

The

World Famous

Troop 2970

Interfaith Worship Service Planner

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Introduction

This document is a compilation of information about scout interfaith services. 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 Interfaith Worship Service ceremonies, and also to support spiritual growth within the organization.

From Baden-Powell, on the Scout Movement, Brotherhood, and God:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Baden-Powell

An Introduction to the Scouts Own

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

Let us first consider what Scouts' Owns are not.

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

Given those guidelines, let's define what Scouts' Owns are. This is not what they ought to be - this is what they are.

A Scouts' Own is an inspirational, informal ceremony held as part of Scouting or Guiding activities. A Scouts' Own service is usually short, often lasting no longer than 15 minutes. They are made up of a mixture of readings, prayers, reflections and music. Many Scouts' Owns are based on a particular theme, such as friendship, using resources wisely, or fairness. This might be connected to a certain event or occasion.

- 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

Information about Interfaith Worship Services

How a Scout can use this planning guide to lead an Interfaith Worship Service

A Scout may use one of the sample services from this guide. Or the Scout may modify one of them or create one from scratch. The Scout may want to "mix and match" his favorite parts from the sample ceremonies to form a new combination. Any modified versions will need to be approved by the PLC. When the PLC evaluates a new submission by a Scout, the PLC should consider whether the new version should be added to this document.

The Scout should then plan for when and where the service will occur, and who will attend. The Scout should work with the PLC to approve the who, when and where.

The Scout should print copies of the pages that contain the service that he will lead, and provide copies to the attendees. Then the Scout should lead the service.

This document should be updated annually

New scouts join the troop every year. A new scout and his family may have religious beliefs that have not yet been represented within this document. A scout can submit material to the SPL and request the material be added to this document. If no scout initiates this, the SPL should assign a scout to work with each patrol to see if any particular prayers should be added, and if a specific sample interfaith worship service can be added to be inclusive of new views. These additions should be added to this planning guide. The Chaplain's Aide and Troop Scribe may be useful in supporting the SPL in this task. The SPL should consult with the Scout Master to ensure proper adult review of the final document.

What does it mean to be Reverent?

Definition of reverent:

merriam-webster: expressing or characterized by reverence

Definition of reverence:

merriam-webster: honor or respect felt or shown

dictionary.com: noun: a feeling or attitude of deep respect tinged with awe; veneration

Why a Scout should lead a Worship Service

A scout should lead a worship service at a troop event for several reasons:

- 1) A scout is reverent.
- 2) As he goes through the process of selecting, editing, and/or creating a worship service that he feels comfortable with, he will have the opportunity to think more deeply about the service that he is preparing to lead, what the service means to him, and likely prepare him to get more out of future services, whether he leads those services or not.
- 3) He will practice leadership skills by leading the group through the service

- 4) In pursuit of the Communication Merit Badge, there is a requirement to, "Plan a troop or crew court of honor, campfire program, or interfaith worship service. Have the patrol leaders' council approve it, then write the script and prepare the program. Serve as master of ceremonies." So by planning the service, having the PLC approve it, and serving as MC of the service, the scout satisfies this requirement of the merit badge.

What is a Scout Interfaith Worship Service?

Respect of Others' Beliefs

The Scout Law teaches, "A Scout is reverent. A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others." It is important that Scouts be taught to recognize the beliefs of other Scouts and to respect those beliefs.

When is an Interfaith Worship Service Appropriate?

Scout outings and activities that span weekends should include an opportunity for members to meet their religious obligations. At times there might be Scouts of different faiths. If services for each faith group are not available, an interfaith worship service is recommended. However, some religions have specific requirements based on their own beliefs that would not be fulfilled through an interfaith service, and this also needs to be considered in conducting a weekend outing. When planning an interfaith service, it is recommended that scripture, prayers, hymns, and all other parts of the worship be considerate of everyone present—respectful of all religions.

What are common elements of a worship service?

Call to Worship: A call to worship is one of the first moments in a service. Someone stands up and has the job of marking off the boundary between what happened before the service, and the start of the service. A call to worship sets the tone for the worship service and can help orient the congregation toward a worship mindset and attitude.

Invocation: To invoke is to call upon earnestly, so an "invocation" in the context of prayer is a serious, intentional calling upon God. Such prayers call upon God to grant His presence in the worship, to bless the service or activity, and to hear the prayers of petition offered to Him.

