

RESOURCES FOR AN "ALL SCOUT SERVICE"

RELIGIOUS DUTY IN THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

To understand the role of religious duty in the Boy Scouts of America, the best place to begin is with how these characteristics of a Scout are explained in the *Boy Scout Handbook* with reference to the respective phrases of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

SCOUT OATH: "To do my duty to God"

"Your family and religious leaders teach you about God and the ways you can serve. You do your duty to God by following the wisdom of those teachings every day and by respecting and defending the rights of others to practice their own beliefs." (p. 45)

SCOUT LAW: "A Scout is Reverent"

Likewise the *Handbook* offers an explanation of this principle of a Scout's conduct, beginning with words that echo the interpretation given to the "duty to God" in the Scout Oath:

"A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

"Wonders all around us remind us of our faith in God. We find it in the tiny secrets of creation and in 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.

"Throughout your life you will encounter people expressing their reverence in many different ways. The Constitution of the United States guarantees each of us the freedom to believe and worship as we wish without government interference. It is your duty to respect and defend others' rights to their religious beliefs even when they differ from your own." (p. 54)

-- take from the 11th edition, 1998, 5th printing of the *Boy Scout Handbook*.

SUGGESTED FOR A "ALL SCOUT SERVICE"

Opening/Call to worship

Hymns/Songs

Prayers

Responsive Readings

[Message]

Hymns/Songs

Benediction

OPENING/CALL TO WORSHIP

An opening/call to worship signifies to all in attendance that we have come to worship and when we start.

INSTRUCTIONS

This may be very formal, such as reading a portion of a Psalm:

Come, let's shout praises to GOD, raise the roof for the Rock who saved us!

Let's march into his presence singing praises, lifting the rafters with our hymns!

³⁻⁵ And why? Because GOD is the best,

High King over all the gods.

In one hand he holds deep caves and caverns, in the other hand grasps the high mountains.

He made Ocean—he owns it!

His hands sculpted Earth! (Psalm 95, *The Message*)

A call to worship may also be informal. The leader may raise the Scout Sign to get everyone's attention and then say something like, "Welcome, let us now worship together", or "As we begin our worship today, let's sing

together . . ." but it must be done in a way that focuses each Scout's attention on the purpose of worship.

SAMPLE OF OPENING/CALL TO WORSHIP

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

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

God calls us together to worship this morning. From our work and play within the world, God gathers us to give thanks for creation's goodness, for the strength to labor, for the wisdom to relax.

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 106:1)

The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth. (Psalm 145:18)

But they who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

The heavens declare the glory of God. The skies proclaim the work of his hands. The earth is God's and everything in it. Praise God.

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.

--Native American

CHAPLAIN AIDE: Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity. (Psalms 133:1)

SCOUTS: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
I will be glad and exult in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. (Psalms 9:1-2)

HYMNS/SONGS

Hymns/songs can be, and often are a welcome change from sitting, speaking and listening to the prayers.

INSTRUCTIONS

Hymns/Songs for the **Planning** part of an act of worship are likely to be praising God. We can also use certain songs we sing in camp.

SAMPLE OF SOME HYMNS/SONGS

Amazing Grace

C F C
Amazing grace how sweet the sound
 G7
That saved a wretch like me
C F C
I once was lost but now I'm found
 G7 C
Was blind but now I see

 F C
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
 G7
And grace my fears relieved
C F C
How precious did that grace appear
 G7 C
The hour I first believed

 F C
Through many dangers toils and snares
 G7
We have already come
C F C
It was Grace that brought us safe thus far
 G7 C
And Grace will bring us home

repeat #1

 F C
We've all been here ten thousand years
 G7
Bright shining like the sun
 C F C
We've no less days to sing God's praise
 G7 C
Than when we first begun

America the Beautiful

 A E
O beautiful for spacious skies,
 A E
For amber waves of grain,
 A E
For purple mountain majesties
 B7 E
Above the fruited plain!

