhappy you are already. But I can change all that.
1. You can? How?
2. Forgive Linda as I have forgiven you. You may lose the money, but you will have settled your heart.
1. Oh, You're right. You always are. And more than I want revenge on Linda, I want to be right with You (pause) ... (sigh) All right, all right. I forgive her. Please help her to find the right road in life. She's bound to be awfully miserable now that I think about it. Anybody who goes around doing the things that she does to others has to be out of it. Some way, somehow, show her the right way. And Lord, help me to forget it too.
2. There now! Wonderful! How do you feel?
1. Hmm, well not bad. Not bad at all. In fact, I feel pretty great!
2. You're not through with your prayer. Go on.
1. Oh, all right. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"
2. Good! Good! I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted.
1. What do you mean by that?
2. Quit hanging around with that one group which is always getting into trouble. Change some of your friendships. Some of your so-called friends are beginning to get to you. They'll have you completely involved in wrong things before long. Don't be fooled. They advertise they're having fun, but for you it would be ruin. Don't use me for an escape hatch.
1. I don't understand.

(continued ...)

2. Sure you do. You've done it a lot of times. You get in bad situations, you get into trouble and then you come running to Me "Lord, help me out of this mess."
1. I'm sorry Lord. I really am. Up until now I thought that if I just prayed the Lord's Prayer every day, then I could do what I liked. I didn't expect anything to happen like that you really listen.
2. Go ahead and finish your prayer.
1. "For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever."
2. Do you know what would bring me glory? What would really make me happy?
1. No, but I'd like to know. I want to please You. I can see what a mess I've made of my life and I can see how neat it would be to really be one of Your followers.
2. You just answered the question.
1. I did?
2. Yes. The thing that would bring Me glory is to have people like you truly love Me. And I see that happening between us. There's no telling what we can do together.
1. Lord, let's see what we can make of me, O.K.?
2. Yes, let's see.

(Courtesy of Sr. Connie Piska)

Benedictions

Short Benedictions

May we all remain fast and firm in faith, that the glory of glories may rest upon us. Thou art Gracious, the Bountiful, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

--From the Bahai faith, Abdul Bahai.

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face to shine upon you, And give you peace.

--Traditional

May we all remain fast and firm in faith, that the glory of glories may rest upon us. Thou art the Gracious, the Bountiful, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

--From the Baha'i Writings

May the Lord watch between me and thee,
While we are absent from one another.

-- The Mizpah

An Old Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind always be at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your friends,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

The Scoutmaster's Benediction

May the great Scoutmaster of all true Scouts be with us until we meet again.

A thought for Closing

May the road rise to meet you;
May the wind be always at your back;
May the rain fall softly upon your face;
May the Lord hold you in the hollow of His hand.

Closing Ceremony Thoughts

May I grow in character and ability as I grow in size.
May I be honest with myself and others in what I do and say.
May I always honor my parents, my elders and my leaders.
May I develop high moral principles and the courage to live by them.
May I strive for health in body, mind and spirit.
May I always respect the rights of others.
May I set a good example so that others may enjoy and profit from my company.
May I give honest effort to my work.
May I learn things that will help me make life better for every living thing in God's beautiful world.

Rope Circle Closing

Give each boy a piece of rope about 1m long. Tell the boys to tie their ropes together with square knots. Then, holding the knotted rope they form a friendship circle, lean back, and let the rope support them. Scouter says, "You are now part of a group of close friends, held together by a square knot, the symbol of helping others. Let's say our promise together."

-- From Circle Ten Council, BSA, Pow Wow 1979

Graces

God Has Created A New Day

God has created a new day
Silver and green and gold.
Live that the sunset may find us
Worthy his gift to hold.

Hark To The Chimes

Hark to the chimes
Come bow your head.
We thank thee God
For this good bread.

If We Have Earned The Right

If we have earned the right to eat this bread
Happy indeed are we.
But if unmerited Thou gives to us
May we more thankful be.

Neath These Tall Green Trees

Neath these tall green trees we stand
Asking blessings from Thy hand
Thanks we give to thee above
For Thy help and strength and love.

Scottish Grace

Some have meat and cannot eat
And some have nay that want it
But we have meat and we can eat
And so the Lord we thanketh.

Wayfarer's Grace

[Suggested tunes: Doxology, "Praise God From Whom
All Blessings Flow", or "For The Beauty of the Earth"]

For all the glory of the way
For all thy protection night and day
For roofree, fire, and bed and board
For friends and home
We thank thee Lord.

Blessing Hymn

(Tune: Edelweiss)
Come dear Lord, be our guest
As we gather together.
May our heart glow with love,
Keep us close to you ever.

Friendship and joy, may they
bloom and grow.
bloom and grow forever,
Bless our homes, bless our friends,
Bless our common endeavors.

Thank you God, for this day,
Bless all those who greet it.
May your love glow with peace,
may your love go forth from us.

Friendship and peace may they bloom and grow
Bloom and grow forever.

Bless our friends, bless our work
bless each of us forever.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how great Thou art,
You meet my every need,
You quench my thirst,
You guard my home,
My soul and body feed.

Like The Pearl

(Tune: Pearly shells. echo each. line)

Like the pearl
in the ocean
Made by God
from a grain of sand.
Like the pearl
may God's blessings surround me.
Make a pearl
from this little grain of sand.

May God Bless

(Tune: Oh dear what can the matter be.)

May God bless the girls at this meeting
May God bless the food we are eating
May God bless the ones who are leading
May God bless Girl Scouts everywhere.

Orchard And Ocean

(Tune: Tell me why)

Orchard and ocean
Farm and field
We thank our maker
For all they yield.
For earth and water
For flower and seed
We thank you God
in thought, word and deed.

Time To Eat

(Tune: Ain't she sweet)

Time to eat, Girl Scout snack time is a treat!
We thank God for his generosity--Time to eat!

Let's Join Hands

(Tune: Mary had a little lamb)

Let's join hands and give our thanks,
give our thanks, give our thanks,
Let's join hands and give our thanks,
Give our thanks to God.

Amen

A Amen, A Amen, A amen, Amen, Amen.
HEAR THE LITTLE CHILDREN
A Amen, STANDING AT THIS TABLE, A Amen
ASKING FOR YOUR BLESSING
Amen, Amen!

We Know, We Know

(Tune: Hi Ho Hi HO)

We know, we know,
from whom all blessing flow
We thank him then
We say Amen
We know, we know!
(We know, We know, We know--
repeat 'til tired!)

World Hunger Grace

For food in a world where many walk in hunger,
For faith in a world where many walk in fear,
For friends in a world where many walk alone,
We give Thee humble thanks, Oh, Lord.