Responsive Reading: Responsive reading is the alternate reading of a text between the leader of a group and the rest of the group, especially during worship.

Benediction: Benedictions from Scripture are often read or recited near the close of a worship service. In this context, benedictions embody a call to unity, faith, and joy among the brethren.

Sample Interfaith Worship Services

Interfaith Worship Service - #1

Call to Worship (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 who 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 forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Invocation

O Lord, our Heavenly father, we lift our hearts to thee at the beginning of this new day. We come to this time and place of worship with thy beauty all about us; in the sky, in the trees, in the earth, and in all thy creation. We praise thee, and come to worship thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, who gives us each new day. Amen.

Hymn: America the Beautiful (all)

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 pilgrim feet

Whose stern impassion'd stress

A thorough-fare for freedom beat

Across the wilderness.

America! America!

God mend thine ev'ry flaw,

Confirm thy soul in self control,

Thy liberty in law.

Responsive Reading

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

Scouts: A Scout is trustworthy.

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

Scouts: A Scout is loyal.

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

Scouts: A Scout is helpful.

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

Scouts: A Scout is friendly.

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

Scouts: A Scout is courteous.

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

Scouts: 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 to willingly accept responsibilities.

Scouts: A Scout is obedient.

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

Scouts: A Scout is cheerful.

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

Scouts: A Scout is thrifty.

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

Scouts: 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.

Scouts: A Scout is clean.

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

Scouts: A Scout is reverent.

A Wood Badge Prayer

Father Creator of Heaven and Earth, as a new day dawns on our endeavor, we ask you to open our hearts and minds to the knowledge and values being presented to us. Make us aware of the talents of others and the strengths that lie in our differences. Provide for us the wisdom to work our tickets well, for the benefit of others and ourselves. Help us to build teams to ensure the future and vitality of Scouting. Bring us back to Gilwell, making it genuine in our hearts and minds, in order to revitalize us for the tasks ahead. And above all, keep all

Beavers, Bobwhites, Eagles, Foxes, Owls, Bears, Buffalo, Antelopes, and Ravens eager for the challenges that we have been presented. Amen.

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and grant you peace.

Interfaith Worship Service - #2

A Scout is Reverent

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

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader:

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

Response:

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.
(Psalm 9:1-2)

Invocation

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

(-- From the Jewish Sabbath Service)

OPENING SONG

(all)

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

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

RESPONSIVE READING

God is the Eternal One

Leader:

God is the Eternal One,
Who reigned before any being had yet been created;
When all was done according to God's will,
Already then God's Name was Sovereign.

Response:

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.

Response:

And the Sovereign of all is my own God,
My living Redeemer,
My Rock in time of trouble and distress;
My banner and my Refuge,
My benefactor, to whom in anguish, I can call.

All:

Into God's hands I entrust my spirit,
Both when I sleep as when I wake;
And with my spirit, my body also:
God is with me, I will not fear.

("Adon Olam" ("God is the Eternal One").

An eleventh-century Hebrew prayer composed by the Jewish poet and philosopher Solomon Ibn Gibirol. }

A TRADITIONAL SCOUTING SONG

Kum-Ba-Yah (The Scout Law Version)

(all)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reading

(>From the Koran, Al-Furqan, Part 19, Chapter 25)

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.

SILENT OBSERVANCE

May we observe a moment of silent prayer, each in his own faith.

A Thought for Scout Sunday From Baden-Powell, Scouting for Boys

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

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

No man is much good unless he believes in God and obeys His laws. So every Scout should have religion.

Religion seems a very simple thing: First: Love and serve God. Second: Love and serve your neighbor. In doing your duty to God always be grateful to Him. Whenever you enjoy a pleasure or a good game, or succeed in doing a good thing, thank Him for it, if only with a word or two, just as you say grace at a meal. And it is a good thing to bless other people. For instance, if you see a train starting off, just pray for God's blessing on all that are in the train.

In doing your duty towards man, be helpful and generous, and always be grateful for any kindness done to you, and be careful to show that you are grateful. Remember again that a present given to you is not yours until you have thanked the giver for it.

While you are living your life on earth, try to do something good which may remain after you.

One writer says: "I often think that when the sun goes down the world is hidden by a big blanket from the light of heaven, but the stars are little holes pierced in that blanket by those who have done good deeds in this world. The stars are not all the same size; some are big, some are little, and some men have done great deeds and others have done small deeds, but they have made their hole in the blanket by doing good before they went to heaven."

