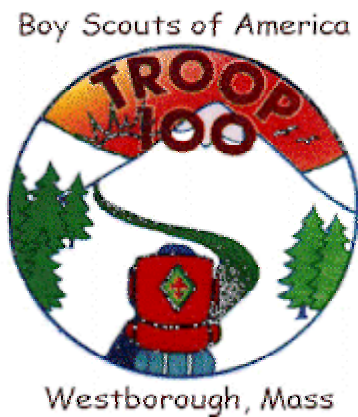


Troop 100

“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**

Compiled by Brian Barnhart & Ted Frumkin, ASM Troop 100

Table of Contents

Paragraph Title	Page
INTRODUCTION	6
An Introduction to the Scouts Own	6
An Introduction to Spiritual Development	7
The role of faith and religion in the Boy Scouts of America	8
The BSA Chaplain	9
The BSA Chaplain Aide	9
Outreach and Proselytizing	10
Praying in a Group	10
Religious Emblems	10
Opportunities for Religious Observance in Scouting	10
Faith-Specific Worship Services – On-site and Off-site	12
Scout's Own Services	12
Scout and Scouter Funeral Services	13
Acknowledgments	14
SUMMARIES OF SOME OF WORLD RELIGIONS	15
Hinduism	15
Judaism	15
Christianity	16
Islam	16
Sikhism	17
Buddhism	17
THE SCOUTS OWN	18
An Outline Scouts' Own For a Formal Situation	18
Some Ideas on Scouts' Owns	18
CALLS TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATIONS	20
A PSALM FOR THE THANK OFFERING	20
PRAYERS	23
Thanksgiving for Scout Brotherhood	23
A Scout is a Friend to All	23
Thanks for the Beauty of Children	23
For Harmony Amongst Ourselves	23
To Be Scoutlike	23
For Courage and Strength	23
A Closing Prayer	23
For the Joy of the Year	24
Prayer of Thanks Giving	24
Prayer of Thanks for the Founder	24
God of the Open Air	24
God of the Sea	24
We Thank Thee	24
Camping in the Snow	24
A Scout's Prayer	24
Prayer for Peace	25
Sioux Prayer	25
Thanks Be to God	25
Lord We Thank You	25
Jamaican Camp Grace	25
Lord's Prayer	26
Canoeing Prayer	26
Guide us Through and Out	26
God of the Universe	26
Gaelic Prayer Be Thou a bright flame before me,	26

Table of Contents

Paragraph Title	Page
Prayer from the West Indies	26
Black Elk: Earth Prayer & The Sunset	26
The Sunset	26
Moccasins Great spirit, help me not to criticize others until I have walked a mile in their moccasins.	26
Great Spirit Prayer	27
Clean Hands	27
Wae Wae Non Ne Mot	27
Big Thunder (Bedagi), late 19th century Algonquin	27
Wisdom, Knowledge and Understanding	27
The Circle Of Life	28
An Indian Prayer	28
OH, GREAT SPIRIT	29
Interpretation of the Jewish Shema	29
An invitation to God	29
For Our Country	29
Prayer for the World	30
Interpretation of the Asher yatzar Jewish prayer	30
Interpretation of the Eilu d'varim Jewish prayer	30
SONGS	31
Michael Row the Boat Ashore	31
Amazing Grace	31
Scout Vespers	31
Kum Ba Ya	31
God Bless America	32
Let There Be Peace on Earth	32
Morning Has Broken	32
America the Beautiful	32
Kum bah yah	32
On Top of Old Smokey (Scout Version)	32
Turn! Turn! Turn!	33
Miriam's Song	33
Not By Might	33
America (My Country 'Tis of Thee)	33
Battle Hymn of the Republic	34
SHORT SUBJECTS	35
Help Us To Understand Our Promise Better	35
As I Start Upon My Chosen Way	35
Your tasks - To build a better world	35
Salutation to the Dawn	35
Some Thoughts	35
Real Religion	35
Could You Afford It?	35
Let Me Live Each Day	35
God Forgive Me When I Whine	36
I Thank You Just for Life	36
An Irish Blessing	36
Simple Easy and Wrong	36
Gifts	36
Clear Morning	36
Declaration	37
Good News	37
Present Tense	37
Take Time	37

Table of Contents

Paragraph Title	Page
Campers	37
A True Friend	37
Needs	38
A Camper's Ten Commandments	38
Give Thanks	38
Isn't It Funny	38
Measurements	38
Some Thoughts	38
God Surrounds Us	38
Be At Peace	38
The Spirit Lives	38
Success	39
The Best We Can Be	39
The Rule of Three	39
Count That Day Lost	39
Three Things Come Not Back	39
It Couldn't Be Done	40
Native American Commandments	40
Don't Quit	41
Footprints	41
Just for today	41
Risk	42
Sanskrit proverb	42
Prayer of Saint Francis Assisi	42
Take Time	42
Today's Thought	42
Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow	43
Miracles	43
To guard the world	43
The little word	43
Man's share in creation	43
I believe	43
In spite of everything	43
RESPONSIVE READINGS	45
The Boy Scout Promise: A Responsive Reading	45
Psalms 23	45
The Scout Law: A Responsive Reading	46
The Scout Law Litany	47
The Scout Oath	48
The Boy Scout Law I	48
The Boy Scout Law II	49
The Boy Scout Law III	50
God is the Eternal One	51
The Majesty of God (Psalm 8)	51
INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS AND MESSAGES	55
The Golden Principle	55
The Scout Beatitudes	55
Understanding	55
The Deck of Cards	55
Servants	56
Sermons We See	56
Different Approaches to God	57
A Strong Combination	57

