



A Scout Is Reverent

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

Scout's Own



Offered by the
HIGH ADVENTURE TEAM
Los Angeles Area Council
Boy Scouts of America

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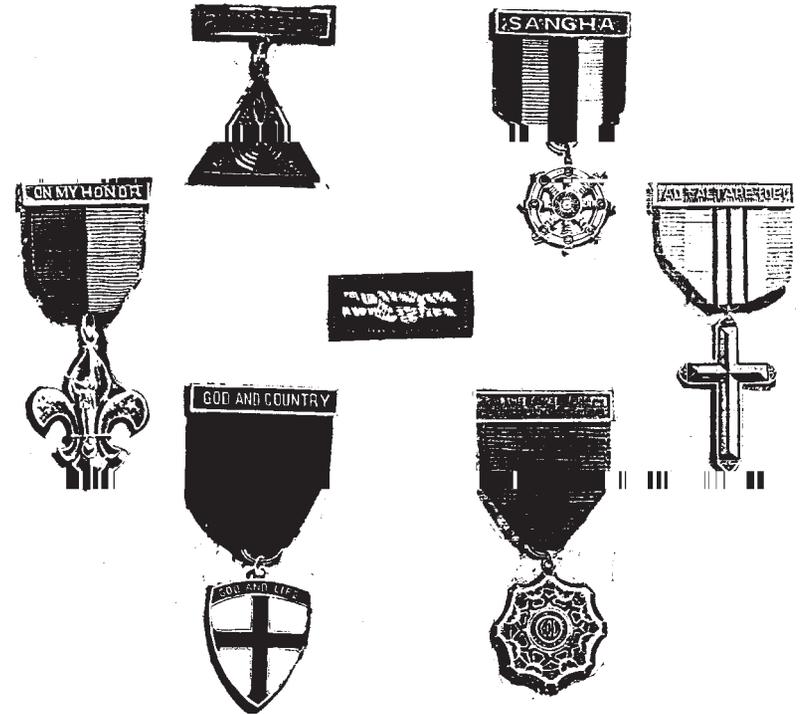
The High Adventure Team of the Los Angeles Area Council-Boy Scouts of America is a volunteer group of Scouters which operates under the direction of the LAAC-Camping Department. Its mission is to develop and promote outdoor activities within the Council and by its many Units. It conducts training programs, sponsors High Adventure awards, publishes specialized literature, such as Hike Aids and The Trail Head, and promotes participation in summer camp, in High Adventure activities such as backpacking, peak climbing and conservation, and in other Council programs.

Anyone who is interested in the HAT and its many activities is encouraged to direct any enquiry to the LAAC-Camping Department. The HAT meets on the evening of the first Tuesday of each month at the LAAC Service Center. These meetings are open to all Scouters.



This Hike Aid revises and replaces the edition dated January 2000.

Religious Emblem Program



(A sample of the almost 50 religious medals offered)

"Because the Boy Scouts of America is nonsectarian, it has no religious medals. Requirements and emblems of recognition are developed by each religious body for its own constituents ... (The Scout) may enroll in the emblem program of his own faith and is instructed by his own priest, pastor, minister, rabbi, imam, or other religious counselor. Scout leader should not serve as emblems counselors unless certified by the proper religious denomination leader ... (The BSA) permits the Scout to wear the religious emblem on his uniform centered above the left pocket flap for ceremonial occasions."

Scouting, September, 1989.