Namaste

(Tune: THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER)

Namaste means thank you
means thank you
means thank you
Namaste means thank you
Namaste my Lord.
For good food
and good friends
and feelings that don't end
Namaste means thank you
Namaste my Lord.
(na/ma/stay)

Thank Thee

(Tune: Ruben, Ruben)

Thank thee, thank thee
heavenly Father
For thy blessings we have gathered.
Give us strength and understanding,
bless us now, oh Lord.
We pray.

God Is Great

(Tune: London Bridge)

God is great and God is good
God is good, God is good
Let us thank him for this food
Alleluia!

Thank The Lord

(Tune: Teapot)

I am strong and healthy
thank the Lord.
I have bread, room and board
I have good friends and family,
God takes very good care of me.

He Hears

(Tune: On top of old Smokey)

My God is so great
and I am so small,
but it doesn't matter
he hears when I call!
He hears when I whisper,
he hears when I shout
he hears my "thank you"
'cause I'm a Girl Scout.

Lord, God Of Power

(Tune: Down by the station)

Lord, God of power,
guide me every hour
Please bless this food
we're about to eat.

Forever And A Day

(Tune: My hat it has 3 corners)

My Lord God almighty,
bless us here today
grant that we will be worthy
forever and a day.

God Made The Mountains

(Tune: I love the mountains)

God made the mountains,
God made the rolling hills,
God made the flowers,
God made the daffodils,
God made the field of wheat,
for all the bread we eat,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
(repeat and fade out.)

May

(Tune: When Irish eyes are smiling)

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be at your back,
May good friends be there to greet you
And your table never lack.

May your life be filled with laughter,
and your heart be filled with song.
May God shine His light upon you,
As you live your whole life long.

God Is So Very Good

(Tune: Animal Crackers)

Fruit from the tree,
and from the vine.
Bread from the oven,
tastes divine.
Gosh, oh gee but I have fun,
Counting my blessings one by one.

God is so very good to me,
Sends me strength and energy,
Thank you God eternally.

Spirit Eternal

(Tune: Pop goes the weasel)

God almighty, Father of all
God the Spirit Eternal
Bless us each, one and all
Spirit Eternal.
Bless the children gathered about,
Bless adults who lead them,
Bless the children 'round the world,
Please help feed them.

Before The Night

(Tune: After the ball)

Before this day is over
Before the night begins
Help me protect the planet
Be one of it's caring friends
I thank you for all your blessings
May I earn the right
To live in harmony with them
Before the night.

Merci Beaucoup

(Tune: Alluetta)

Merci Beaucoup Lord
God almighty.
Merci Beaucoup
thank you very much.
Chorus: Merci beaucoup
Merci beaucoup
Thanks to you
Thanks to you
oh, oh, oh

Hawaiian Grace

(Tune: Aloha Oy)

Aloha to God above
Aloha a word that means
I love you.
Mahalo too means
I thank you.
Mahalo aloha to God.
(Ma/ha/low)

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia,
amen, amen.

Be Present

Be present at our table Lord
Be here and everywhere I go
His mercies bless and grant that we
May learn to live and die for Thee.

For Health And Strength

For health and strength
and daily bread
we praise Thy name oh Lord.

Another version:

For health and strength and daily food
We praise thy name O Lord.
Within this camp and all our days
Thy presence we adore,
We praise Thy name.
We praise Thy name.
We praise Thy name O Lord.

Jubilate Deo

Jubilate Deo,
Jubilate Deo,
Alleluia.

Gelobet

Gelobet sei
Gelobet sei
Der herr mein Gott.
Gelobet sei
Gelobet sei
Der herr mein Gott.
Gelobet, Gelobet, Gelobet sei.
Der mein Gott.
(translation: Praised be the Lord, my God.)

Gracias Señor

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia.
Gracias señor
allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia.
Gracias señor
Gracias señor alleluia
Gracias señor alleluia
Gracias señor alleluia
Gracias señor.

Everyday

(Tune: Camp town races)

Thank you God for all you do
Ale-luya
Thank you God for all you do
Every single day.
(contributed by Judy Hubbs)

Thanks Be To God

(Tune: Wendy)

Thanks be to God, the father almighty
Thanks be to God, who gives us our bread. (or: who
gave us the earth)
Thanks be to God, the spirit eternal (or: father eternal)
Thanks be to God, forever.

He gives us the starry sky!
He gives us the birds that fly!
He gives us the rainbows high
above the clouds, above the clouds..
[above the clouds, above the clouds!]

(repeat "thanks" part)

-- Thanks to Laura Humphrey, Lone Star Girl Scout
Council, Austin, TX USA

Indian Taps

Day is done (raise hands up)
gone the sun (lower hands)
from the lakes (arms stretch in front of you)
from the hills (arms stretch upward and diagonal, like a
hill)
from the sky (arms reach up to sky)
all is well (arms in front, bend at elbow toward you)
safely rest (arms together cross in front of body--like
folding your arms in front of you)
God is nigh. (bow head on your crossed arms.)

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees
Let us break bread together on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face
to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord have mercy on me.

Thanks To God

(Tune: Taps)

Thanks to God, for our food
for our milk, for our stew, for our bread.
God is joy, God is love
Bow your head.

God Our Father

(Tune: Frere Jacques)

God our father, God our father
Once again, once again,
we would ask thy blessing,
we would ask thy blessing
amen, amen.

Good Morning God

(Tune: Morning is here)

Good morning God, this is your day
I am your child, show me the way.

Bless Our Food

(Tune: Edelweiss)

Bless our food, bless our friends
come oh Lord and sit with us.
Make our talk glow with peace
come with your love to surround us.

Friendship and peace
may they bloom and grow
bloom and grow forever.

Bless our food, bless our friends,
Bless our dear land forever.

Thank You For The World So Sweet

Thank you for the world so sweet
thank you for the food we eat
thank you for the birds that sing
thank you God for everything.

We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing
He chastens and hastens his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing cease them from distressing
Sing praises to his name he forgets not his own.

Mountain Meadows Grace

(Mountain Meadows is a resident camp in California)

We thank the Lord for the food we eat,
For camping fun and the friends we meet,
For the rushing streams and the calm cool breeze,
For lovely meadows and tall green trees.

A Grateful Heart

This happy meal will happier be
If we, O God, remember Thee

We thank you, God, for happy hearts,
For fine and sunny weather;
We thank you, God, for this our food,
And that we are together.

For every cup and plateful,
God make us truly grateful.

As we enjoy this earthly food
At this table you have spread,
We'll not forget to thank you, God,
For all our daily bread.