Table of Contents

Paragraph Title	Page
Peace and Brotherhood (readings from the Koran, of Islam)	57
Good Neighbor and Sharing	58
People of All Colors	58
An Examination of Conscience for Scouts	58
Twelve Guidelines for Living...	58
Not Without Getting Wet	60
Which Am I?	60
God's Creatures	60
Created Equal	60
Measuring Men (Bill Brown – 1941)	60
Differing Opinions	61
Planting Seeds of Peace	61
Results Reached Far	61
DRAMA	62
I didn't call you, I'm Praying! Worship Skit	62
BENEDICTIONS	65
Short Benedictions	65
An Old Irish Blessing	65
The Scoutmaster's Benediction	65
Closing Ceremony Thoughts	65
Rope Circle Closing	65
Priestley Benediction	65
Shehecheyanu Blessing	65
GRACES	66
God Has Created A New Day	66
Hark To The Chimes	66
If We Have Earned The Right	66
Neath These Tall Green Trees	66
Amazing Grace	66
World Hunger Grace	66
God Is Great	66
Be Present	66
For Health And Strength	66
Indian Taps	66
Let Us Break Bread Together	66
Thank You For The World So Sweet	66
We Gather Together	66
Mountain Meadows Grace	67
A Blessing	67
Health and Strength	67
Johnny Appleseed	67
Peace Is	67
Another "Indian/Native" Thanks	67
Camp Graces	67
Philmont Grace	68
REFERENCE MATERIAL	69
Internet Resources:	69
Print Resources:	69
COMPLETE SCOUTS OWN SERVICES	71

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 an 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 particular 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

To serve as a chaplain or a chaplain aide for a Scouting unit is a unique opportunity to serve your fellow Scouts and Scouters by helping them develop their own sense of "duty to God." While serving in these offices, you have the opportunity to help youth and adults alike grow spiritually as well as mentally and physically in Scouting. You will have the opportunity to model your own faith, mentor Scouts as they explore and examine their own faith, and insure that Scouting is a "safe haven" for all Scouts and Scouters to experience a practical application of their faith's ideals, principles, and values.

The role of faith and religion in the Boy Scouts of America

The Declaration of Religious Principle

The importance of faith development as a part of the overall development of youth is evident from the "Declaration of Religious Principle," found in the Charter and By-Laws of the Boy Scouts of America:

Clause 1 – The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God. In the first part of the Scout Oath or Promise the member declares, "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law." The recognition of God as the ruling and leading power in the universe and the grateful acknowledgment of His favors and blessings are necessary for the best type of citizenship and are wholesome precepts in the education of the growing members. No matter what the religious faith of the members may be, this fundamental need of good citizenship should be kept before them. The Boy Scouts of America, therefore, recognizes the religious element in the training of the member, but it is absolutely non-sectarian in its attitude toward that religious training. Its policies that the home and the organization or group with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life

Clause 2 – The activities of the members of the Boy Scouts of America shall be carried on under conditions which show respect to the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion, as required by the twelfth point of the scout Law, reading, "Reverent. A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others."

Clause 3 – In no case where a unit is connected with a church or other distinctively religious organization shall members of other denominations or faith be required, because of their membership in the unit, to take part in or observe a religious ceremony distinctly unique to that organization or church.

Clause 4 – Only persons willing to subscribe to these declarations of principles shall be entitled to certificates of leadership in carrying out the Scout program

"Duty to God" in statements of Scouting's values

Each of the Scouting programs asks each member to make a commitment towards developing their own understanding of their duty to God. We find this commitment worded as:

The Cub Scout Promise

I, (Your Name), promise to do my best to do my duty to God and my country, to help other people, and to obey the Law of the Pack.

The Boy Scout Oath or Promise

On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

The Boy Scout Oath or Promise – "To do my duty to God"

Your family and religious leaders teach you to know and love God and the ways in which God can be served. As a Scout, you do your duty to God by following the wisdom of those teachings in your daily life, and by respecting the rights of others to have their own religious beliefs. (From The Boy Scout Handbook)

The Boy Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

The Boy Scout Law – “A Scout is Reverent”

A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others. The word reverence refers to a profound respect for God. The wonders of the world remind us of our God's creative power. We find it in the tiny lines of a leaf and the great mysteries of the universe. It exists in the kindness of people and in the teachings of our families and religious leaders.

We show our reverence by living our lives according to the ideals of our beliefs. The Scout benediction is "May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us until we meet again."

The United States Constitution gives each of us complete freedom to believe and worship as we wish without fear of punishment. All your life, you will encounter people who hold different religious beliefs or even none at all. It is your duty to respect and defend the rights of others whose beliefs may differ from yours. (From The Boy Scout Handbook)

The Venturing Oath

As a Venturer, I promise to do my duty to God and help strengthen America, to help others and to seek truth, fairness, and adventure in our world.

The BSA Chaplain

The Chaplain is an adult who may be a unit committee member, a district or council Scouter, the executive officer of a religious institution in the community, or another religious leader. It is customary that the leader of a faith-based chartering organization, or his / her appointee, be asked to serve as a unit chaplain by the unit committee. If the unit is not chartered to a faith-based organization, they may select a chaplain from among local clergy.