 A E
America! America!
 A A7
God shed His grace on thee,
 D A
And crown thy good with brotherhood
 B7 E A
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.

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

G
He's got the whole world in His hands
D7
He's got the whole wide world in His hands
G
He's got the whole world in His hands
D7 G
He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the sun and the rain in His hands,
He's got the moon and the stars in His hands,
He's got the wind and the clouds in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the rivers and the mountains in His hands,
He's got the oceans and the seas in His hands,
He's got you and he's got me in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got got everybody here in His hands.
He's got everybody there in His hands,
He's got everybody everywhere in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

This is my Father' World

C G7 C
This is my Father's world,
F C G7

And to my listening ears
C G7 E C
All nature sings and round me rings
G7 C
The music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world,
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world
The birds their carols raise.
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.

This is my Father's world
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass, I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world,
O let me ne'er forget:
That thought the wrong seems oft' so strong,
God is the ruler yet.

Michael Rowed the Boat Ashore

C F C
Michael rowed the boat ashore, halle..lu..jah,
Em Dm C G C
Michael rowed the boat ashore, halle..lu..lu..jah.

(Chords are same for other verses)

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.

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

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

My Country, 'Tis of Thee (America)

C G
My Country tis Of thee
C F C-G-C
Sweet land of liberty
F C G C
Of thee I sing.
C
Land Where my Fathers Died
F
Land Of The Pilgrims Pride
C F C G C
From every mountain-side
F C G C
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.

Alleluia- Praise the Lord

C F
Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia,
C G C
Praise, ye the Lord.

C F
Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia,
C G C
Praise ye the Lord.

C
Praise ye the Lord, alleluia,
G

Praise ye the Lord, alleluia,
C

Praise ye the Lord, alleluia,
G C
Praise ye the Lord.

Rise and Shine, Children of the Lord

I have used this song in worship because the message was about the "rainbow"; it needs to be sung with reverence, this is not a campfire.

The Lord said to Noah:
There's gonna be a floody, floody
The Lord said to Noah:
There's gonna be a floody, floody
Get those children out of the muddy, muddy
Children of the Lord.

Chorus:
Rise and shine
And give God the glory, glory
Rise and shine
And give God the glory, glory
Rise and shine
And give God the glory, glory
Children of the Lord.

The Lord told Noah
To build him an arky, arky
The Lord told Noah
To build him an arky, arky
Build it out of gopher barky, barky
Children of the Lord.

Chorus:
He called for the animals,
They came in by twosie, twosies
He called for the animals,
They came in by twosie, twosies
Elephants and kangaroosie, roosies
Children of the Lord.

Chorus:
It rained and it poured
For forty daysie, daysies
It rained and it poured
For forty daysie, daysies

Almost drove those animals crazy, crazies,
Children of the Lord.

Chorus:

The sun came out and
It dried up the landy landy
The sun came out and
It dried up the landy landy
Everything was fine and dandy, dandy
Children of the Lord.

Chorus:

The animals they came off
They came off by three-sies three-sies
Animals they came off
They came off by three-sies three-sies
Grizzly bears and chimpanzee-sies zee-sies
Children of the Lord.

Chorus:

That is the end of,
The end of my story, story
That is the end of,
The end of my story, story
Everything is hunky dory, dory
Children of the Lord.

On My Honor

On my honor, I'll do my best, to do my duty to God.
On my honor, I'll do my best, to serve my country as I may.
On my honor, I'll do my best, to do my good turn each day,
To keep my body strengthened and keep my mind awakened.
To follow paths of righteousness.
On my honor, I'll do my best.