A Kindergartner's Prayer

Dear Lord, bless this food. Let children everywhere
have just as much to thank You for.
Please God, hear our prayer. Amen.

-- Thanks to Evette Ogden

A Blessing

For what we are about to do, may the Lord make us
truly responsible.

For what we are about to think, may the Lord make us
truly wise.

For what we are about to say, may the Lord make us
truly sensible.

For what we are trying to achieve, may the Lord accept
and bless our efforts.

-- Thanks to Sergio Laurenti

Bless This House

[Tune: Edelweiss]

Bless this house, bless this bread,
Come oh Lord and sit with us.
May our hearts grow with peace.
Come with your love and surround us.
Friendship and love may they bloom and grow,
Bloom and grow forever.
Bless our friends, bless us all,
Bless all [. . .] Scouts forever.

God Is Great, God Is Good, Alleluia

[Tune: Michael Row the Boat]

God is great, God is good, Alleluia
Let us thank him for our food, Alleluia.
By His hand we all are fed, Alleluia
Thank you Lord, for daily bread, Alleluia.

God Our Father

[Tune: Frere Jacques]

God our Father, God our Father.
Once again, once again,
Thank you for our blessings, thank you for our
blessings.

A-amen, a-amen.

Variation of third line: "We would ask thy
blessing"

Health and Strength

For health and strength and daily bread
We praise thy name, Oh Lord.

Johnny Appleseed

The Lord is good to me
And so I thank the Lord
For giving me the things I need
The sun and rain and the appleseed.
The Lord is good to me.

(continued ...)

And every seed that grows
Will grow into a tree,
And one day soon there'll be apples there,
For everyone in the world to share.
The Lord is good to me.

Oh, here I am 'neath the blue, blue sky
Doing as I please.
Singing with my feathered friends
Humming with the bees.

I wake up every day,
As happy as can be,
Because I know that with His care
My apple trees, they will still be there.
The Lord's been good to me.

Peace Is

Peace is the bread we break;
Love is a river rolling.
Life is the chance we take
When we make this world our home.
Gonna make this world our home.

Thank Thee Heavenly Father

[Tune: We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder]

Thank Thee, Thank Thee, Heavenly Father,
For Thy blessings, as we gather,
Give us peace and understanding,
Bless us all, O Lord.

Thank You For The Food We Eat

[Tune: Michael Row The Boat Ashore]

Thank you for the food we eat, Hallelujah.
Thank you for the friends we meet, Hallelujah.
Thank you for the birds that sing, Hallelujah.
Thank you Lord for everything, Hallelujah.

The World Hunger Grace

For food in a world where many walk in hunger
For faith in a world where many walk in fear
For friends in a world where many walk alone
We give thee humble thanks, Oh Lord.

Another "Indian/Native" Thanks

The eagle give thanks for the mountains
(arms like wings, then become mountain peaks)
The fish give thanks for the sea
(hands together like swimming fish, then wave motion)
We give thanks for our blessings
(arms raised in front like receiving something being
passed down from a height)
And for what we're about to receive
(arms lowering, hands like they are holding something)

-- Thanks to Lori Purvis, Snowy Owl, 1st Stayner
Brownies, Ontario, Canada

God is Great Rock Grace

(Tune: Rock Around the Clock (

God is great, God is good
Let us thank Him for our food
We're gonna thank Him morning, noon and night
We're gonna thank Him 'cuz He's outta sight
Amen, amen, amen, amen....do do do! Yeah!

Alleluia, Amen

(tune: Happy birthday)

Alleluia, Amen
Alleluia, Amen
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Amen

-- Thanks to Rae Haynes, Leader, Junior Troop 1477,
Crouton, Maryland

The Sailors Grace

Oh God the Giver, take the thanks we give,
For life and for the food by which we live,
Thinking of those who carry it by sea,
Upon our sailors may Thy blessing be.

The Back of the Bread

At the back of the Bread is the millers flour
At the back of the flour is the mill,
At the back of the mill is the wind and the rain,
And the Father's will.

-- Thanks to Ellen Kermode, Maghull, Liverpool,
England.

Another version:

Back of the bread is the flour,
And back of the flour is the mill,
And back of the mill is the wind and the rain,
And the Father's will.

Camp Tippicanoe Grace

The same tune is used at each meal. Try the tune on a piano, using the keys from middle-C up to the B-flat.

Line One: FE F G F B-flat B-flat A
Beats:1 .5 1 1 1 112

Line Two: D E F D C C C
Beats:1 1 1 1 1 1 2

Line 3: Same as line one.

(continued ...)

Line 4: D E F B-flat A G F
Beats:1 1 1 1 1 1 1

Amen: F F
Beats: 2 2

BREAKFAST

Gracious giver of all good,
Thee we thank for rest and food,
Grant that all we do and say,
In your service be this day.
Amen.

LUNCH

Father for this noon day meal,
We would speak the praise we feel,
Health and strength we have from thee,
Help us Lord to faithful be.
Amen.

DINNER

Tireless guardian of our way,
Thou hast kept us well today,
While we thank thee we request,
Care continued, pardon, rest.
Amen.

-- Thanks to Carol, Co-Leader Brownie Troop 124,
Burbank, CA

Amen (Clap)

Amen (clap), Amen (clap), Amen, Amen, Amen, (sing
it over),
Amen (clap), Amen (clap), Amen, Amen, Amen

Board Is Spread

(two part round)
is here, the board is spread,
Thanks be to God who gives us bread.

Praise Ye The Lord

(two part)

(1) - Allelu, Allelu, Allelu, Allelujah... (2) - Praise ye the Lord,
(1) - Allelu, Allelu, Allelu, Allelujah... (2) - Praise ye the Lord,
(2) - Praise ye the Lord... (1) - Allelujah,
(2) - Praise ye the Lord... (1) - Allelujah,
(2) - Praise ye the Lord... (1) - Allelujah,
(all) - Praise ye the Lord

Thank You Lord

(Tune: Edelweiss)

Thank you, Lord, on this day,
For our many great blessings,
Thank you, Lord, on this day,
For our many great friendships.
Glory to God, may He hear our prayers,
Guide us on forever,
Thank you, Lord, on this day,
For our many great blessings.

-- Thanks to Robin "Cooky" Stevens, Brownie 3079 -
Monument Service Unit Registrar & Delegate,
Connecticut Trails Council

Do We Ever?

(Tune: Waltzing Mathilda) Do we ever stop and pray

For the food we've had today,
Counting all our blessings one by one.
We are privileged to be here
Living out our Promise dear
Let us sing praises to our God.

Praise be to God
Praise be to God
Extending friendships far and near
They will live forever
Though we're not together.
Praise be to God
For our blessings here.