- The chaplain should:
- Provide a spiritual tone for meetings and activities
- Provide spiritual counseling when needed, or requested
- Provide opportunities for all to grow in their own faith and spiritually with their peers
- Encourage Scouts to participate in the religious emblem program of their faith
- Be familiar with the role of a chaplain aide, and encourage the unit to appoint a chaplain aide

Work with the unit to conduct the annual Scout Week observance, as well as opportunities for personal worship during unit activities

The BSA Chaplain Aide

The chaplain aide is an approved youth leadership position in Boy Scout troops. While no specific positions exist for Cub Scout or Venturing units, it is not inappropriate for interested and qualified youth to serve in those roles. The chaplain aide encourages the spiritual awareness and growth of their peers in Scouting, and assists the unit chaplain. The chaplain aide should be mature and sensitive, and have earned the respect and trust of his fellow Scouts. He also should have received, or be seriously working towards, his own religious emblem.

The chaplain aide should:

- Work with the unit chaplain to plan appropriate religious observances during unit meetings and activities
- Encourage unit members to strengthen their own relationship with God through personal prayer and devotions, and participation in religious activities appropriate to their faith.

- Participate in the Patrol Leader's Council to ensure that a spiritual emphasis is included in the unit program
- Help the unit chaplain conduct the annual Scout Week observance, as well as opportunities for personal worship during unit activities
- Help the unit chaplain encourage Scouts to participate in the religious emblem program of their faith

Outreach and Proselytizing

Often, one of the first contacts that a new family can have in a community, after schools, is with Scouting. As new Scouts are registered, the chaplain is in a key role to introduce the family to the religious institution of their choice in the community. At no time in Scouting should any proselytize. It is altogether appropriate to make Scouts and their families aware of opportunities for worship or fellowship with your community, but the chaplain always remembers that he / she is there to reinforce the practices and beliefs of the family, and help each Scout come to their own understanding of God in their own way, even if that way is different from the expression of your own faith.

Praying in a Group

When present, chaplains or chaplain aides may be asked to lead the assembly in prayer. If the group consists of mixed beliefs, or if the beliefs of the group are unknown, and then prayers should be of an interfaith form. However, if the group is of like belief, then it is entirely appropriate to offer a belief-specific prayer.

Religious Emblems

The chaplain is the ideal person to encourage Scouts to work on the requirements for the religious emblem appropriate to their faith, or a faith they are interested in. Religious emblems technically aren't Scouting awards; they are awarded by the specific faith organizations, and each one sets the course of study and requirements for completion for their specific awards. Please contact your local council, or the local or national organizations of the faith in question, for the latest information about the faiths' awards and the respective requirements.

Opportunities for Religious Observance in Scouting

Graces before Meals

In many common faith traditions, it is appropriate for grace or a blessing to be said over a meal before people partake of it. Chaplains or chaplain aides may be asked to lead the participants in prayer, or should suggest to the leader that someone be asked to offer thanks for the meal. As in any form of public prayer, if the group consists of mixed beliefs, or if the beliefs of the group are unknown, and then prayers should be of an interfaith form. However, if the group is of like belief, then it is entirely appropriate to offer a belief-specific prayer.

A simple five-point formula for offering grace follows:

Invite people to participate with you. You're offering grace on behalf of the camp; everyone should be able to participate. Use invitations like "Would you please join me, in your own way, for a word of prayer," or "Please join with us for the (Philmont, singing, etc.) grace." Avoid saying things like "Please stand and remove your hats" – not all faiths stand nor remove covers for prayer. The more specific you make your instructions; the greater the chance is that you will unintentionally exclude someone.

1. Address deity. Ask God to hear our prayer. Avoid specific names like Jesus or Allah. Name-titles like Father, Lord, Creator, or even simply God are more universal.
2. Give thanks for what you are thankful for. The day, the work, the fun, the weather, etc. Don't forget to bless the food! Perhaps thank those who have prepared it. Make it specific to the time and place. Be sincere, and try not to use rote phrases that aren't as meaningful.

3. Ask God for the blessings we need. For continued fun, for safety, for good weather, for the strength to overcome challenges. Again, make it specific to the time and place.
4. Close in the name of God. Ask Him to hear our prayers. Avoid closing in sectarian ways, such as "In Jesus' name, Amen." A phrase like "God, hear the prayers of our hearts, Amen" or "For these things we are thankful, Amen" involves everyone.

This type of "off the cuff" grace comes easy for some, and less easy for others. This type of "off the cuff" grace need not be eloquent or poetic; it need only be sincere and welcoming to those who participate. There are any number of prepared graces – repeated graces, singing graces, recited graces – that are appropriate for a Scouting occasion, and may be more comfortable for those unaccustomed to spoken public prayer. Remember to be careful that the words used and concepts expressed are inclusive, not exclusive.

Invocations and Benedictions for Meetings and Events

Invocations (opening prayers) and benedictions (a prayer before departing) are common to special events, such as a banquet or Court of Honor, but also to many meetings. Guidelines for invocations and benedictions are much the same as for mealtime graces. Attempts to make the invocation and benediction appropriate to the time and place they are being offered are always appreciated.

Worship Opportunities during Scouting events

If Scouting events happen over weekends, or during times of religious obligation for participating Scouts, it is preferred that arrangements be made to allow Scouts and Scouters to participate in their religious observance as a part of the Scouting event. We recognize that fulfilling one's duty to God is a critical part of one's spiritual development, so we need to lead by example in making those opportunities available during our events. Participation in a Scouting event should not interfere with the regular practice of one's faith.

Being together to worship God with our fellow Scouts or Scouters is an excellent opportunity for adults and youth in Scouting to join in living the point of the Scout law: "A Scout is Reverent". This becomes one example of doing one's duty to God as stated in the Cub Scout Promise, Scout Oath and Venturing Oath.

The planning and carrying out of religious activities is as simple or complex as the group who has the responsibility chooses to make it. There are resources available in every community: clergy, church/synagogue, funeral directors and parlors, libraries, & lay leaders. Scouters who anticipate having this responsibility will want to begin or maintain a file of appropriate material.