Try to make your hole in the blanket by good work while you are on earth.

It is something to be good, but it is far better to do good.

BENEDICTION

"An Old Irish Blessing"

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

Interfaith Worship Service - #3

Call to Worship

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness. Come into His presence with singing.
Know that the Lord is God. It is He that made us, and we are His;
we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.”

Opening Hymn (all)

God bless America, Land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains, To the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America, My home sweet home!
God bless America, My home sweet home!

Invocation CAMPER'S PRAYER

God of the mountains and hills, make me tall and strong;
Tall enough and strong enough to right some wrong.
God of the stars, make me steadfast and sure;
God of every lake and stream, flow through my life & make it clean;
Let me do nothing base or mean.
God of the trees and woods, keep me fresh and pure;
God of the rain, wash from my life all dirt and stain;
Pure and strong let me remain.
God of the seed and soil, plant in my heart thy love;
God of the darkness and day, through shadows or light, be my stay.
Guide thou my way.
God of the radiant sun, light thou my life;
God of the glorious dawn, make each day a fresh start.
God of the evening peace and quiet, keep me free from fear & strife.
God of the gay, free birds, sing in my heart.
God of the surging waves and sea, wide horizons give to me;
Help me to see the world as thou would have it be;
God of the lovely rose, make me lovely, too;
God of the morning dew, each day my faith renew.
God of all growing things, keep me growing, too.
--- George Earle Owen

Hymn
(all)

Amazing Grace

How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found,
Was blind, but now I see.

Was grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers
Toils and snares I had already gone
'Tis grace that led me safe this far
And grace will lead me home.

Responsive Reading
(Psalm 46)

Leader: God is our refuge and strength,

Response: He always helps in times of trouble.

Leader: So we will not be afraid if the earth shakes,

Response: Or if the mountains fall into the sea.

Leader: We will not fear even if the oceans roar and foam,

Response: The Lord of heaven's armies is with us.

Leader: The God of Jacob is our protection.

Meditation

When night ends...

"How can we determine the hour of dawn - when the night ends and the day begins?" the rabbi asked of his students.

"When, from a distance, you can distinguish between a dog and a sheep?" one of his students suggested.

"No" the rabbi answered.

"Is it when you can distinguish between a fig tree and a grapevine?" another student asked.

"No" he replied.

"Please tell us the answer, then" said the students.

"It is when you can look into the face of a human being and have enough light to recognize in him your brother," the wise teacher replied.

"Until then, it is night, and the darkness is still with us."

Message

"WE LEARNED IT ALL IN KINDERGARTEN" (BE SEATED)

Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandbox. These are the things I learned:

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don't hit people.

Put things back where you found them.

Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that aren't yours.

Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.

Wash your hands before you eat.

Live a balanced life.

Learn some and think some, and draw and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap in the afternoon.

When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands and stick together.

Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up, and nobody really knows why, but we are all like that. Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup - they all die. So do we.

And then remember the book about Dick and Jane and the first word you ever learned, the biggest word of all:

LOOK.

Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The golden rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and sane living. Think of what a better life it would be if we all had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations always to put things back where we found them and cleaned up our own messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

Benediction

(Prayer Composed By Chief Yellow Lark , A Blackfoot Indian)

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me.

I come before you, one of your many children. I am weak and small.

I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset; my ears sharp so I may hear your voice.

Make me wise, so I may learn the things you have taught my people,
the lessons you have hidden under every rock and leaf.

I seek strength, not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy--myself.

Make me ever ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes,
so whenever life fades, like the fading sunset, my spirit will come to you without shame.

Interfaith Worship Service #4

Call To Worship:

Almighty god, who pourest out your blessings on all, deliver us this day from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections, we may worship you in spirit and in truth.

Opening Prayer (All):

The lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the lord forever.

Song: America (All)

My country 'tis of thee
Sweet land of liberty
Of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died
Land of the pilgrims' pride.
From every mountainside,
Let freedom ring.

Responsive Reading: The Scout Oath

People: on my honor I will do my best

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.

People: to do my duty to god and my country and to obey the scout law.

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.

People: to help other people at all times

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.

People: to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally Straight.

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.

Hymn: Oh Beautiful
(All)

Oh beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties,
Above the fruited plain.

(chorus)

America, America. God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.