The first half is sung to the verse tune and the second
to the chorus tune.

-- Thanks to Anne Elzenaar, Wellington, New
Zealand

Camp Graces

For food and all Thy gifts of love
We give Thee thanks and praise
Look down O Lord from above
And bless us all our days.

God we thank Thee for this food
For rest and home and all things good
For wind and rain and sun above
But most of all for those we love.

Bless O Lord this food to our use,
And us to Thy service.

We thank Thee Lord for happy hearts
For rain and sunny weather
We thank Thee Lord for this our food
And that we are together.

(continued ...)

God is great and God is good
And we thank Him for our food
By His hand we must be fed
Give us, Lord, our daily bread.

Let us bow our heads and say:
We thank You, God, for food this day.
Thank You, God, for things to eat
For fruit and mild, for bread and meat
Thank You, God, for words to say
So we can speak and we can pray.

Thank you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for food we eat
Thank you for the birds that sing,
Thank you God, for everything.

Be present at our table, Lord,
Be here and everywhere adored,
These morsels blessed grant that we
May feast in Paradise with Thee.

God, friend of all people,
Be a friend to me;
Take my hand and ever keep me
Close to Thee.

For health and friends,
And daily food
We give Thee thanks, O Lord.

We praise Thee, Father, for food for fellowship
Give to us thru' the one, vigor of body
Thru' the other, strength of spirit.

The bread is on our table
Bless those who have no bread
And give us grace in sharing
This bounty round us spread.

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Dates Of Religious Observances

1997	1998	1999	2000	OBSERVANCE	RELIGIONS
Jan. 01	Jan. 01	Jan. 01	Jan. 01	Feast of St. Basil	Eastern Orthodox
Jan. 01	Jan. 01	Jan. 01	Jan. 01	Solemnity of Mary	Catholic
Jan. 05	Jan. 05	Jan. 05	Jan. 05	Eve of Epiphany	Eastern Orthodox
Jan. 06	Jan. 06	Jan. 06	Jan. 06	Epiphany	Christian
Jan. 16	Jan. 16	Jan. 16	Jan. 16	Shinran Shonin Memorial Day	Buddhist
Jan. 10 Dec. 31	Dec. 20	Dec. 09	Nov. 27	Ramadan	Islamic
Feb. 02	Feb. 02	Feb. 02	Feb. 02	Presentation of Christ	Eastern Orthodox
Feb. 16	Feb. 08	Jan. 31	Feb. 20	Triodion begins	Eastern Orthodox
Feb. 02	Feb. 08	Feb. 07	Feb. 06	Scout Sunday	Christian
Jan. 23	Feb. 11	No data	No data	Tu B'Shvat	Jewish
Feb. 08	Feb. 14	Feb. 13	Feb. 14	Scout Sabbath	Jewish
Feb. 15	Feb. 15	Feb. 15	Feb. 15	Nirvana Day	Buddhist
Mar. 01	Feb. 21	Feb. 13	Mar. 04	1st Saturday of Souls	Eastern Orthodox
Mar. 02	Feb. 21	Feb. 14	Mar. 05	Meat Fare	Eastern Orthodox
Feb. 09	Jan. 29	Jan. 19	Jan. 08	Eid-el-fitr	Islamic
Feb. 12	Feb. 25	Feb. 17	Mar. 08	Ash Wednesday	Christian
Mar. 20	Mar. 11	No data	No data	Ta'anis Ester [Fast of Ester]	Jewish
Mar. 23	Mar. 12	Mar. 02	Mar. 21	Purim	Jewish
Feb. 09	Jan. 30	No data	No data	Shawwal	Islamic
Mar. 08	Feb. 28	Feb. 20	Mar. 11	2nd Saturday of Souls	Eastern Orthodox
Mar. 10	Mar. 02	Feb. 22	Mar. 13	Orthodox Lent Begins	Eastern Orthodox
Mar. 15	Mar. 07	Feb. 27	Mar. 18	3rd Saturday of Souls	Eastern Orthodox
Mar. 16	Mar. 08	Feb. 28	Mar. 19	Sunday of Orthodoxy	Eastern Orthodox
Mar. 22- 23	Mar. 11- 12	Mar. 01- 02	Mar. 20- 21	Purim	Jewish
Mar. 21	Mar. 21	Mar. 21	Mar. 21	Higan E	Buddhist
Mar. 10	Feb. 27	No data	No data	Dhu-i-Hijja - Pilgrimage	Islamic
Mar. 25	Mar. 25	Mar. 25	Mar. 25	Annunciation of the Virgin Mary	Eastern Orthodox
Mar. 23	Apr. 05	Mar. 28	Apr. 16	Palm Sunday	Christian
Apr. 22- 29	Apr. 11- 18	Apr. 01- 08	Apr. 20- 27	Pesach (Passover)	Jewish
Mar. 27	Apr. 09	Apr. 02	Apr. 20	Maundy Thursday	Christian
Mar. 28	Apr. 10	Apr. 03	Apr. 21	Good Friday	Christian
Apr. 19	Apr. 11	Apr. 03	Apr. 22	Saturday of Lazarus	Eastern Orthodox
Mar. 30	Apr. 12	Apr. 04	Apr. 23	Easter Sunday	Christian
Apr. 20	Apr. 12	Apr. 04	Apr. 23	Orthodox Palm Sunday	Eastern Orthodox
Apr. 08	Apr. 08	Apr. 08	Apr. 08	Buddha Day	Buddhist
Apr. 25	Apr. 17	Apr. 09	Apr. 28	Orthodox Holy Friday	Eastern Orthodox
Apr. 27	Apr. 19	Apr. 11	Apr. 30	Orthodox Easter	Eastern Orthodox
Apr. 09	Mar. 30	No data	No data	Dhu-i-Hijja - Feast of Sacrifice	Islamic
Apr. 16	Apr. 06	Mar. 27	Mar. 15	Day of Arafah	Islamic
Apr. 17	Apr. 07	Mar. 28	Mar. 16	Eid-al-adha	Islamic
May 25	May 14	May 04	May 23	Lag B'Omer	Jewish
May 15	May 15	May 15	May 15	Aaronic Priesthood Commemoration	Church of Jesus Christ of LDS
May 08	May 21	May 13	Jun 01	Ascension Day	Christian
May 09	Apr. 28	Apr. 17	Apr. 06	Muharram	Islamic
May 21	May 21	May 21	May 21	Shinran Shonin Day	Buddhist
Jun. 05	May 28	May 22	Jun .08	Orthodox Ascension Day	Eastern Orthodox
Jun. 11- 12	May 31- 01	May 21- 22	Jun. 08- 10	Shavout	Jewish
May 18	May 31			Pentacost	Christian
May 17	May 06	Apr. 26	Apr. 15	Day of Ashura	Islamic