The first decision is: Which religious faith(s) the service(s) is to be conducted or planned. If separate services are conducted then it is most appropriate to organize and then support participants to plan and worship according to the dictates of their own individual faiths. Care must be taken to support/respect all the faiths represented in the group.

Traditionally, Scouting has conducted Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant services when meeting the need of different groups. If not then, a "Scout's Own" service has been organized. It is most important to call a service by a name that encourages participation and fully demonstrates what the participants may expect. A nondenominational service is by definition a "Christian" service, generally for Protestants, although it may denote services for all Christians. (This may then be called ecumenical.)

A "Truth in Advertising" philosophy is most important. Encourage your group to participate in religious services. Accurately name and promote the services so that no one is offended by anticipating an experience for everyone and then attending one which is slanted to or espouses the beliefs of one particular faith, religion, or body of religion.

The three ways in which this is most commonly handled is by setting aside time in the event schedule for on-site faith-specific services; allowing participants to leave the event to attend a faith-specific service; or by making arrangements for an on-site Scout's Own Service.

Faith-Specific Worship Services – On-site and Off-site

If there are large populations of a single faith at a Scouting function or event where a worship service is desired, it is certainly appropriate to invite the officiating clergy to attend the event and conduct a service for adherents at the event. Or, it may be preferable to find local services, and allow participants to leave the event to attend them. Both of these options require planning and preparation. It helps to know the general needs of the group attending the event: what service options are needed? Local clergy or approved Scout chaplains are then invited to participate. Make sure that you negotiate the start date and time, the duration of the service, what materials are necessary, and approximately how many people may participate. Once arrangements are finalized with the clergy, then you should publicize the services to the attendees.

In cases where it is impractical for the clergy to attend the event, a local congregation may welcome visiting Scouts and Scouters for a service. Find local congregations, and learn their meeting times. Make sure that visitors are welcome. Then, publicize the event to the attendees, and make sure that transportation is available. It may be necessary to modify the event schedule in this case to allow for people to attend local community services.

Scout's Own Services

Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scout movement, described the Scout's Own service in his newsletter *The Scouter*, in 1928:

"For an open troop, or for troops in camp, I think the Scout's Own should be open to all denominations, and carried on in such a manner as to offend none. There should not be any special form, but it should abound in the right spirit, and should not be conducted 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 Scout's Own should have as big an effect on the boys as any service in church, if in conducting the Scout's Own we remember that the boys are not grown men, and if we go by the pace of the youngest and the most uneducated of those present. Boredom is not reverence, nor will it breed religion.

To interest the boys, the Scout's Own must be a cheery and varied function. Short hymns (three verses as a rule are 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 make 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 to not hold a Scout's Own at all."

A multi-faith, or interfaith, or Scout's Own service is a service that all Scouts and Scouters may wish to attend. Therefore, much attention must be paid to recognize the universality of beliefs in God and reverence. Uses of the doxology and the "Lord's Prayer" would not recognize this diversity.

It is important to understand these basic concepts as you begin your planning:

- Everything Scouts do must be in good taste.
- It should be planned, timed, and rehearsed. (Generally 30 minutes, maximum.)
- A Scout is courteous and reverent; therefore, he respects the rights and feelings of others. The service should contain thoughts and readings, which are consistent with the beliefs and practices of

the people expected to attend. In case of a mixed group, it is important to remember that only appropriate Bible references should be used. References to Jesus or Christ are inappropriate in an interfaith or Scout's Own service, but not necessarily select passages from the New Testament. Some Protestant denominations do not believe in the Trinity.

- Choose a location for the service that lends itself to the occasion and promotes reverence.
- Consider people's physical comfort.
- Set up a focal point – Perhaps a centerpiece of flowers, candles, grove of trees, or view of a lake, pond, or brook. A circle is very conducive for small groups.
- Insure all participants have an opportunity to participate through responsive readings, silent & group prayer, and singing, etc.
- Have several people conduct segments of the service.
- The planning group should make sure people feel welcome.
- Don't confuse "patriotism" for "faith."
- These services don't take the place of religious obligations in a faith community. In a Scout's Own, we offer no sacraments, perform no ordinances, and if a collection is taken, it does not fulfill a tithe or other offering.
- Take care that in trying to be inclusive, the meaning of the service is not lost. Don't go to the extreme of having a bland, "watered-down" experience. It can be inclusive, but spiritually-rich. If there is such a divergent set of groups that will be participating, perhaps more specific services rather than a Scout's Own is the appropriate course to follow.

The Scout's Own service could include:

- An invocation or opening
- "Call to worship" / recognition that the service is a time "set apart"
- Hymns or songs
- Scripture(s) or readings from a variety of religious or inspirational sources
- Responsive readings
- Personal prayer
- Group prayer
- Inspirational reading or message
- Offering (Optional, but could be for the World Friendship Fund)
- An act of friendship
- A benediction or closing

In today's society there will be Scouts who practice many faiths. When this occurs, why not ask them to suggest materials, participate in the planning, and assist in leading the worship service. If the group is a mixture of religions, you may choose to use inspirational passages instead of particular religious materials.

Since different faiths observe different religious practices sometimes on a daily basis and have a variety of holy days, it is not always possible to conduct an interfaith service in a time frame that fully recognizes their individual "Day(s) of Obligation." This should be acknowledged and explained.

We should establish an attitude in our Scouting activities, programs, and camps, which makes it possible for a person to practice the dictates of their personal faith. Consideration of dietary laws or restraints should also be observed but still remain the prime responsibility of the practitioner.

Remember to be equally considerate of all faiths and "A Scout is Reverent". "BE PREPARED!"