If I Had a Hammer

Intro C Am/F G7/C Am/F G7/C Am/F G7/C Am/F G7

G7 C Am F C Am F
If I had a hammer, I'd hammer in the morning

G7 C Am F G7 G7
I'd hammer in the evening, all over this land

C
I'd hammer out danger

Am
I'd hammer out a warning

F
A hammer out love

C F C F
Between my brothers and my sisters

G7 C Am
Ooh, all over this land

If I had a bell, I'd ring it in the morning
I'd ring it in the evening, all over this land
I'd ring it out danger
I'd ring it out a warning
I'd ring it out love
Between my brothers and my sisters
All over this land

If I had a song, I'd sing it in the morning
I'd sing it in the evening, all over this land
I'd sing it out danger
I'd sing it out a warning
I'd sing it out love
Between my brothers and my sisters
All over this land

Well I got a hammer, and I've got a bell
And I've got a song to sing all over this land
It's the hammer of justice

It's the bell of freedom
It's the song about the love
Between my brothers and my sisters
All over this land

Scout Hymn

One of my favorite, this is sung in many countries around the world:

D G D A
Now has I start upon my chosen way
G D G A
In all I do - my thought, my work, my play
D A Bm D
Grant has I promise, courage new for me
G A G A D
To be the best - the best that I can be

Help me to keep my honour shining bright
May I be loyal in the hardest fight
Let me be able, for my task and then
To earn a place, among my fellow men

Open my eyes to see things as I should
That I may do my daily turn of good
Let me be ready, waiting for each need
To keep me clean, in thought and word and deed
So as I journey, on my chosen way
In all I do - my thought, my work, my play
Grant as I promise, courage new for me
To be the best – the best that I can be

<http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=the+scout+hymn&qvvt=the+scout+hymn&FORM=VDRE#>

This is not an exhausted list of Hymns/Songs; ask your Scouts what they sing in worship. Ask them if they would teach the Hymns/Songs at the next "Troop Service". There are many more that can be used, be creative.

PRAYERS

Prayers are a spoken or unspoken address to God. They may express praise, thanksgiving, confession, or a request for something such as help for somebody's well-being.

INSTRUCTIONS

All packs/dens/troops/ventures should keep a "Prayer Book"; one Scout takes it home each week and inscribes in it his own prayer to read at the end of a meeting.

The Cub Scout Prayer

"Help us, dear God, to love thee day by day
To do our duty to you and enjoy our play
To keep our cub scout promise the best that we can
And to do our best always to help our fellow man." AMEN.

The Scout Prayer

"Almighty and everlasting God,
By whose grace thy servants are enabled to fight
The good fight of faith and ever prove victorious;
We humbly beseech thee so to inspire us
That we may yield our hearts to Your obedience
And exercise our wills on thy behalf.
Help us to think wisely,
To speak rightly,
To resolve bravely,
To act kindly,
To live purely.
Bless us in body and soul
And make us a blessing to our comrades.
Whether at home or abroad
May we ever seek the extension of thy kingdom.
Let the assurance of thy presence
Save us from sinning,
Strengthen us in life and comfort us in death.

O Lord our God, accept this prayer
We pray to the lord, AMEN"

Help To Keep My Honor Bright

"Dear Heavenly Father,

Help to keep my honor bright
And teach me that integrity of character
Is my most priceless possession.

Grant that I may do my best today,
And strive to do even better tomorrow.

Teach me that duty is a friend and not an enemy,
And help me face even the most disagreeable task cheerfully.

Give me the faith to understand my purpose and life,
Open my mind to the truth and fill my heart with love.

I am thankful for all the blessings you have bestowed upon my country.
Help me to do my duty to my country and
To know that a good nation must be made from good men.

Help me to remember my obligation to obey the Scout Law,
And give me understanding, so that it is more than mere words.

May I never tire of the joy of helping other people or
Look the other way when someone is in need.

You have given me the gift of a body,
Make me wise enough to keep it healthy,
That I might serve better.

You are the source of all wisdom,
Help me to have an alert mind,
Teach me to think,
And help me to learn discipline.

In all that I do and in every challenge I face,
Help me to know the difference between right and wrong,
And lead me in obedience on a straight path to a worthy goal." AMEN.

The Scout Law Prayer

"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.
When we find people in despair, let us be Friendly.
In an atmosphere of ill manner, let us be Courteous.
Where some measure manliness in brutality and crudeness, let us be Kind.
Though law-breaking 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, 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.

"O Lord, we thank you for the work of Sir Robert Baden-Powell, who in his dedication and wisdom founded the World Scouting Movement. We thank you for the efforts of those thousands of men and women who have brought Scouting to millions of boys the world over.

We rededicate ourselves to the principles of our Movement --
To do our best -- to do our duty -- to God -- and to our Country.

We ask you, O Lord, to give us the strength and courage --
each of us -- to live up to the Scout Oath -- the Scout Law -- and the high ideals of the World Brotherhood of Scouting". AMEN.

-- From Baden-Powell, "Scouting for Boys"

Some Jewish Sabbath Prayers:

Sabbath Prayer 1: Praised be our eternal God. Ruler of the universe, whose word brings on the evening, whose wisdom opens heaven's gates, whose understanding makes the ages pass and the seasons alternate, and whose will controls the stars as they travel through the skies. You are the creator of day and night, rolling light away from darkness and darkness from light: You cause day to pass and bring on the night, separating day from night. You command the hosts of heaven! May the living and eternal God rule us always, to the end of time! We praise You, Eternal One, whose word makes evening fall.

Sabbath Prayer 2: You set the seventh day apart for your service; it is the goal of creation, more blessed than other days, more sacred than other times, as we read in the story of creation. Now the whole universe - sky, earth, and their entire array - was completed. With the seventh day, all the work was completed. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, this day having completed the work of creation. Our God, God of our fathers and mothers, may our rest on this day be pleasing in Your sight. Sanctify us with your Mitzvot (blessings), and let your Torah (Word, Bible) be our way of life. Satisfy us with Your goodness, gladden us with Your salvation and purify our hearts to serve you in truth. In Your gracious love, Eternal God, let Your holy Sabbath remain our heritage, that all Israel (your people), hallowing your name, may find rest and peace. We praise You, eternal One, for the Sabbath and its holiness.

Sabbath Prayer 3: Blessed art Thou, Lord our God, King of the universe who has sanctified us with His commandments and ordained that we kindle the Sabbath light.

Sabbath Prayer 4: You shall love the Eternal One, your God, with all your heart, with your entire mind, with all your being. Set these words, which I command you this day, upon your heart. Teach them faithfully to your children; speak of them in your home and on your way, when you lie down and when you rise up. Bind them as a sign upon your hand, let them be a symbol before your eyes, inscribe them on the doorposts of your house, and on your gates.

From the American Indians:

O Great Spirit of my fathers, this is my prayer. Help me to feel your urge and your message. Help me to be just, even to those who hate me; and at all times help me to be kind. If my enemy is weak and faltering, help me to the good thought that I forgive him. If he surrenders, move me to help him as a weak and needy brother.

The Omaha Tribal Prayer:

Wa-kon-da dhe dhu, Wapa-dhin a-ton-he.

Father, a needy one stands before You. I that sing am he.

Silent Prayer:

Silent Prayer is not unique to any faith, but the sole form of prayer for traditional Quakerism and is common to all mystics, regardless of faith. It is very usable in a Boy Scout service with the following qualifications. One, the time should not exceed about two minutes. Two, the participants should be given guidance on the topic(s). For instance, after a message/discussion about the Scout Law, suggest that each Scout pick one point to meditate on. I have found it very effective to then say the closing prayer while the group is silent. I would not recommend silent prayer for the first prayer.

RESPOSIVE READINGS/PRAYERS

Responsive readings/prayers are like conversations with God.

The Scout Oath

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

Scouts/Scouters: 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.

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: TO DO MY DUTY TO GOD AND MY COUNTRY AND TO OBEY THE SCOUT LAW.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: 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.

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: 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.

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: TO KEEP MYSELF PHYSICALLY STRONG, MENTALLY AWAKE, AND MORALLY STRAIGHT.

The Scout Law

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

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: We owe much to many—to home, school, community, nation, and to God.

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: A SCOUT IS LOYAL.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: The Good Samaritan showed the spirit of doing a Good Turn.

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: A SCOUT IS HELPFUL.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: A real friend is one who remains loyal in victory and in defeat.

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: Courtesy is the mark of a true gentleman. It is shown in thoughtful acts and kindly respect for everyone.

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: Kindness is the way people show respect for others.

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: A SCOUT IS KIND.

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

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT.

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

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: The world offers many gifts. A wise man uses them with care.

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: A SCOUT IS THRIFTY.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: To each of us comes danger, difficult tasks, and temptations. When faced with a choice between courage and cowardice, we must be brave.

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: A SCOUT IS BRAVE.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: Cleanliness is next to godliness. To have a clean body, a clean mind, and a clean record is a rewarding achievement.

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: A SCOUT IS CLEAN.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: Character is determined by the things we worship. If we respect ourselves and our fellow men, and see them as gifts of goodness from God, we live on a high plane.

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: A SCOUT IS REVERENT.

Hear Our Prayer

CHAPLAIN AIDE: Let us pray for Scouts, for Scouters, and for all people. Lord, in your mercy,

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: Because we have failed in the trust others placed in us, we pray for forgiveness and for renewal to be trustworthy. Lord, in your mercy,

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: For strength to be loyal to our calling in baptism as his disciples in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: For forgiveness when we saw the need to help and passed that need by, when we failed to ask if we could be helpful to a friend or a stranger. Lord, in your mercy,

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: For the spirit to be friendly to all people and even to those who are unfriendly to us. Lord, in your mercy,

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: For the gift of courtesy to all people but especially to the elderly, the disabled and little children. Lord in your mercy,

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: For a heart that rejoices in being kind to people, to animals, and to earth on which we live. Lord, in your mercy,

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: For the will to discipline ourselves to be obedient to the will of our God, and not to our selfish desires. Lord, in your mercy,

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: For a cheerful spirit to see us through disappointing events in our lives, for a faith that believes God will bring some good even from events that cause us pain and sadness. Lord, in your mercy,

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: For an appreciation that all that we have is the gift of our gracious God, for a mind and a heart that will be thrifty in managing the resources God has entrusted to our care. Lord, in your mercy,

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: For the courage not to be afraid of doing what is right and to be brave in working for justice. Lord, in your mercy,

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: For the will to work to keep clean our minds, our hearts, and our land. Lord, in your mercy,

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: For the gift of reverence for God who values all that he has created; for reverence for people, for animal life, for the earth and all its resources—all precious in God's sight. Lord, in your mercy,

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

CHAPLAIN AIDE: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all the people and all the needs we bring before you in our prayers, trusting in your mercy, through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: AMEN.

When I consider...

IN UNISON: O God, how excellent is your name in all of the earth!

CHAPLAIN AIDE: When I consider the heavens, the work of your hands,
The moon and the stars which you created;
What is man, that you care for him?

SCOUTS/SCOUTERS: You have put all things under his dominion.
All sheep and oxen,
All the beasts of the field;
The fowl of the air and the fish of the sea,
That man would use and care for your creation.

MESSAGE

The purpose of a "Message" is to teach just like in a class room. Like a classroom, something taught well will be carried from that room and even better, raise issues that the listener will think about long after the service is over.

If your group is not large, "The Message" may perhaps be best exchanged by just sitting in a "U" shape and having an enlarged conversation, with the leader as a facilitator. Large groups probably should have the leader standing so that all have clear vision and hearing.

OFFERING IF APPROPRIATE

The World Friendship Fund is a major endowment fund of the Boy Scouts of America developed during the closing days of World War II, to rebuild Scouting in nations that had been wracked by war.

Through the Fund, voluntary contributions of Scouts and leaders are used for cooperative projects. This fund helps Scouting associations in every nation that has Scouting, those nations that had Scouting before, and those newly emerging nations that desire Scouting for their youth; it is used to strengthen and extend their Scouting programs.

Prayers for the World Friendship Fund -- Offertory Prayers

"Bless us O God, and these gifts which we bring. Use them to further the Scouting ministry. Amen."

"May these gifts which we bring be merely an extension of our daily duty to you, O God. Amen."

"May the gifts that we now offer up to God be a sign of our trust in God's promise of a new tomorrow, a better day, a sign that love and forgiveness have indeed found a way."

BENEDICTIONS

Benedictions are often misunderstood as closing prayers. They are intended to be charges and blessings to those listening. Writing a benediction really depends on what you are using. For example, if you are using a hymn, try and think about songs that praise God, and also songs that bless the people. Write the benediction by using words that are compelling and preach of hope to the scouts. Sometimes it is a short summary of a lesson that was taught and a challenge or encouragement to carry out what was learned. Make sure it comes from the heart.

The purpose of a benediction is to encourage, lift up, and give improvement to your troop. The benediction and benediction prayer are almost always given at the close of a scout meeting, campfire, court of honor, scout service.

INSTRUCTIONS

Remind those present of God's goodness. An important element of the benediction is to remind everyone present that nothing could happen without God's help, including the reason for your celebration or gathering.

Ask for God's blessing upon the people who need it. Ask that they keep God in mind during their everyday lives and allow him to play a part in their decisions. Additionally, you may add any feelings you believe appropriate to the situation.

Ask that those receiving the benediction always be mindful of God in their new lives and remain open to his influences. This request is often emphasized in the benediction, as some people find it easy to overlook God during their busy periods of transition.

Provide a statement of hope about the future and remind them that God will care for them according to His plan. At a time of great change, the future is at the forefront of the attendants' minds. Therefore, comforting them with an assertion of God's assistance in their future can help put troubled minds at ease.

Offer a prayer for everyone to say together at the end of the blessing. This allows all the people present to connect in the benediction and offer their thoughts together. You may wish to end with a moment of thanks or simply conclude the benediction.

SAMPLE OF SOME BENEDICTIONS

"May the great Ruler of all places, God of many names, touch you with a wind that keeps you strong, for all the days to come."

"May the Lord bless you and take care of you; may the Lord be kind and gracious to you; may the Lord look on you with favor and give you peace."

"And now may the Great Master of all Scouts be with you until we meet again."

"May the Great Scoutmaster of all Scouts be with you until we meet again."
Amen.

"May the Spirit which brought us together this week keeps us mindful of our Obligations during the week and remind us of our need to learn, share and return here again."

"May the Scoutmaster of all those who will listen to Him prepare you for leaving this room; may He continue to remind you to help other people and to do your best during this week; may He return you safely to your families and friends; and may you humble yourself in continuing to listen and follow His guidance and direction."

"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, and 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

"The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you:
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
And give you peace."
-- Numbers 6:24-26

"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

"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.

"Please God grant me -- The spark to imagine -- The daring to innovate -The discipline to plan -- The skill to do -- The will to achieve -- The commitment to be responsible -- The leadership to motivate."

Rope Circle Closing

Give each scout a piece of rope about 3 feet long. Tell the scouts 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

"May the Creator of all things Great and Small, watch over you and bring you back within this circle again soon."

“May the Spirit which brought us together this week keeps us mindful of our Obligations during the week and remind us of our need to learn, share and return here again.”

“Good night Scouts!”



SOME RESOURCES

The Roles of the (Troop Chaplain and the) Chaplains Aide

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Media/Relationships/ChaplainRole.aspx>

Boy Scout before Meal Prayers

http://www.boyscouttrail.com/grace_search.asp

Prayers and Graces

<http://usscouts.org/reverent/prayers.asp>

Nehrbass, David. *Beyond Kum Ba Ya: A Resource Guide for the Chaplain Aide Boy Scout of America, 2008.*

This is available from Amazon for \$9.95.

http://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Kum-Ba-Ya-Resource/dp/1440416087/ref=pd_sxp_grid_pt_0_0/182-6374272-9322134

Religious Awards Program

www.praypub.org