Dates Of Religious Observances

1997	1998	1999	2000	OBSERVANCE	RELIGIONS
Jun. 14	Jun. 06	May 29	Jun. 17	Saturday of Souls	Eastern Orthodox
Jun. 15	Jun. 07	May 30	Jun. 18	Trinity Sunday	Christian
Jun. 15	Jun. 07	May 30	Jun. 18	Orthodox Pentacost	Eastern Orthodox
Jun. 22	Jun. 14	Jun 06	Jun. 25	Orthodox All Saints Day	Eastern Orthodox
Jul. 22	Jul. 12	No data	No data	Fast of the 17th of Tammuz	Jewish
Jul. 15	Jul. 15	Jul. 15	Jul. 15	Obon	Buddhist
Aug. 11-12	Aug. 01-02	Jul. 21-22	Aug. 09-10	Tishah-b'Av	Jewish
Aug. 12	Aug. 02	Jul. 22	Aug. 10	Fast of the 9th of Av	Jewish
Jul. 17	Jul. 06	Jun. 26	Jun. 15	Prophet's Birth	Islamic
Aug. 1-14	Aug. 1-14	Aug. 1-14	Aug. 1-14	Feast of the Virgin Mary	Eastern Orthodox
Aug. 06	Aug. 06	Aug. 06	Aug. 06	Transfiguration of Christ	Eastern Orthodox
Aug. 09	Aug. 09	No data	No data	Mawlid al-Nabi	Islamic
Aug. 15	Aug. 15	Aug. 15	Aug. 15	Feast of the Assumption	Catholic
Aug. 15	Aug. 15	Aug. 15	Aug. 15	Falling Asleep of the Virgin Mary	Eastern Orthodox
Aug. 29	Aug. 29	Aug. 29	Aug. 29	Beheading of John the Baptist	Eastern Orthodox
Sep. 01	Sep. 01	Sep. 01	Sep. 01	Founding Day in America	Buddhist
Sep. 08	Sep. 08	Sep. 08	Sep. 08	Nativity of the Virgin Mary	Eastern Orthodox
Sep. 14	Sep. 14	Sep. 14	Sep. 14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Eastern Orthodox
Oct. 02-03	Sep. 21-22	Sep. 11-12	Sep. 30 - Oct. 01	Rosh Hashanah	Jewish
Oct. 05	Sep. 23	Sep. 13	Oct. 02	Fast of Gedalya	Jewish
Oct. 11	Sep. 30	Sep. 20	Oct. 09	Yom Kippur	Jewish
Sep. 23	Sep. 23	Sep. 23	Sep. 23	Higan	Buddhist
Oct. 16-23	Oct. 05-12	Sep. 25 - Oct. 01	Oct. 14-15	Sukkot	Jewish
Oct. 24-25	Oct. 13-14	Oct. 02-03	Oct. 16-17	Shmini Atzeret	Jewish
Nov. 01	Nov. 01	Nov. 01	Nov. 01	All Saint's Day	Christian
Nov. 02	Oct. 22	Oct. 11	Sep. 30	Rajab	Islamic
Nov. 21	Nov. 21	Nov. 21	Nov. 21	Presentation of the Virgin Mary	Eastern Orthodox
Nov. 30	Dec. 06			First Sunday of Advent	Christian
Dec. 24-31	Dec. 14-21	Dec. 03-10	Dec. 22-29	Hanukkah	Jewish
Dec. 08	Dec. 08	Dec. 08	Dec. 08	Bodhi Day	Buddhist
Dec. 08	Dec. 08	Dec. 08	Dec. 08	Immaculate Conception	Catholic
Nov. 27	Nov. 16	Nov. 05	Oct. 25	Isra and Ma'raj	Islamic
Dec. 25	Dec. 25	Dec. 25	Dec. 25	Christmas Day	Christian
Jan. 08	Dec. 29	Dec. 18	Jan. 06	Fast of the 10th of Tevet	Jewish

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Depending on an individual's religious affiliation, there may be certain dates and religious observances that must be adhered to by the individual. This calendar is provided in an effort in helping you, the leader, become aware of religious diversity.

EASTERN ORTHODOX DATES:

According to the Eastern Orthodox Church calendar, the day begins after evening vespers at sunset and concludes with vespers on the following day. For this reason the observance of all Eastern Orthodox holy days begins at sunset on the evening before the holy day.

ISLAMIC DATES:

The Islamic calendar begins with Muharram. All Islamic dates are subject to sightings of the moon and as a result, an event may be one day earlier or later than the date listed.

JEWISH DATES:

Jewish holidays begin at sundown of the first date listed and end at nightfall of the last date listed. A religious institution has the option of celebrating Scout Sunday or Scout Sabbath at its discretion. For example, the United Methodist Church always celebrates Scout Sunday on the second Sunday in February.

Complete Scouts Own Services

Pack 92 Scouts Own Service, April 14, 1996

A Scout is Reverent.
A Scout is reverent toward God.
He is faithful in his religious duties.
He respects the beliefs of others.

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader:

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity.

Psalms 133:1

Scouts and Parents:

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
I will be glad and exult in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalms 9:1-2

Invocation

May the time be not too distant, O LORD, when all your children will understand that they are brothers and sisters, so that, one in spirit and one in fellowship, they may be for ever united before you. Then shall your kingdom be established on earth, and the word of your prophet shall be fulfilled: "The Lord will reign for ever and ever." Amen

-- From the Jewish Sabbath Service

OPENING SONG

America the Beautiful

O, beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties,
Above the fruited plain.

America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

O, beautiful for patriots dream,
That sees, beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears.
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

RESPONSIVE READING

God is the Eternal One

Leader:

God is the Eternal One,
Who reigned before any being had yet been created;
When all was done according to God's will,
Already then God's Name was Sovereign.

Scouts and Parents:

And after all has ceased to be,
Still will God reign in solitary majesty;
God was, God is, God shall be in glory.

Leader:

And God is One,
Without compare,
Without beginning,
Without end;
To God belongs power and dominion.

Scouts and Parents:

And the Sovereign of all is my own God,
My living Redeemer,
My Rock in time of trouble and distress;
My banner and my Refuge,
My benefactor, to whom in anguish, I can call.

All:

Into God's hands I entrust my spirit,
Both when I sleep as when I wake;
And with my spirit, my body also:
God is with me, I will not fear.

"Adon Olam" ("God is the Eternal One").

An eleventh-century Hebrew prayer composed by the Jewish poet and philosopher Solomon Ibn Gibirol.