Scout and Scouter Funeral Services

On the sad occasion where a unit may experience the loss of a Scout or leader, one source of comfort may be the community and family that is the Scouting unit. This can be a difficult time for everyone. At the request of

the family, and with the permission of the religious leader, Scouts may participate in the funeral or memorial services to celebrate the life of the Scout or leader. Some things that may be appropriate could include:

- Attending the service in uniform
- Sitting together as a unit
- Serving in an honorary capacity, such as pallbearers or ushers
- Serving as readers, for example, during the service

The primary concern is for the family and their preferences and religious traditions. The involvement of the unit or individuals in the service is at the discretion of the family and religious leaders. It is appropriate to let the family know of the unit's willingness to participate, but never should this occasion be seen as an opportunity for the unit to dictate or influence the practices of the family.

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.) In addition, many of the sources come from the MacScouter's Big "A Scout is Reverent" Resource Book and the information provided to us at the NE-1-227 Wood Badge Course.

Please note: An attempt has been made in this compilation to ensure that no material reproduced here is copyrighted. If it is brought to our attention that some material is copyrighted, it will be immediately removed from the document.

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. Its 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 "qur'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 parts, 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 your 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 descent 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

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, Iporans@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

The Prayerful Mood

Harold E Kohn (from the Jewish Sabbath Service)

Eternal Spirit,
God of the heavens above
And of the earth below,
God of drifting clouds
And of leaping, laughing streams,
Hear our prayer.

As every river is conceived by clouds,
And every stream begins in rain,
So may my every thought come from above
And my every purpose have its origin in You.

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

Scout Law

Leader: A Scout is Reverent. A Scout is reverent towards God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the belief of others.

Psalm 100:2

Leader: Eternal God, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Your glory.

Group: Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing.

Psalm 106

Leader: Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever!

A Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Oh, come let us sing to the Lord.

Unison: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Leader: For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all.

Unison: For he is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and
the sheep of His hand.

Scout Oath

When facing deceit and dishonest, 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.

An American Indian call to worship

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.

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. 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. 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. Amen

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

Philmont Prayer

Almighty God of hill and plain,
O'er which we hike in sun and rain,
On mountain top and valley low,
Protect us Lord where e'er we go.

And from our grateful hearts we'll raise
Glad hymns of thankfulness and praise.

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. Amen.

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

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

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.

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 God 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

An Indian Prayer

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 know 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.

Written by Chief Yellow Lark, Sioux, 1887

Lord We Thank You

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

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.

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.)

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.

Moccasins

Great spirit, help me not to criticize others until I have walked a mile in their moccasins.

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.

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.

Interpretation of the Jewish Shema

On high, I am Unity,
But below, I am the multiple...
On high, I am God,
In the stream, I am the prayer.

On high, I am Unity,
But below, I am the multiple.
From the stream gazes back at me
My likeness, repeating.

On high, I am the truth
But in the deep, illusion.
From the stream looks up to me
The broken image of my intended mission.

Above, I am wrapped in Silence,
In the deep, I sign and chant.
On high, I am God,
In the stream, I am the prayer.

An invitation to God

The focus of prayer is not the self. Prayer comes
to pass in a complete turning of the heart toward
God, toward His goodness and power. It is the
momentary disregard of our personal concerns, the
absence of self-centered thoughts, which constitute
the art of prayer. Feeling becomes prayer in the
moment in which we forget ourselves and become
aware of God.

Prayer is an invitation to God to intervene in our
lives, to let His will prevail in our affairs; it is the
opening of a window to Him in our will, an effort to
make Him the Lord of our soul.

Abraham J. Heschel

For Our Country

Special Prayers from the Jewish Sabbath

We pray for all who hold positions of leadership
and responsibility in our national life. Let Your
blessing rest upon them, and make them responsive
to Your will, so that our nation may be to the world a
beacon of justice and compassion.

Deepen our love for our country and our desire
to serve it. Strengthen our power of self sacrifice for
our nation's welfare. Teach us to uphold its good
name by our own right conduct.

Cause us to see clearly that the well being of
our nation is in the hands of all its citizens; imbue us
with the zeal for the cause of liberty in our land and
all lands; and help us always keep our homes safe
from affliction, strife and war.

Amen.

Prayer for the World

We cannot merely pray for an end to poverty and hunger;
For we have already been blessed with the resources
With which to satisfy the needs of the entire world,
If we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely wish that despair will end;
For we have the power to clear away slums and to give hope,
If only we would use our power justly.

We cannot merely plead for an end to disease;
For we have been given great minds with which to search out cures and healings,
If we would only use them constructively.

We pray instead,
For the courage to dream of a better world;
For the wisdom to use our many gifts and blessings
to seek justice and peace; and for the strength and determination to make that dream a reality.

May the words that we pray,
And the deeds that we do
Be acceptable before our Creator.

(Adapted from Rabbi Jack Riemer)

Interpretation of the Asher yatzar Jewish prayer

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the universe. With divine wisdom You have made our bodies, combining veins, arteries and vital organs into a finely balanced network. Wondrous Maker and Sustainer of life, were one to fail – how well we are aware! – we would lack the strength to stand in life before You. Blessed are You, Eternal One, Source of our health and strength.

Interpretation of the Eilu d'varim Jewish prayer

These are the obligations without measure, whose reward, too, is without measure:

To honor father and mother;
To perform acts of love and kindness;
To attend the house of study daily;
To welcome the stranger,
To visit the sick,
To rejoice with the bride and groom,
To accompany the bereaved,
To pray with sincerity,
To make peace where there is strife.

And the study of Torah/Bible is equal to them all because it leads to them all.