Oh beautiful for patriot dream,
That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears.

(repeat chorus)

Prayer (leader):

"great spirit, whose teepee is the sky and whose hunting ground is the Earth,
Mighty and fearful are you called.
Ruler over storms, over men and birds and beasts,
Have your way over all,
Over earthways as over skyways.
Find us this day our meat and corn,
That we may be strong and brave.
And put aside from us our wicked ways as we put aside the bad
Works of them who do us wrong.
And let us not have such troubles as lead us into crooked roads,
But keep us from all evil,
For yours is all that is the earth and the sky;
The streams, the hills and the valleys, the stars, the moon,
And the sun, and all that live and breathe.
Wonderful, shining, mighty spirit."

Benediction:
"an old Irish blessing"

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

Interfaith Worship Service #5

(Randy Neufeld)

INVOCATION

Be merciful to me, O God, Be merciful,
for I have taken refuge in You.
In the shadow of Your wings,
will I take refuge
until this time of trouble has gone by.

I will call upon the most high God,
The God who maintains my cause.

He will send from heaven and save me;
He will confound those
who trample upon me;
God will send forth His love
and his faithfulness. Amen.

HYMN (all)

Oh beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties,
Above the fruited plain.

(Chorus)
America, America. God shed His Grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.

Oh beautiful for patriot dream,
That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears.

(Repeat Chorus)

MEDITATION

Sanctify our campsite with your presence and joy.
By the spirit of affection and service unite our
Scouting families, that they may show your praise
in our land and in all the world.

RESPONSIVE READING (Psalm 46)

Leader: God is our refuge and strength

Response: A very present help in trouble

Leader: therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved

Response: and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea

Leader: though it's waters rage and foam

Response: the Lord of hosts is with us

Leader: the God of Jacob is our stronghold

HYMN
(all)

Kum Ba Yah my Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Kum Ba Yah my Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Kum Ba Yah my Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Oh, Lord Kum Ba Yah

Someone's crying Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's crying Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's crying Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Oh Lord Kum Ba Yah

Someone's singing Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's singing Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's singing Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Oh Lord Kum Ba Yah

Someone's praying Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's praying Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's praying Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Oh Lord Kum Ba Yah

CLOSING PRAYER:
GREAT SPIRIT PRAYER

Oh Great Spirit whose voice in the wind I hear,
And whose breath gives life to all in the world

Hear me

Before you I come, one of your many children
Small and weak am I

Your strength and wisdom I need
Make me walk in beauty

Make my heart respect all You have made
My ears to hear Your voice
Make me wise that I may know all You have taught my people
The lessons You have hidden in every rock
I seek strength, not to be superior to my brother
Make me able to fight my greatest enemy <197> myself
Make me ready to stand before You with clean and straight eyes

When life fades, as the fading sunset, may our spirits stand before You without shame.

Interfaith Service created for Wood Badge Course N6-81-16-2

1. Call to Worship – Buffalo Patrol (Shinto)
2. Opening Song – Buffalo Patrol (Christian)
3. Inspirational Reading – Owl Patrol (Confucian)
4. Responsive Reading – Antelope Patrol (Muslim)
5. Hymn/Song – Bear Patrol (Christian)
6. Responsive Reading – Eagle Patrol (Buddhist)
7. Inspirational Reading – Beaver Patrol (Taoism)
8. Group Prayer – Fox Patrol (Hindu)
9. Offering – Fox Patrol
10. Act of Friendship – Bobwhite Patrol
11. Closing Benediction – Bobwhite Patrol (Judaism)

1. Call to Worship

Dennis Kellen, Buffalo Patrol

Today we celebrate each element of our Interfaith Service with reflection on the eight (8) major religions as recognized by Boy Scouts of America.

"A Scout Is Reverent. He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others." So reads the twelfth point of the Scout Law. Baden-Powell once said of the scouting movement: "There is no religious side to the movement. The whole of it is based on religion, that is, on the realization and service of God."

Shinto Prayer for Peace

Although the people living
across the ocean
surrounding us, I believe
are all our brothers and sisters,
why are there constant troubles in
this world?
Why do winds and waves rise in the
oceans surrounding us?
I only earnestly wish that the wind will
soon puff away all the clouds which are
hanging over the tops of mountains.

2. Opening Song

Dennis Kellen, Buffalo Patrol

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!

3. Inspirational Reading

Dan Tasker, Owl Patrol

The Master said:

A youth when at home should be filial and abroad, respectful to his elders. He should be earnest and truthful. He should overflow in love to all, and cultivate the friendship of the good. When he has time and opportunity after the performance of these things, he should employ them in polite studies.

The Night

--- A reading from the Qur'án

Everyone: In the Name of God the Compassionate the Caring

Leader: By the night when it falls
By the day when it breaks
By what has made the male and the female
You strive toward different ends.

**Everyone: As for him who shares what he has and is mindful
who affirms the right-----
him we will ease to the good life**

Leader: As for him who hoards what he has
thinking it makes him secure
who denies the right-----
him we will ease to hardship
Wealth will not save you from ruin

**Everyone: Ours is guidance
Ours is the after and ours is the before**

Leader: I warn of a fire that sears
One hard in wrong will burn there
a denier, one who turns away

**Everyone: We will spare from it
whoever keeps the faith
Who shares what he owns, making it pure
Who looks to no one to return the favor
Seeking only the face of his lord the most high
That one will know peace of mind**

Great is thy faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee,
Thou changest not, Thy compassion's, they fail not,
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

To sacred hill, woods and groves,
To sacred trees and shrines
Do people go, gripped by fear.

But they are not safe refuges,
Not the best refuge.
Not by going there
Is one freed from all suffering.

But whoever takes refuge
In the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha
Will understand the wisdom
The four Noble Truths:

Suffering, its cause, overcoming,
and the Noble Eightfold Path
Leading to its overcoming.

And this is a safe refuge,
The best refuge.
Having taken refuge here,
One is freed from all suffering.

The eight-fold path in this reading refers to a sort of Buddhist "scout law", or eight practices that lead to rebirth and an end of suffering.

Leader: The Eightfold Path consists of eight practices:
right view,

Everyone: A scout is cheerful

Leader: right resolve,

Everyone: A scout is brave and will do his best

Leader: right speech,

Everyone: A scout speaks the truth and is trustworthy

Leader: right conduct,

Everyone: A scout is courteous and respectful, reverent

Leader: right livelihood,

Everyone: A scout lives a thrifty, clean and obedient life

Leader: right effort,

Everyone: A scout is helpful

Leader: right mindfulness,

Everyone: A scout is kind

Leader: right "samadhi"

Everyone: A scout is reverent

"The best leaders are those the people hardly know exist," said Lao Tzu

Indeed, a good leader is 'nowhere to be found'. He's invisible!

In contrast, most leaders we know are visible. Among them are laudable leader who is adored and respected by his people, and chieftain who asserts his authority by making people aware that he is the BOSS. Sadly, they also include the bully who points a knife at your back forcing you to empty your wallet.

These leaders get you to do things they want you to do. But if you're talking about effectiveness of leadership, theirs is in nowhere near the influence of the 'invisible' leaders.

The 'invisible' leaders lead without 'leading' in the conventional sense.

Like what Lao Tzu says, "They act without effort and teach without words."

They inspire and guide, so that people do what he wants them to do without feeling being led.

We have heard of highly accomplished people talking about how someone however insignificant had led them to their success. The person can be a mother with little education who lavishes her children with wisdom and love, or a stern master who pokes his student's bloated ego so that he can see clearly his true value in his pursuits. The person drives successes without appearing to be a leader, although he is the real leader.

The real leaders can also be someone as simple as your friend who makes you travel all the way to a remote place to try out an interesting restaurant, or take part in a program to shed your weight without telling you to do so.

Having said that, there is no doubt that a true leader can be someone in leadership position, who is both visible and invisible, depending on the situations.

So who are these leaders in your life?

There are many of them around. Since they are invisible, they are in no fixed form. In fact, this is the beauty of it. They are there for you to discover and be enthralled.

Once you have spotted any one of them, take note of how they have led you. Apply the secrets to the people you lead, and you will see the invisible leader emerging in you.

8. Group Prayer

Tommy Reynolds, Fox Patrol

This collection of inspiring quotes is borrowed from the eternal text that contains the teachings of Lord Krishna is meant to lead one towards their actual goal. As the deity himself said, "I give you these precious words of wisdom; reflect on them and then do as you choose."

(Patrol will stand as a group and read the quote together while the others remain seated and listen)

Beaver Patrol: We are kept from our goal, not by obstacles, but by a clear path to a lesser goal.