A TRADITIONAL SCOUTING SONG

Kum-Ba-Yah

(The Scout Law Version)

Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

A Scout's trustworthy Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is loyal, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is helpful, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

A Scout is friendly, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is courteous, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,

A Scout is kind, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

A Scout's obedient, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is cheerful, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is thrifty, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

A Scout is brave, Lord, Kum-ba-yah
A Scout is clean, Lord, Kum-ba-yah
A Scout is reverent, Lord, Kum-ba-yah
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

Reading

The true servants of the Gracious GOD are the following:

Those who walk upon earth with humility and when they are tempted by the evil ones, they respond: Peace;

Those who pass the hours of the night in prayers and standing before the Lord;

Those who pray: Lord turn away from us the punishments of hell, for it is a heavy torment, it is indeed an evil dwelling place;

Those who are neither extravagant nor stingy in spending, but keep a balance between the two;

Those who repent and believe and do good deeds.

>From the Koran, Al-Furquan, Part 19, Chapter 25

SILENT OBSERVANCE

May we observe a moment of silent prayer, each in his own faith.

A Thought for Scout Sunday

From Baden-Powell, Scouting for Boys

The old knights were very religious. They were always careful to attend religious services, especially before going into battle or undertaking any serious difficulty. They considered it the right thing always to be prepared for death. Besides worshipping God in church, the knights always recognized His work in the things which He made, such as animals, plants, and all scenery.

And so it is with peace scouts today. Wherever they go they love the woodlands, the mountains, and the prairies, and they like to watch and know about the animals that inhabit them, and the wonders of the flowers and plants.

No man is much good unless he believes in God and obeys His laws. So every Scout should have religion.

Religion seems a very simple thing: First: Love and serve God. Second: Love and serve your neighbor.

In doing your duty to God always be grateful to Him. Whenever you enjoy a pleasure or a good game, or succeed in doing a good thing, thank Him for it, if only with a word or two, just as you say grace at a meal. And it is a good thing to bless other people. For instance, if you see a train starting off, just pray for God's blessing on all that are in the train.

In doing your duty towards man, be helpful and generous, and always be grateful for any kindness done to you, and be careful to show that you are grateful. Remember again that a present given to you is not yours until you have thanked the giver for it.

While you are living your life on earth, try to do something good which may remain after you.

One writer says: "I often think that when the sun goes down the world is hidden by a big blanket from the light of heaven, but the stars are little holes pierced in that blanket by those who have done good deeds in this world. The stars are not all the same size; some are big, some are little, and some men have done great deeds and others have done small deeds, but they have made their hole in the blanket by doing good before they went to heaven."

Try to make your hole in the blanket by good work while you are on earth.

It is something to be good, but it is far better to do good.

BENEDICTION

"An Old Irish Blessing"

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind always be at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your friends,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

A Scouts' Own Service

Call to Worship

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness. Come into His presence with singing.
Know that the Lord is God. It is He that made us, and we are His;
we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.”

Opening Hymn GOD BLESS AMERICA

God bless America,
Land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains,
To the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America,
My home sweet home!
God bless America,
My home sweet home!

Invocation CAMPER'S PRAYER

God of the mountains and hills, make me tall and strong;
Tall enough and strong enough to right some wrong.
God of the stars, make me steadfast and sure;
God of every lake and stream, flow through my life & make it clean;
Let me do nothing base or mean.
God of the trees and woods, keep me fresh and pure;
God of the rain, wash from my life all dirt and stain;
Pure and strong let me remain.
God of the seed and soil, plant in my heart thy love;
God of the darkness and day, through shadows or light, be my stay.
Guide thou my way.
God of the radiant sun, light thou my life;
God of the glorious dawn, make each day a fresh start.
God of the evening peace and quiet, keep me free from fear & strife.
God of the gay, free birds, sing in my heart.
God of the surging waves and sea, wide horizons give to me;
Help me to see the world as thou would have it be;
God of the lovely rose, make me lovely, too;
God of the morning dew, each day my faith renew.
God of all growing things, keep me growing, too.
--- George Earle Owen

Hymn

Amazing Grace

How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found,
Was blind, but now I see.

Was grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers
Toils and snares I had already gone
'Tis grace that led me safe this far
And grace will lead me home.

Responsive Reading

(Psalm 46)

(L) God is our refuge and strength,
(P) A very present help in trouble.

(L) Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
(P) And though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea.

(L) Though its waters rage and foam,
(P) The Lord of hosts is with us.

(L) The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Meditation

When night ends...

"How can we determine the hour of dawn - when the night ends and the day begins?" the rabbi asked of his students.

"When, from a distance, you can distinguish between a dog and a sheep?" one of his students suggested.

"No" the rabbi answered.

"Is it when you can distinguish between a fig tree and a grapevine?" another student asked.

"No" he replied.

"Please tell us the answer, then" said the students.

"It is when you can look into the face of a human being and have enough light to recognize in him your brother," the wise teacher replied.

"Until then, it is night, and the darkness is still with us."

Message

"WE LEARNED IT ALL IN KINDERGARTEN" (BE SEATED)

Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandbox. These are the things I learned:

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don't hit people.

Put things back where you found them.

Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that aren't yours.
Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.
Wash your hands before you eat.

Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some, and draw and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap in the afternoon.

When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands and stick together.

Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up, and nobody really knows why, but we are all like that. Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup - they all die. So do we.

And then remember the book about Dick and Jane and the first word you ever learned, the biggest word of all: LOOK.

Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The golden rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and sane living. Think of what a better life it would be if we all had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations always to put things back where we found them and cleaned up our own messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

Benediction

Prayer Composed By Chief Yellow Lark
A Blackfoot Indian

Oh, Great Spirit,
whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me.

I come before you, one of your many children.
I am weak and small.

I need your strength and wisdom.
Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset; my ears sharp so I may hear your voice.

Make me wise, so I may learn the things you have taught my people,
the lessons you have hidden under every rock and leaf.

I seek strength, not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy--myself.

Make me ever ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes,
so whenever life fades, like the fading sunset, my spirit will come to you without shame.

A Scouts Own

Compiled by Gordon Greaves, Cairns Australia

Prayer - Venturer.

Lord, We thank you for letting us come once again to marvel at your creations. We hope that those in the group who are new to this activity will leave with the same sense of wonder that we always feel as we step into a cave.

We treat these activities as fun, but always with a sense of wonder at the thousands of years required to create even the smallest of the features at which we look.

Help us to preserve your work, both for ourselves and for future generations of Scouts and Cavers. Amen.

Yarn - Leader.