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

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.

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

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

Turn! Turn! Turn!

Words-adapted from the bible, book of
Ecclesiastes
Music- Pete Seeger

To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time for every purpose, under heaven

A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, a time to reap
A time to kill, a time to heal
A time to laugh, a time to weep

To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time for every purpose, under heaven

A time to build up, a time to break down
A time to dance, a time to mourn
A time to cast away stones, a time to gather
stones together

To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time for every purpose, under heaven

A time of love, a time of hate
A time of war, a time of peace
A time you may embrace, a time to refrain
from embracing

To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time for every purpose, under heaven

A time to gain, a time to lose
A time to rend, a time to sew
A time to love, a time to hate
A time for peace, I swear it's not too late

Miriam's Song

Music: Debbie Friedman
Text: Based on Exodus 15:20-21

And the woman dancing with their timbrels,
Followed Miriam as she sang her song:
"Sing a song to the One whom we've exalted!"
Miriam and the women danced and danced the
whole night long.

Miriam was a weaver of unique variety.
The tapestry she wove was one which sang our
history.

With every strand and every thread she crafted
her delight.
A woman touched with spirit, she dances towards
the light.

When Miriam stood upon the shores and gazed
across the sea,
The wonder of this miracle she soon came to
believe.
Whoever thought the sea would part with an
outstretched hand,
And we would pass to freedom and march to the
promised land?

And Miriam, the prophet, took her timbrel in her
hand,
And all the women followed her, just as she had
planned.
Miriam raised her voice in song, she sang with
praise and might,
"We've just lived through a miracle; we're going to
dance tonight!"

Not By Might

Music: Debbie Friedman
Text: Based on Zechariah 4:6

Not by might and not by power
But by spirit alone
Shall we all live in peace.
The children sing,
The children dream.
And their tears may fall,
But we'll hear them call
And another song will rise (3x).

America (My Country 'Tis of Thee)

My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty,
of thee I sing; Land where my fathers died, Land of
the pilgrim's pride,
from every mountain side Let freedom ring!

My native country, thee, Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love: I love thy rocks and rills, Thy
woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the
trees,
Sweet freedom's song: Let mortal tongues awake,
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break, The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God, to Thee, Author of liberty,

To Thee we sing: Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King!

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the
Lord
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of
wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible
swift sword -
His truth is marching on.

Chorus:
Glory! Glory, hallelujah! Glory! Glory, hallelujah!
Glory! Glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred
circling camps,
They have builded Him an alter in the evening dews
and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and
flaring lamps
His day is marching on. (Chorus)

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never
sound retreat,
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His
judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer Him! Be jubilant, my
feet! -
Our God is marching on. (Chorus)

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born a cross the
sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and
me;
As he died to make men holy, let us die to make
men free,
While God is marching on. (Chorus)

Song Story: This is a civil war song. The tune is also called 'John
Brown's Body' after the abolitionist who tried to free the slaves by
conducting a raid at the Federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry. It was
commonly sung by recruits at the beginning of the war. Julia
Ward Howe, the wife of a physician serving in Washington, D.C.
was asked to write more appropriate lyrics for the tune, which she
did in one evening. She received a royalty payment of five dollars
for her efforts from the Atlantic Monthly magazine.

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

He's got the whole world --- in His hands,
He's got the whole wide world --- in His hands,
He's got the whole world --- in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the wind and the rain ...

He's got you and me, brother, ...

He's got you and me, sister, ...

He's got the little bitty baby, ...

He's got Everybody here ...

If I Had a Hammer

If I had a hammer, I'd hammer in the morning
I'd hammer in the evening, all over this land
I'd hammer out danger, I'd hammer out a warning
I'd hammer out love between my brothers & sisters,
all over this land.

If I had a bell, I'd ring it in the morning ...

If I had a song, I'd sing it in the morning ...

Well, I got a hammer & I got a bell
And I got a song to sing all over this land

It's the hammer of justice, it's the bell of freedom,
It's a song about love between ...

Short Subjects

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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
and 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 you 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

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

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

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

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 weepst, in vain dost yearn,
Those three will nevermore return.
-- From the Arabic

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

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

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."

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!

Miracles

The world is full of wonders and miracles, but man takes his little hand and covers his eyes and sees nothing.

-- Israel Baal Shem Tov

To guard the world

When God created the first man He showed him all the trees in the Garden of Eden and said: "See how beautiful and perfect are My works! All that I have created, I have created for you. Therefore, be ever mindful: Do not abuse or desolate My world. For if you abuse or desolate it, there is no one to repair it after you."

-- Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:28

The little word

If any little word of mine
May Make a life brighter,
If any little song of mine
May make a heart lighter,
God help me speak the little word,
And take my bit of singing,
And drop it in some lovely vale
To set the echoes ringing.
If any little love of mine

May make a life sweeter,
If any little care of mine
May make a friend's the fleeter,
If any little lift of mine may ease
The burden of another,
God give me love and care and strength
To help my toiling brother.
-- Author unknown

Man's share in creation

When God created the world, He made everything a little bit incomplete. Instead of making bread grow out of the earth, He made wheat grow so that man might bake it into bread. Instead of making the earth of bricks, He made it of clay so that man might bake the clay into bricks. Why? So that man could become His partner in the task of completing the work of creation.

-- From the Jewish Midrash

I believe

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.

I believe in love even when not feeling it.

I believe in God even when He is silent.

-- Inscription found on the wall of a cellar in Cologne, where Jews hid from the Nazis

In spite of everything

It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them, because in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can't build my hopes on a foundation of confusion, misery and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness. I hear the approaching thunder, I can feel the suffering of millions, and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will come out right one of these days; that this cruelty will end, and that peace and tranquility will return again. In the meantime, I must hold onto my ideals for perhaps the day will come when I shall be able to carry them out.