Bobwhite Patrol: No one should abandon duties because he sees defects in them. Every action, every activity, is surrounded by defects as a fire is surrounded by smoke.

Eagle Patrol: Strive constantly to serve the welfare of the world; by devotion to selfless work one attains the supreme goal of life. Do your work with the welfare of others always in mind.

Fox Patrol: If you want to see the brave, look to those who can return love for hatred. If you want to see heroic, look to those who can forgive.

Owl Patrol: A gift is pure when it is given from the heart to the right person at the right time and at the right place, and when we expect nothing in return.

Bear Patrol: It is Nature that causes all movement. Deluded by the ego, the fool harbors the perception that says "I did it".

Buffalo Patrol: He is the source of light in all luminous objects. He is beyond the darkness of matter and is un-manifested. He is knowledge, He is the object of knowledge, and He is the goal of knowledge. He is situated in everyone's heart.

Antelope Patrol: One has to learn tolerance in the face of dualities such as happiness and distress, or cold and warmth, and by tolerating such dualities become free from anxieties regarding gain and loss

Staff: The offering of wisdom is better than any material offering.

Scoutmaster Troop 1: The wise work for the welfare of the world, without thought for themselves.

World Friendship Fund – Through the World Friendship Fund, voluntary contributions of Scouts and leaders are transformed into cooperative projects that help Scouting associations in other countries to strengthen and extend their Scouting programs. The World Friendship Fund gives the youth members of the Boy Scouts of America an opportunity to help fellow Scouts who are in need of their support. It teaches Scouts that Scouting is global. Since the inception of the World Friendship Fund, American Scouts and leaders have voluntarily donated more than \$11 million to these self-help activities.

The World Friendship Fund was developed during the closing days of World War II. At that time, there was a great need to rebuild Scouting in those nations that had been wracked by war and were just emerging from the shadows of totalitarianism.

Over the years, this fund has provided Scouts from around the world with Scouting literature, uniforms, summer camp equipment, computers, and other Scouting-related supplies.

10. Act of Friendship

Hong Phan, Bobwhite Patrol

Please take this opportunity to extend an act of friendship to those beside you.

Greet your neighbors with a Scout handshake and say "Shalom" to one another.

Shalom means peace.

11. Closing Benediction

Hong Phan, Bobwhite Patrol

Hear our voice, O Lord our God;
Spare us and have mercy upon us,
and accept our prayer in mercy and favor;
For You are a God who hears and answers prayers and supplications;
From Your presence, O our King,
Turn us not away empty;
For You hear and answer in mercy to the prayers of Your people Israel.
Blessed art Thou, O Lord, who hears and answers prayer.

Non-Denominational Worship Service For Worship In The Outdoors

(Randy Neufeld)

CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 100: 1 - 3

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come into His presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is He that made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.”

OPENING HYMN - “Morning Has Broken”
(all)

Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, Praise for the morning,
Praise for them, springing, fresh from the word.
Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass,
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.
Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day.

READING

“The Peace of Wild Things” by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
Waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

RESPONSIVE READING: -

“Canticle of the Sun”

All: O most high, almighty, good Lord God, to you belongs praise, glory, honor and all blessing.

Leader: Praised be my Lord God with all his creatures, and especially, our brother, the sun, who brings us the day and who brings us the night; fair is he, and shines with a very great splendor; O Lord, he signifies You to us.

Response: Praised be my Lord for our sister the moon, and for the stars, which He has set clear and lovely in the heaven.

Leader: Praised be my Lord for our brother the wind, and for the air and clouds, calms, and all weather by which you uphold life in all creatures.

Response: Praised be my Lord for our sister, water, who is very serviceable to us, and humble and precious... and very clean.

Leader: Praised be my Lord for our brother, fire, through whom you give us light in the darkness; he is bright and pleasant and very mighty and strong.

Response: Praised be my Lord for our mother, the earth, which sustains us and keeps us, and brings forth grass and diverse fruits and flowers of many colors.

All: Praise and bless the Lord, and give thanks to Him and serve Him with great humility.

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER

God, sometimes I hold something small in my hand... a piece of moss or a budding twig, and - peering closely at this tiny world - I feel a sudden wonder. Help me to remember that you made these worlds, and countless others, and...in remembering...come closer to you. O God, we thank Thee today for the world in which you have placed us; for the universe whose vastness is revealed in the blue depths of the sky; whose immensities are lit by shining stars beyond the strength of mind to follow. We thank you for the beauty of our earth, for the sweetness of the flowers, the solemnity of the stars, the sound of streams and swelling seas, for stretching lands and mighty mountains which rest and satisfy the soul, the purity of dawn which calls us to holy dedication, and the peace of the evening which speaks of everlasting rest. Above all, we thank you for the dignity you have bestowed upon every human being as the crown of your Creation. Give us the grace to let the light of your glory shine through us, in our action, words and thoughts. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN - " This is My Father's World" (all)

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears,
All nature sings, & round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world. I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
His hand the wonders wrought.
This is my Father's world. The birds their carols raise.
The morning light, the lily white, declare the Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world. He shines in all that's fair;
In the trusting grass I hear him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.

BENEDICTION - (sung to the tune: Edelweiss) (all)

May the Lord, Mighty Lord, bless and keep you forever;
Grant us peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see His face, and His grace forever.
May the Lord, Mighty Lord, Bless and keep you forever.

All-Faiths Service For Worship In The Outdoors

CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 100: 1 - 3

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, in all the lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness. Come into His presence
with singing. Know that the Lord is God.
It is He that made us, and we are His;
We are His people, and sheep of His pasture.”

OPENING HYMN - “AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL”
(all)

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

RESPONSIVE READING: - “Canticle of the Sun”

All: O most high, almighty, Lord God, to you belongs praise, glory, honor and all blessing.

Leader: Praised be my Lord God with all his creatures, and especially, our brother, the sun, who brings us the day and who brings us the night; fair is he, and shines with a very great splendor; O Lord, he signifies You to us.

Response: **Praise be my Lord for our sister the moon, and for the stars, which He has set clear and lovely in the heaven.**

Leader: Praised be my Lord for our brother the wind, and for the air and clouds, calms, and all weather by which you uphold life in all creatures.

Response: **Praised be my Lord for our sister, water, who is very serviceable to us, and humble and precious... and very clean.**

Leader: Praised be my Lord for our brother, fire, through whom you give us light in the darkness; he is bright and pleasant and very mighty and strong.

Response: **Praised be my Lord for our mother, the earth, which sustains us and keeps us, and brings forth grass and diverse fruits and flowers of many colors.**

All: Praise and bless the Lord, and give thanks to Him and serve Him with great humility.

A Vietnam Buddhist Chant of Incense:

Burning incense spread to the four winds
slowly, swirls formed as a wise cloud.
Gathering here, we bow and pray,
Bring the beautiful garland to the altar!
Praying to the omnipotent, benevolent God of Mankind.
Deep in our humble heart, we seek the absolute truth
Which takes us out of the circle of suffering.

Silent Prayer:

After a moment, the leader says:

Leader: O God, it is not easy to pray,
And yet I pray that these few moments
will somehow bring me closer to you"

HOMILY: "A Tell of Three Trees" - *as retold by Angela Elwell Hunt*

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!" The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world!" The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world."

Years passed and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain. The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the first tree fell. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest, I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said. The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!" The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me," he muttered. With a swoop of his shining ax the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feed box for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, nor with treasure. She was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals. The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty ship was made that day. Instead, the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail to an ocean, or even a river. Instead she was taken to a little lake. The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" The once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God..."

Many, many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed box. "I wish I could make a cradle for him," her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and the sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful," she said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the wind and the rain. The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the King of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel. But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. It had made the third tree strong. And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God.

That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

So the next time you feel down because you didn't get what you want, just sit tight and be happy because God is thinking of something better to give you.

CLOSING HYMN - " God Bless America"
(all)

God Bless America, land that I love,
Stand beside her, and guide her,
Though the night, with the light from above,
From the mountains, to the prairies,
to the oceans, white with foam,
God Bless America, My home, sweet, home,
God Bless America, My home sweet home.

BENEDICTION - (spoken or sung to the tune: Edelweiss)
(all)

May the Lord, Mighty Lord, bless and keep you forever;
Grant us peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see His face, and His grace forever.
May the Lord, Mighty Lord, Bless and keep you forever.

Appendix

Samples of Interfaith Prayers and Benedictions

1. For health, strength, and daily food, we give You thanks, O Lord.
2. For this and all Your mercies, Lord, make us truly grateful.
3. For food, health, friendship, we give You thanks, O Lord.
4. For food, for raiment, for life, for opportunity, for friendship and fellowship, we thank You, O Lord. (Philmont grace)
5. Come, O Lord, be our guest, and bless what You have bestowed on us.
6. Gracious Giver of all good, we thank You for food and rest. Grant all we say or do pleases You.
7. Lord, bless our Scouting leaders who spend so much time and energy to help us grow up well. Guide them in their work; give them patience and wisdom, and reward them in this life and the next. Amen.
8. As our campfire fades, we thank You for the joys and blessings of this day. We lift our minds and hearts to You in gratitude for life, happiness, and the Scouting movement. Lord, protect our camp this night; may we rise refreshed and ready to serve You. Amen.
9. May the Great Scoutmaster of all Scouts be with us until we meet again.

The Universality of the Golden Rule in the World Religions

Faith	Golden Rule	Reference
Ancient Egyptian	Do for one who may do for you, that you may cause him thus to do	The Tale of the Eloquent Peasant 1640BC
Brahmanism	This is the sum of Dharma [duty]: Do naught unto others which would cause you pain if done to you	Mahabharata, 5:1517
Buddhism	Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.	Udana-Varga 5:18
Christianity	All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye so to them; for this is the law and the prophets	Matthew 7:1
Confucianism	Do not do to others what you would not like yourself. Then there will be no resentment against you, either in the family or in the state.	Analects 12:2
Hinduism	This is the sum of duty; do naught onto others what you would not have them do unto you.	Mahabharata 5:1517
Humanism	Don't do things you wouldn't want to have done to you	British Humanist Society
Islam	None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.	#13 of Imam Al-Nawasi's 40 Hadiths
Jainism	Therefore, neither does he [a sage] cause violence to others nor does he make others do so	Acarangasutra 5.101-2
Judaism	What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellowman. This is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary.	Talmud, Shabbat 31a
Native American Spirituality	Do not wrong or hate your neighbor. For it is not he who you wrong, but yourself.	Pima proverb
Shinto	The heart of the person before you is a mirror. See there your own form	

Sikhism	Compassion-mercy and religion are the support of the entire world	Japji Sahib
Taoism	Regard your neighbor's gain as your gain, and your neighbor's loss as your own loss.	Tai Shang Kan Yin P'ien
Unitarian	We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part	Unitarian principles. 7,8
Zoroastrianism	Whatever is disagreeable to yourself do not do unto others	Shayast-na-Shayast 13:29

Religious groups differ greatly in their concepts of deity, other beliefs and practices. Non-theistic ethical and philosophic systems, like Humanism and Ethical Culture, also exhibit a wide range of beliefs. But there is near unanimity of opinion among almost all religions, ethical systems and philosophies that each person should treat others in a decent manner. Almost all of these groups have passages in their holy texts, or writings of their leaders, which promote this **Ethic of Reciprocity**.

One result of this Ethic is the concept that every person shares certain inherent human rights, simply because of their membership in the human race. People are individually very different; they come in two main genders; different sizes, colors, and shapes; many races; three sexual orientations; and different degrees of ability. They follow many religious and economic systems, speak many languages, and follow many different cultures. But there is a growing consensus that all humans are equal in importance. All should enjoy basic human rights.

O Great Spirit of the Heavens. In the day's infine blue and amid the countless stars of the night season, remind us that You are vast, that You are beautiful and majestic beyond all of our knowledge or telling, but also that You are no further from us than the tilting upward of our heads and the raising of our eyes.

Native American

In harmony may I walk
 With harmony before me may I walk
 With harmony behind me may I walk
 With harmony above me may I walk
 With harmony underneath my feet may I walk
 With harmony all around me may I walk
 It is done in harmony

Native American

In beauty may I walk.
 All day long may I walk.
 Through the returning seasons may I walk.
 Beautiful will I possess again.
 Beautiful Birds...
 Beautiful joyful birds...
 On the trail market with pollen may I walk
 With grasshoppers about my feet may I walk
 With beauty may I walk

With beauty before me may I walk
Dine Bikeyah (1 of 2)

With beauty behind me may I walk
With beauty above me may I walk
With beauty all around me may I walk
In old age wandering on a trail of beauty, lively, may I walk
In old age wandering on a trail of beauty, lively again, may I walk
If it finished in beauty
It is finished in beauty
Dine Bikeyah (2 of 2)