Beneath the surface of the earth lies a strange, magnificent world darker than the darkest moonless night. No rain falls. No seasons change. No storms rage. This underground world is silent as a tomb, yet it is not without life. Birds and bats fly with sure accuracy through twisted mazes of tunnels, while ghostly, eyeless creatures scurry along the walls. The floor is sometimes the home of strange insects and micro-organisms. This is the world of the caver, as beautiful, alien and remote as the glaciers on high mountains. And just as mountaineers are tempted by summits that rise far above familiar ground, cavers are drawn into a subterranean wilderness every bit as exciting as any place warmed by the rays of the sun.

There are thousands of caves in Australia. Some are at the edge of the sea, carved by the erosion of the waves, while others are lava tubes created when the surfaces of rivers of molten rock cooled even as the lava beneath continued to flow. Most caves, however, were formed as rainwater, made slightly acidic by carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and chemicals in the soil over which it ran, seeped into fissures in soluble limestone and gradually, over thousands of years, melted out branching networks of tunnels and rooms.

Some caves are too tiny to enter, while others are many kilometers in length. Within some caves are chambers larger than the biggest sporting arenas, and shafts deeper than the tallest buildings. There are towering pillars, and expanses of colourful stone folded as if they were massive draperies. The forces that build a cave work with infinite patience. A drop of water hanging from the point of a stalactite leaves a trace of mineral residue when it falls, lengthening the stalactite ever so slightly.

Scouting works the same way. Over your years in Scouts, slowly you accumulate knowledge. Much passes you by - some stays, and becomes part of you. Every experience you have in Scouting, good or bad, leaves its mark on you. There are thousands of Scouts in Australia; some are at the edge of the sea, others are in the centre of the continent, dependent on a radio link for their Scouting. Who has the easier time of it? The city Scout, who has all the resources of the city - but all of the dangers that city life can bring? Or the country kid - who has none of the pressures of the city - but instead an aching loneliness every time they realise that the nearest friend their own age is a day's journey away?

Make your heart big enough for all the Scouts in the world to enter - for they are all your brothers and sisters.

Prayer - Venturer 2.

If you know the Lord,
You need nobody else,
To see you through the darkest night.
You can walk alone,
You only need the Lord,
He'll keep you on the road marked right.
Take time to pray every day
And when you're heading home
He'll show you the way.
If you know the Lord,
You need nobody else to see the light,
His wonderful light.

Closing Prayer - Venturers.

(1) Into your keeping, O Lord, we commit ourselves. Help us to watch for trouble and choose the right way. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that we fall into no danger, and that all we do be pleasing in your sight.

(2) The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious to us; the Lord give us peace...

[Wait about five seconds...]

Thank you all for being part of our Scouts Own.

A Scouts Own Service

Call To Worship (Chaplain Aide):

Almighty god, who pourest out your blessings on all, deliver us this day from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections, we may worship you in spirit and in truth.

Opening Prayer (All):

The lord is my shepard; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the lord forever.

Song: America (All)

My country 'tis of thee
Sweet land of liberty
Of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died
Land of the pilgrims' pride.
From every mountainside,
Let freedom ring.

Responsive Reading: The Scout Oath

People: on my honor I will do my best

Chaplain aide: our honor is a quality we possess because of our dignity as human beings and children of god. Our 'best' means to give all we have. It means to keep striving to do what we know is right, and in the oath. It means we will try to be good scouts by fulfilling our scout duties as expressed in the scout law.

People: to do my duty to god and my country and to obey the scout law.

Chaplain aide: our duty to god and country means chiefly two things: obedience and loyalty. The duties

we owe to god, to our country, to our parents, to one another, and to ourselves come from some command of god. The scout law sums up all the qualities a scout should have and without which he cannot be a good scout.

People: to help other people at all times

Chaplain aide: our lord told us that love of neighbor was like the first law of love of god. The first children of god were known by the love they had for one another. Real human charity or love prompts us to want to help others at all times. Our scout training will give us skills and knowledge that will put us in a better position to do this.

People: to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally Straight.

Chaplain aide: scouting offers us many opportunities to grow physically. To be alert and ready requires us to give special care to those gifts of soul - intellect and will - that make us unto god. 'Morally straight' means we must try to know what is right and true, and to love what is good and
Choose it.

Hymn: Oh Beautiful (All)

Oh beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties,
Above the fruited plain.

(chorus)

America, America. God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.

Oh beautiful for patriot dream,
That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears.

(repeat chorus)

Prayer (chaplain aide):

"great spirit, whose teepee is the sky and whose hunting ground is the Earth,
Mighty and fearful are you called.
Ruler over storms, over men and birds and beasts,
Have your way over all,
Over earthways as over skyways.
Find us this day our meat and corn,
That we may be strong and brave.

And put aside from us our wicked ways as we put
aside the bad
Works of them who do us wrong.
And let us not have such troubles as lead us into
crooked roads,
But keep us from all evil,
For yours is all that is the earth and the sky;
The streams, the hills and the valleys, the stars, the
moon,
And the sun, and all that live and breathe.
Wonderful, shining, mighty spirit."

Benediction (chaplain aide):

"an old Irish blessing"

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind always be at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May god hold you in the palm of his hand.

Interfaith Service

Randy Neufeld

INVOCATION

Be merciful to me, O God, Be merciful,
for I have taken refuge in You.
In the shadow of Your wings,
will I take refuge
until this time of trouble has gone by.

I will call upon the most high God,
The God who maintains my cause.

He will send from heaven and save me;
He will confound those
who trample upon me;
God will send forth His love
and his faithfulness. Amen.

HYMN

Oh beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties,
Above the fruited plain.

(Chorus)

America, America. God shed His Grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.

Oh beautiful for patriot dream,
That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears.

(Repeat Chorus)

MEDITATION

Sanctify our campsite with your presence and joy.
By the spirit of affection and service unite our
Scouting families, that they may show your praise
in our land and in all the world.

RESPONSIVE READING

(Psalm 46)

(L) God is our refuge and strength

(P) A very present help in trouble

(L) therefore we will not fear, though the earth be
moved

(P) and though the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea

(L) though it's waters rage and foam

(P) the Lord of hosts is with us

(L) the God of Jacob is our stronghold

HYMN

Kum Ba Yah my Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Kum Ba Yah my Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Kum Ba Yah my Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Oh, Lord Kum Ba Yah

Someone's crying Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's crying Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's crying Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Oh Lord Kum Ba Yah

Someone's singing Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's singing Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's singing Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Oh Lord Kum Ba Yah

Someone's praying Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's praying Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's praying Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Oh Lord Kum Ba Yah

SERMON

OFFERING FOR WORLD FRIENDSHIP FUND

HYMN

Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah
River Jordan is deep and wide, Hallelujah
River Jordan is deep and wide, Hallelujah
River Jordan is chilly and cold, Hallelujah
Chills the body but not the soul, Hallelujah

SCOUTMASTER MINUTE

CLOSING PRAYER

GREAT SPIRIT PRAYER

Oh Great Spirit whose voice in the wind I hear,
And whose breath gives life to all in the world

Hear me

Before you I come, one of your many children
Small and weak am I

Your strength and wisdom I need
Make me walk in beauty
Make my heart respect all You have made

My ears to hear Your voice
Make me wise that I may know all You have taught my
people
The lessons You have hidden in every rock
I seek strength, not to be superior to my brother
Make me able to fight my greatest enemy <197>
myself
Make me ready to stand before You with clean and
straight eyes

When life fades, as the fading sunset, may our spirits
stand before You without shame.