-- Anne Frank

Don't walk in front of me
I may not follow
Don't walk behind me
I may not lead
Walk beside me
and just be my friend
-- Albert Camus

A Psalm of Nature

Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech:
night after night they display knowledge.
There is no speech or language
where their voice is not heard.
Their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,
which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his
pavilion.
Like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other
nothing is hidden from its heat.

The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth.

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day.
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh.
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –
I took the one less traveled by.
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost

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.

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 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 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.

The Majesty of God (Psalm 8)

Leader: *O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth!*

Scouts: Thou whose glory above the heavens is chanted by the mouth of babes and infants,

Leader: *Thou hast founded a bulwark because of thy foes,*

Scouts: **To still the enemy and the avenger.**

Leader: *When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,*

Scouts: **The moon and the stars which thou hast established;**

Leader: *What is man that thou art mindful of him,*

Scouts: **And the son of man that thou dost care for him?**

Leader: *Yet thou hast made him little less than God,*

Scouts: **And dost crown him with glory and honor.**

Leader: *Thou hast given him dominion over the works of thy hands;*

Scouts: **Thou hast put all things under his feet,**

Leader: *All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,*

Scouts: **The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

Unison: **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth!**

Bless the Lord (Psalm 103)

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

Scouts: **And all that is within me, bless his holy name!**

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

Scouts: **And forget not all his benefits,**

Leader: Who forgives all your iniquity,

Scouts: **Who heals all your diseases,**

Leader: Who redeems your life from the Pit,

Scouts: **Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

Leader: Who satisfies you with good as long as you live

Scouts: **So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

Leader: The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

Scouts: **He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.**

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

Scouts: **Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: He will not always chide,

Scouts: Nor will he keep his anger for ever.

Leader: He does not deal with us according to our sins,

Scouts: Nor requite us according to our iniquities.

Leader: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

Scouts: As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Leader: As a father loves his children, so the Lord loves those who fear him.

Scouts: For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

Leader: As for man, his days are like grass;.

Scouts: He flourishes like a flower of the field.

Leader: For the wind passes over it, and it is gone,

Scouts: And its place knows it no more.

Leader: But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him,

Scouts: And his righteousness to children's children, o those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

Leader: The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,

Scouts: And his kingdom rules over all.

Leader: Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word!

Scouts: Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will!

Leader: Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion.

Scouts: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

For Everything There is a Season (Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8)

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die,
A time to plant and a time to uproot,

A time to kill and a time to heal,
A time to tear down and a time to build,

A time to weep and a time to laugh,

A time to mourn and a time to dance,

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
A time to embrace and a time to refrain,

A time to search and a time to give up,
A time to keep and a time to throw away,

A time to tear and a time to mend,
A time to be silent and a time to speak,

A time to love and a time to hate,
A time for war and a time for peace.

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.

Scouts: 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 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.

Scouts: To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law.

Leader: 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.

Scouts: To help other people at all times.

Leader: 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.

Scouts: To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

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 would 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 Trey, 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

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

The Meaning of Reverence

The word *reverence* refers to a profound respect for God. The wonders of the world remind us of our God's creative power. We find it in the tiny lines of a leaf and the great mysteries of the universe. It exists in the kindness of people and in the teachings of our families and religious leaders.

We sow our reverence by living our lives according to the ideals of our beliefs.

The United States Constitution gives each of us complete freedom to believe and worship as we wish without fear of punishment. All your life, you will encounter people who hold different religious beliefs or even none at all. It is your duty to respect and defend the rights of others whose beliefs may differ from yours.

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.

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,

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]

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

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, and 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. Undergirding 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 one 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 love and discipline." Joshua 1:6 (Moffatt) - "...be strong and brave ... turning neither to the right nor 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

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? Recognition of this fundamental value must be cultivated long before the Scout reaches his Life Review.

-- Sign's Up, p.59

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 it's size and it's 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

Measuring Men (Bill Brown – 1941)

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.

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

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

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, and 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.

(continued ...)

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.
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.

(continued ...)

1. I don't understand.
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.

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

Priestley Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you

May the Lord cause His spirit to shine upon you
And be gracious to you.

May the Lord turn His spirit unto you and grant you peace.

Numbers 6:24 – 26

Shehecheyanu Blessing

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who has given us life, and has sustained us, and has brought us to this time.

A Jewish prayer for reaching joyous occasions

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.

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.

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.

God Is Great

God is great and God is good
Let us thank him for this food
Alleluia!

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.

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.

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.

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 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

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

Philmont Grace

For Food, for raiment, for life, for opportunity, for
friendship and fellowship we thank Thee, O Lord.

Camp Horseshoe Morning Grace

Gracious Giver of all good, Thee we thank for rest
and food. Grant that all we do or say, in Thy service
be this day.

Camp Horseshoe Noon Grace

Father, for this noonday meal, we would speak the
praise we feel. Health and strength we have from
Thee; help us Lord to faithful be.

Camp Horseshoe Evening Grace

Tireless Guardian on our way, Thou has kept us well
this day. While we thank Thee, we request, care
continued, pardon, rest.

A General Grace

Blessed are You, God of all creation. Through Your
goodness we have this food to eat, fruit of the earth
and of human toil. Blessed be Your holy name
forever. Amen.

As we gather for this meal. Amen.

A General Grace

O God, who fills us with Your brightness in the
morning; grant that we continually invoke Your
Name with blessings and praise. Bless and sanctify
this food we are about to receive and the fellowship
we share. Amen.

A General Grace

O God, for the creation of light, for the dawn of the
resurrection, for the love of the Spirit, we praise You
and ask Your kindness and companionship with us
this day. Amen.

A General Grace

Lord we give thanks for all the benefits which we
have received through You. Amen.

Christian Grace

Lord we thank thee for this food. Bless it to our use
and us in thy service, in Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Woodbadge (or other special occasion) Grace

We thank you, O Lord for the opportunity at this
Wood Badge (or insert other special occasion)
experience to share, and to celebrate with our fellow
scouters (or scouts). Help us learn from one
another and strengthen the bonds of fellowship
among us. Make us a blessing to others and let
others be a blessing to us. For food, for raiment, for
life, for opportunity and for fellowship. We thank
thee, O Lord. Amen.

Florida Sea Base grace

Bless the creatures of the sea
Bless this person I call me
Bless the Keys, You make so grand
Bless the sun that warms the land
Bless the fellowship we feel

Reference Material

Internet Resources:

Graces, by Sue Wichers -- <http://home.earthlink.net/~jmak/Music/Graces/menu.htm>. Contact Sue Wichers via e-mail at jmak@earthlink.net.

Scouts Own Resources on the MacScouter Scouting Resources Online -- <http://www.macscouter.com/ScoutsOwn>

Scout Worship Services and Prayers, "A Scout is Reverent" by Steve Tobin -- <http://www.isd.net/stobin/worship/worship.html>

The Big Book of Scout Worship Services by Pete Metzloff -- http://www.tac-bsa.org/worship_services.pdf

Print Resources:

Aids to Scoutmastership (reprint), Robert Baden-Powell, Ottawa, Canada: National Council Boy Scouts of Canada. Available through the 1-800-SCOUTER catalog.

The Holy Bible

Boy Scout Songbook, The Boy Scouts of America, Irving, Texas: Boy Scouts of America, 1970

Buddha. The Intelligent Heart, Alistair Shearer, New York: Thames & Hudson, 1992

Girl Guide Song Book, Guide Association, London, England: Guide Association, 1974

Give Thanks, compiled by Pam Shaw, Newmarket, England: Anglia Girl Guides ('SBN 09515862

The Koran. Interpreted, translation by Arthur J. Arberry, New York: MacMillan Publishing. Co., 1955

Let us Pray, collected by Anne Dunford, Suffolk England: The Guide Assoc., 1986

Our Chalet Song Book (songs from around the world), Guide Chalet Committee, Turbridge Wells, Kent, England: KS Printers Ltd., 1974

Our Chalet Song Book II (songs from around the world), Guide Chalet Committee, Adelboden, Switzerland, 1992

Pathways to Worship, Commission for Church and Youth Serving Agencies, USA, 1986 *Prayers for Scouts*, Walter Dudley Cavert, New York: Abingdon Press, 1964

Scouting for Boys (reprint), Robert Baden-Powell, Ottawa, Canada: National Council Boy Scouts of Canada. Available through the 1-800-SCOUTER catalog.

A Scout is Reverent. A Manual For Scouts of Catholic Faith, National Catholic Committee On Scouting, Irving Texas, Boy Scouts of America, 1982

The Scout Law in Action, compiled by Walter MacPeek, New York: Abingdon Press, 1966

The Scout Oath in Action. compiled by Walter MacPeek, New York: Abingdon Press, 1967

The Scouters Minute, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Searching. Compiled by Averil Taylor, London, England: Guides Assoc., 1985

Sharing, Compiled by Averil Taylor, London, England: Guides Assoc., 1980

Sign's Up. A Collection of Scouting Parables. Vick Vickery, Pensacola, Florida: Good Sign Publishing Company, 1993

When Scouts Worship, The National Protestant Committee on Scouting (BSA) With Jesus on the Scout Trail, Walter Dudley Cavert

Young People Talking With God. A Book of Prayers. United Reformed Church and Guide and Scout Fellowship, Swindon, Wiltshire, England: Promise Publications, 1991

UNICEF Book Of Children's Prayers, Compiled And With Photos. by William I Kaufman.
Prepared for English-reading children by Rosamond V.P. Kaufman and Joan Gilbert Van Poznak. Harrisburg, Pa. Stackpole Books 1970 95 p. illus. 24 cm.

Prayer poems, compiled by O. V. and Helen Armstrong. Freeport, N.Y., Books for Libraries Press <1969, 1942 256 p. 21 cm. (Granger index reprint series)

Prayers; Marshall, Peter, edited and with prefaces by Catherine Marshall. New York, McGraw-Hill <1954> 243 p. illus. 21 cm.

This Is The Way; Prayers And Precepts From World Religions. by Jones, Jessie Mae (Orton). Illustrated by Elizabeth Orton Jones. New York, Viking Press, 1966, 1951 62 p.

Let's Celebrate: A Grab Bag Of Spiritual Ideas For Scouting, an interdenominational Christian book; published by National Council of Boy Scouts of Canada, 1974.

Eagles Soaring High: Trail Worship For Christians And Jews; published by Philmont, no date, BSA number(?) 5-877

Pathways to Worship, pub Commission for Church and Youth Service Agencies, 1986

Reference Books on Black Elk, Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux, Black Elk Speaks and Sacred Pipe

Likrat Shabbat – Worship, Study and Song for Sabbath and Festival Services and for the Home; published by The Prayer Book Press of Media Judaica, Inc., Bridgeport, CT, 1981

Mishkan T'Filah – The Siddur for Reform Jewish Prayer (Draft Services for Shabbat Worship); Central prepared by the Conference of American Rabbis, 2003

Complete Scouts Own Services