Format For The Scout's Own

Set The Stage

- ◆ Conducted by: _____
- ◆ Theme: _____

Discussion/Talk

- ◆ Conducted by: _____
- ◆ Theme: _____

Reading

- ◆ Conducted by: _____
- ◆ Selection: _____

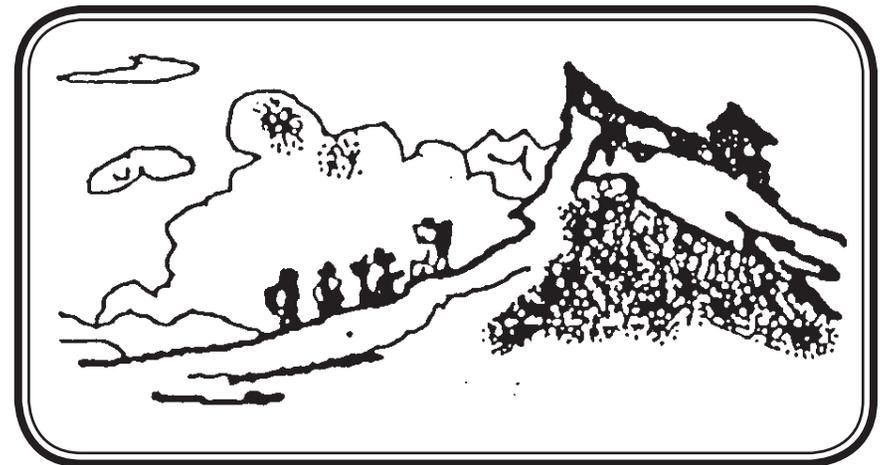
Song

- ◆ Conducted by: _____
- ◆ Selection _____

Closing Benediction/Silent Meditation

- ◆ Conducted by: _____
- ◆ Theme: _____

*Scout's Own
Worship In
The Wilderness*



Assembled and published by the
HIGH ADVENTURE TEAM
of the
Los Angeles Area Council
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April 2007
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Other Materials

Ferris, Helen, Selected Poems Old And New, Doubleday & Co. Inc., Garden City, NY, 1957.

Boy Scout Songbook, Boy Scouts of America, Irving, TX, Stock No. 33224.

Benedictions

*May the Great Master of all Scouts,
be with us until we meet again.*

Scout Benediction

*May the trail rise up to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
May the rain's fall soft upon your fields.
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Irish Blessing

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

Protestant Grace

*May brooks and trees and singing hills
Join in the chorus too,
And every gentle wind that blows
Send happiness to you.*

Irish Blessing

*God grant me
Serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can, and
Wisdom to know the difference.*

The Serenity Prayer

2. Taps

*Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills,
From the sky;
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.*

*Fading light, dims the sight,
And a star gems the sky
Gleaming bright;
From afar, drawing nigh
Falls the night.*

*Thanks and praise, for our days
Neath the sun, neath the stars,
Neath the sky. As we go,
This we know, God is nigh.*

3. Scout Vesper

*Softly falls the light of day
while our campfire fades away.
Silently each Scout should ask,
Have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my honor bright?
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared,
everything to Be Prepared?*

Introduction

The majesty of the mountains, the stark quietness of the desert, the brilliance of a cascading stream and waterfall, these are conditions certain to inspire a sense of awe and a feeling of reverence. The Scout's Own should be a natural and meaningful part of a High Adventure outing. A few words of inspiration or of a religious nature in the majesty of nature can be very meaningful. To be most effective, it should be brief, relevant, and conducted by the boys. These comments by Lord Baden-Powell were printed in the November, 1928, issue of The Scouter :

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

A spot on a panoramic bluff or amid towering trees and away from the campsite and other people, a few well-chosen words, and a song add a special significance to the outing and cause a person's spirit to soar. A non-sectarian observance may be held at any time and on any day, as best suits the particular activity.

Content and Usage

This Hike Aid contains several types of materials for a Scout's Own. The Quotations are a few words by learned men and women on the relationship of Man, Nature, and/or God. Use them as a theme to develop the reverence or beauty of the location or the significance of something experienced or accomplished on the outing.

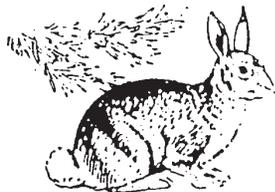
The Readings are generally a little longer. They may be used alone or embellished with a few remarks, as with a Quotation. There are also several songs of an appropriate nature.

As the Unit Leadership does the planning for an outing, include provision for a Scout's Own. In this way, materials from other sources, as well as from this Hike Aid, may be taken and used. The nature and purpose of the Scout's Own is now an integral part of the outing. The Unit Leadership will have decided what to include and who will conduct each portion. These few minutes during the outing will demonstrate a Duty to God that is essential to Scouting.

At the back of this Hike Aid is a format for the Scout's Own. Make copies and use, or modify, it as best suits the Unit.

Non-sectarian Observances

The Boy Scouts of America is justifiably proud of the non-sectarian nature of religion in its program. For those Units that have members from more than a single denomination, the conduct of the Scout's Own must be on a strictly non-sectarian basis. The use of a sectarian prayer or hymn is inappropriate in this circumstance. It is, likewise, not acceptable to exclude from the Scout's Own those members of the Unit who are of different religious beliefs, so that it may be conducted on a sectarian basis. As stated in the Scout Law, "... (A Scout) respects the beliefs of others." The Scout's Own must set a good example of this commitment to religious tolerance and respect for the beliefs of others.



Songs

1. America

*My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the Pilgrims' pride,
From ev'ry mountain side
Let freedom ring.*

*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!*

Reverend Samuel F. Smith, 1833

17. Building the Bridge for Him

*An old man, traveling a lone highway,
Came at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm deep and wide.*

*The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
For the sullen stream had no fears for him.
But he turned when he reached the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.*

*“Old man,” cried a fellow pilgrim near,
“You are wasting your strength with building here.
Your journey will end with the ending day,
And you never again will pass this way.”*

*“You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,
Why build a bridge at eventide?”
And the builder raised his old gray head;
“Good friend, on this path I have come,” he said,
“There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet will pass this way.”*

*“This stream, which has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired boy may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim - -
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him.”*

W.A. Dromgoole

Quotations

1. *"Far away there in the sunshine are my aspirations.
I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their
beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they
lead."*
Louisa May Alcott
2. *"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for
good men to do nothing."*
Edmund Burke
3. *"An insincere and evil friend is more to be feared than
a wild beast; a wild beast may wound your body, but an
evil friend will wound your mind."*
Gautama Buddha
4. *"There is pleasure in the pathless woods, there is a
rapture on the lonely shore. There is society where
none intrudes. I love not man less, but nature more."*
Lord Byron
5. *"All nature is a vast symbolism, every material fact has
sheathed within it a spiritual truth..."*
Edwin Hubbell Chapin
6. *"The superior man is modest in his speech but excels
in his actions." "If you enjoy what you do, you'll never
work another day in your life."*
Confucius
7. *"I was going around the world with the clouds and the
air, when God spoke to my thought and told me to
come here and be at peace with all. God said the
world was for us all."*
Cochise, Chief of the Apaches
8. *"Action may not always bring happiness, but there is*

no happiness without action."

Benjamin Disraeli

9. *"Stream, little known, whose waters run over a rugged, hidden bed. Yes ... like you, I shun the crowd; like you, I love the Wilderness."*

Jean Francis Ducis

10. *"The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion that stands at the cradle of true art and true science. Whoever does not know it and can no longer wonder, no longer marvel, is as good as dead, and his eyes are dimmed."*

Albert Einstein

11. *"A weed is a plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

12. *"How great the advantage of solitude; how sublime is the silence of nature's ever active energies! There is something in the very name, Wilderness, which charms the ear, and soothes the spirit of man. There is religion in it!"*

Eastwick Evans

13. *"Nature is the living, visible garment of God."*

Johann Wolfgang Goethe

14. *"The greatest thing in the world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are going."*

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

15. *"It does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods or no god. It neither picks my pocket no breaks my leg."*

Thomas Jefferson

16. *"If you tell me, I will listen. If you show me, I will see. But if you let me experience, I will learn."*

Lao-Tze

15. Leisure

*What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?
No time to stand beneath the boughs
and stare as long as sheep and cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
and watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.*

William Henry Davies

16. Give Me The Splendid Silent Sun

*Give me the splendid silent sun with all its
beams full dazzling.
Give me a juicy autumnal fruit ripe and red
from orchard.
Give me a field where the unmowed grass grows,
Give me an arbor, give me the trellised grape,
Give me fresh corn and wheat, give me serene-
moving animals teaching content.
Give me nights perfectly quiet as on high
plateaus west of the Mississippi, and I am
looking up at the stars,
Give me odorous at sunrise a garden of
beautiful flowers where I can walk
undisturbed.*

Walt Whitman

14. Commitment

Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness.

Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans:

That the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too.

All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no one could have dreamed would have come their way.

Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it.

Boldness has genius, magic and power in it. Begin it now.

Johann Wolfgang Goethe, 1800's

17. *"The last word in ignorance is the man who says of a plant or animal, 'What good is it?'. If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part of it is good, whether we understand it or not."*

Aldo Leopold

18. *"In God's wilderness lies the hope of the world - the great fresh, unblighted, unredeemed wilderness. The galling harness of civilization drops off, and the wounds heal ere we are aware."*

John Muir

19. *My country is the world and my religion is to do good."*

Thomas Paine

20. *"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered with failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat."*

Theodore Roosevelt

21. *"The mountains enter into our lives as we enter into theirs. We are lifted up in the high places, not beyond ourselves, but to our better selves."*

Chester Rowell

22. *"Until we extend the circle of our compassion to all living things, we will not ourselves find peace."*

Albert Schweitzer

23. *"One man that has a mind and knows it can always beat ten men who haven't and don't."*

George Bernard Shaw

24. *"Some people see things as they are and say 'Why?'. I dream things that never were, and say, 'Why not?'"*

George Bernard Shaw

25. *"To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end in life."*

Robert Louis Stevenson

26. *"Nature is man's teacher. She unfolds her treasures to his search, unseals his eye, illumines his mind, and purifies his heart; an influence breathes from all the sights and sounds of her existence."*

Alfred Billings Street

27. *"One who destroys a single life; it is as though he has destroyed the world; and one who saves a single life; it is as though he has saved the world."*

The Talmud

28. *"In Wilderness is the preservation of the world."*

Henry David Thoreau

29. *"There are two ways to spread light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."*

Edith Wharton

30. *"The earth does not argue, is not pathetic, has no arguments, does not scream, haste, persuade, threaten, promise, makes no discriminations, has no conceivable failures."*

Walt Whitman

31. *"Come forth into the light of things; let Nature be your teacher."*

William Wordsworth



13. O Great Spirit

*O Great Spirit,
whose voice I hear in the winds
and whose breath gives life to all the world,
Hear me! I am small and weak.
I need your strength and wisdom.*

*Let me walk in beauty,
and make my eyes ever
behold the red and purple sunset.*

*Make my hands
respect the things you have made
and my ears sharp to hear your voice.*

*Make me wise
so that I may understand the
things you have taught my people.
Let me learn the lessons you have hidden
in every leaf and rock.*

*I seek strength,
not to be greater than others,
but to fight my greatest enemy - myself
Make me always ready to come to you with
clean hands and straight eyes.*

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

Oglala Sioux

12. Listen to the exhortation of the dawn

Look to this day!

For it is life, the very life of life.

*In its brief course lie all the
realities and truths of your existence:*

The bliss of growth,

The glory of action,

The splendor of beauty.

For yesterday is but a dream,

And tomorrow is only a vision.

But today, well lived, makes

Every yesterday a dream of happiness and

Every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well, therefore, to this day!

Such is the salutation of the dawn.

Kalidasa,
Sanskrit poet

Readings

1. Climb the Mountains

*Climb the mountains and
get their good tidings.*

*Nature's peace will flow into you
as sunshine flows into the trees.*

*The winds will blow
their own freshness into you,
and the storms their energy,
while your cares will drop off
like autumn leaves.*

John Muir, 1880's

2. Trees

*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.*

*A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
against the earth's sweet flowing breast;*

*A tree that looks at God all day
and lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
a nest of robins in her hair;*

*Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.*

Joyce Kilmer, 1913

3. Mountains

Some hear of mountains and couldn't care less,

Some see the mountain and turn away in fear.

Some sense the power of mountains and begin to climb.

And then there are those who, having climbed the mountains, invite and inspire others to do the same.

Father Ron Meyer, OMI
Philmont Training Center

4. Do Good

*Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can.*

John Wesley, 1780's

11. The Second Commandment

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

The Bible, Mark 12 v. 31

The Scout Motto is, "Be Prepared". It teaches us how to approach life; both the good things and the bad things which happen to us. In terms of the bad things, the motto serves as a warning to think ahead. If there is an accident, we need to know some first aid skills. But the motto also promises us good things in life if we will follow it. For example, it promises us friendships if we will prepare ourselves to make them, by being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, etc.

The "Golden Rule," to love your neighbor as yourself, works the same way. It is a warning against bitterness and hate. It reminds us that friends are going to disappoint us and people are going to wrong us. How are we to handle these things? The best way is to love and forgive. The promise is that if we love, others will love us.

But what does it mean to love others as we love ourselves? Think of it like this: remember when you did something wrong and were truly sorry? For a while you might have moped around, but before long you forgave yourself and began thinking good thoughts about yourself. Loving others is the same way. It is forgiving, not holding any grudges, and thinking good thoughts about others. Go and love those around you.

10. Take Time To See

*It seems so hard to understand
As I look out across the land
That all I view belongs to me.
I ought to take more time to see!*

*The distant hills and mountains high,
The rolling clouds and bright blue sky.
No one can take these views from me.
As long as I have eyes to see.*

*A timid deer with haunting look
Who stands refreshed by yonder brook
Knows not that he belongs to me.
Oh, what a thrilling sight to see!*

*The song of birds so gay and clear
That fill the morning air with cheer,
And fragrant flowers of every hue,
That stand erect bedecked with dew.
All these and more belong to me,
If I but use my eyes to see.*

*When evening shadows gather nigh
And twinkling stars light up the sky
I hear My Master say to me,
"I made it all for you to see."
My heart grows warm with faith and pride
To know that He is by my side.*

Ray F. Zaner

5. Duty To God

As a Scout, living in close contact with nature, you learn to know God's handiwork more deeply. As you see the wonders around you, your reverence toward God is strengthened. Sometimes when you look up into the starlit sky on a quiet night, thank Him as the Creator of all things.

Show your gratefulness to Him by your deeds as well.

God has given you a wonderful body and a thinking brain. He has given artists the gift of painting so that they can inspire their fellowman. He has given writers the power of words so that they can form word pictures of beauty and can lead others to beauty. Composers can stir other people with their music; statesmen can work for their country.

The way to thank God for the abilities He has given you is to develop these abilities to the fullest and make the best possible use of them.

The Official Boy Scout Handbook, 1979.

6. A Scout Is Reverent

Take a penny out of your pocket and look at it. What do you see on it? Just above Lincoln's head are 12 little letters: "In God we trust." They remind us of our faith. As a nation we trust in God. We try to live and work within His plan.

You show that you are reverent to God by serving Him in what you do, and by worshiping Him in the way your parent and spiritual leaders taught you.

All your life you will be with people of different faiths and customs. The men who founded the United States of America gave us a heritage of religious freedom. It is our duty to respect others whose religion may differ from ours, even though we do not agree with them.

The Official Boy Scout Handbook, 1979.

7. A Scout Is Reverent

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

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

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

The Boy Scout Handbook, 1990.

8. Meditation XVII

*No man is an island, entire of itself,
Every man is a piece of the continent,
a part of the main.*

*If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is less, as well as if a promontory were,
As well as if a manor of thy friends or of thy
own were.*

*Any man's death diminishes me,
because I am involved in mankind.
And therefore, never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.*

John Donne

9. Good Morning, God

*You are ushering in another day untouched and
freshly new.
So here I come to ask You, God, if you'll
renew me too?*

*Forgive the many errors that I made yesterday.
And let me try again, dear God, to walk closer
in Thy way.*

*But, Father, I am well aware I can't make it
on my own.
So take my hand and hold it tight for I can't
walk alone.*

Traditional Prayer