MORNING GRACE

Gracious giver of all good
Thee we than for rest and food
Grant that all we do or say
In Thy service be this day
Amen

NOON GRACE

Father for this noonday meal
We would speak the grace we feel
Health and strength we ask of Thee
Help us Lord to faithful be
Amen

EVENING GRACE

Tireless guardian on our way
Thou hast kept us well this day
While we thank Thee we request
Care continued, pardon, rest
Amen

**Non-Denominational Worship
Service For Worship In The
Outdoors**
Randy Neufeld

CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 100: 1 - 3

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come into His presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is He that made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture."

OPENING HYMN - "Morning Has Broken"

Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, Praise for the morning,
Praise for them, springing, fresh from the word.
Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass,
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.
Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day.

**RESPONSIVE READING: -
"Canticle of the Sun"**

All: O most high, almighty, good Lord God, to you belongs praise, glory, honor and all blessing.

Leader: Praised be my Lord God with all his creatures, and especially, our brother, the sun, who brings us the day and who brings us the night; fair is he, and shines with a very great splendor; O Lord, he signifies You to us.

Response: Praise be my Lord for our sister the moon, and for the stars, which He has set clear and lovely in the heaven.

Leader: Praised be my Lord for our brother the wind, and for the air and clouds, calms, and all weather by which you uphold life in all creatures.

Response: Praised be my Lord for our sister, water, who is very serviceable to us, and humble and precious... and very clean.

Leader: Praised be my Lord for our brother, fire, through whom you give us light in the darkness; he is bright and pleasant and very mighty and strong.

Response: Praised be my Lord for our mother, the earth, which sustains us and keeps us, and brings forth grass and diverse fruits and flowers of many colors.

All: Praise and bless the Lord, and give thanks to Him and serve Him with great humility.

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER

God, sometimes I hold something small in my hand... a piece of moss or a budding twig, and - peering closely at this tiny world - I feel a sudden wonder. Help me to remember that you made these worlds, and countless others, and...in remembering...come closer to you. O God, we thank Thee today for the world in which you have placed us; for the universe whose vastness is revealed in the blue depths of the sky; whose immensities are lit by shining stars beyond the strength of mind to follow. We thank you for the beauty of our earth, for the sweetness of the flowers, the solemnity of the stars, the sound of streams and swelling seas, for stretching lands and mighty mountains which rest and satisfy the soul, the purity of dawn which calls us to holy dedication, and the peace of the evening which speaks of everlasting rest. Above all, we thank you for the dignity you have bestowed upon every human being as the crown of your Creation. Give us the grace to let the light of your glory shine through us, in our action, words and thoughts. Amen.

**OFFERING - For the World Friendship
Fund**

**CLOSING HYMN - " This is My Father's
World"**

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears,
All nature sings, & round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world. I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world. The birds their carols raise.
The morning light, the lily white, declare the Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world. He shines in all that's fair;
In the trusting grass I hear him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.

**BENEDICTION - (sung to the tune:
Edelweiss)**

May the Lord, Mighty Lord, bless and keep you forever;
Grant us peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.

Lift up your eyes and see His face, and His grace forever.

May the Lord, Mighty Lord, Bless and keep you forever.

All-Faiths Service For Worship In The Outdoors

CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 100: 1 - 3

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, in all the lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness. Come into His presence
with singing. Know that the Lord is God.
It is He that made us, and we are His;
We are His people, and sheep of His pasture.”

OPENING HYMN - "AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

O beautiful, for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountains majesties, above the fruited plain,
America, America, God shed his grace on thee,
And Crown thy good with brotherhood,
from sea to shining sea.

RESPONSIVE READING: - "Canticle of the Sun"

All: **O most high, almighty, Lord God, to you belongs praise, glory, honor and all blessing.**

Leader: Praised be my Lord God with all his creatures, and especially, our brother, the sun, who brings us the day and who brings us the night; fair is he, and shines with a very great splendor; O Lord, he signifies You to us.

Response: **Praise be my Lord for our sister the moon, and for the stars, which He has set clear and lovely in the heaven.**

Leader: Praised be my Lord for our brother the wind, and for the air and clouds, calms, and all weather by which you uphold life in all creatures.

Response: **Praised be my Lord for our sister, water, who is very serviceable to us, and humble and precious... and very clean.**

Leader: Praised be my Lord for our brother, fire, through whom you give us light in the darkness; he is bright and pleasant and very mighty and strong.

Response: **Praised be my Lord for our mother, the earth, which sustains us and keeps us, and brings forth grass and diverse fruits and flowers of many colors.**

All: **Praise and bless the Lord, and give thanks to Him and serve Him with great humility.**

SONG: They That Wait Upon the Lord (in the songbook)

A Vietnam Buddhist Chant of Incense:

Burning incense spread to the four winds
slowly, swirls formed as a wise cloud.
Gathering here, we bow and pray,
Bring the beautiful garland to the altar!
Praying to the omnipotent, benevolent God of Mankind.
Deep in our humble heart, we seek the absolute truth
Which takes us out of the circle of suffering.

Silent Prayer:

After a moment, the leader says:

"Leader: O God, it is not easy to pray,
And yet I pray that these few moments
will somehow bring me closer to you"

HOMILY: "A Tell of Three Trees" - *as retold by Angela Elwell Hunt*

OFFERING - For the World Friendship Fund

CLOSING HYMN - " God Bless America"

God Bless America, land that I love,
Stand beside her, and guide her,
Though the night, with the light from above,
From the mountains, to the prairies,
to the oceans, white with foam,
God Bless America, My home, sweet, home,
God Bless America, My home sweet home.

BENEDICTION - (spoken or sung to the tune: Edelweiss)

May the Lord, Mighty Lord, bless and keep you forever;
Grant us peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see His face, and His grace forever.
May the Lord, Mighty Lord, Bless and keep you forever.

Turn Troop back over to Senior Patrol Leader:

