

# Suggestions for Religious Observance

It is vital that the faculty of each Boy Scout leader training course gives careful consideration to the religious obligations of the course participants. This is particularly true for weekend courses. As a rule, provision is made for four major faiths—Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Mormon.

Some faiths have firm requirements regarding the observation of the Sabbath. Consulting with the council's religious advisory committees on Scouting will be helpful in assuring that provision is made for these requirements. If the religious requirements of an individual cannot be met, discuss this with the Scouter *in advance* of the course so that a decision regarding attendance can be made.

Throughout the entire training course there should be strong emphasis on the spiritual ideals of Scouting. Although the Boy Scouts of America is non-sectarian, it is not nonreligious. Leaders should have an experience in training that will emphasize the fact that they can be positive in their religious influence on boys without being sectarian. By their spirit, their example, and the way they present the program to the boy, unit leaders can do much to develop spiritual values.

"The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no boy can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing his obligation to God . . ." (article IX, section 1, *Charter and Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America*).

The BSA expects a member to accept the religious principles stated in the Bylaws, the Cub Scout Promise, the Scout Oath and Law, the Varsity Scout Pledge, the Explorer Code, and the application for membership.

The commitments involved are belief in God, reverence toward God, fulfillment of religious duties, and respect for the beliefs of others.

Religious instruction is the responsibility of the parents or religious institution to which the member belongs.

Here are specific suggestions for the Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Mormon observances:

## Protestant Religious Observances

Location of the camp and availability of ministerial services will determine the form of observance that fits a particular situation.

1. Secure the services of a Protestant minister from a neighboring community. This can be done through a local ministerial association or Protestant committee on Scouting; otherwise an invitation can be extended by the course director to an individual minister.
2. If the location of the course is not convenient for securing the services of a minister, Protestant laypersons in the group can conduct a Protestant worship service. At the opening of the course, a committee should be named to arrange the services. A suggested order of service appears on page A-00. It should be reproduced and distributed to the attending Scouters.
3. *Pathways to Worship*, No. 33584, is available from the Supply Division. It contains several devotional services and campfire vespers.

## Catholic Religious Observances

The following alternatives are fundamentals that can serve as a guide to those making arrangements.

1. Invite an ordained priest to say Mass at the encampment. If this is not practical, consult diocese or council chaplain.
2. Provide time and transportation for Scouters of Catholic faith to attend Mass at a nearby Catholic church.
3. If neither of these can be assured, the fact must be made known to any Scouter of Catholic faith who is contemplating taking the course. The choice is then a matter of conscience for the individual.

Regardless of which of these arrangements is made, no Scouter of Catholic faith should be obligated to attend any religious activity as part of the course, nor should the Scouter's absence from such an activity be a source of embarrassment to that individual. Interfaith services are certainly occasions in which Catholics may and will participate, but they do not substitute for the responsibility to worship with the Catholic community at Mass on Sunday.

## Jewish Service

Jewish religious services are held Friday evenings and/or Saturday mornings. If possible, invite a local rabbi to camp to conduct services. Traditional Jews will not travel by automobile on the Sabbath, sun-down Friday to nightfall Saturday.

A booklet, *Jewish Religious Service for Scouts and Explorers*, is available from Jewish Relationships, BSA.

## Mormon Service

Mormons will provide for their services. They ordinarily do not participate in Protestant services. A member of the Melchizedek Priesthood is usually approved to organize and conduct a sacrament service.

## Offerings at Religious Services—World Brotherhood Offering

It is customary to receive an offering for the World Friendship Fund, which is used to provide training and training supplies for Scouters to countries less fortunate than our own. This offering is sent to the International Division, using the form found in this section. Scouters attending other services should be given the opportunity to participate.

# Grace at Meals for Scout Camps

It is essential that grace at meals be conducted in a manner conducive to reverence.

## Catholic

### *Blessing Before Meals*

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts that we are about to receive from your goodness, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### *Grace After Meals*

Almighty God, who livest and reignest forever, we give thee thanks for all thy benefits. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## Jewish

### *Hebrew Blessing Over Bread*

*Baruch Ata Adonoi, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, hamotzi lechem min ha-aretz.*

*English translation of above:* Blessed is the Eternal our God, Ruler of the universe, who causes bread to come forth from the earth.

## Protestant

### *Morning Grace*

Gracious giver of all good, thee we thank for rest and food. Grant that all we do or say, in thy service be, this day.

### *Noon Grace*

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

### *Evening Grace*

Tireless guardian on our way,  
Thou hast kept us well this day.  
While we thank thee, we request  
Care continued, pardon, rest.

# WORLD FRIENDSHIP FUND



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

TO: International Division  
Boy Scouts of America  
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079

The participants in Scoutmastership Fundamentals (The Outdoor Program) have made a contribution to extend world friendship in a personal way.

A check to World Friendship Fund in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.\*

Council name \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Council address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Course director \_\_\_\_\_  
signature

\*Request separate check from that for fees and supplies.  
Send direct to International Division.

# Suggested Interfaith Worship Service

(For worship in the out-of-doors.)

## CALL TO

WORSHIP: The Lord is in his holy temple;  
Let all the earth keep silence before Him.

## OPENING HYMN: GOD BLESS AMERICA

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

## INVOCATION: (To be read.)

### 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 and 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 and strife.  
 God of the glad, 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 wouldst 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:

THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears,  
 All nature sings, and round me rings,  
 The music of the spheres.

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

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.

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 8

*In Unison:*

O Lord, our Lord,  
 How excellent is thy name in all the earth,  
 Who has set thy glory upon the heavens!

*Leader:*

Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast  
 thou established strength,  
 Because of thine adversaries,  
 That thou mightest still the enemy and the  
 avenger.

*Response:*

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy  
 fingers,

The moon and the stars, which thou hast  
 ordained;

What is man, that thou are mindful of him?

And the son of man, that thou visitest him?

*Leader:*

For thou has made him a little lower than the  
 angels,

And crownest him with glory and honor.

Thou madest him to have dominion over the  
 works of thy hands;

Thou hast put all things under his feet,

*Response:*

All sheep and oxen,

Yea, and the beasts of the field,

The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea,

Whatsoever passeth through the paths of the  
 seas.

O Lord, our Lord,

How excellent is thy name in all the earth!

MORNING PRAYER (Followed by the Lord's Prayer  
 for Christians; or use silent prayer, each in their own  
 fashion, if non-Christians are attending)

MEDITATION FOR THE DAY:

God be praised, now and forever,  
for giving us minds to understand Your teachings.

God be praised, now and forever,  
for hands that lift up those who fall.

God be praised, now and forever,  
for ears that hear the cry of those who need help.

God be praised, now and forever,  
for hearts that care about the needs of others.

God be praised, now and forever,  
for eyes that see the beauty of earth and sky.

God be praised, now and forever,  
for the new day and this new journey.

We praise God for all that is good, true,  
and beautiful in our lives.

HYMN:

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

Faith of our fathers, living still  
In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword!  
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
When e'er we hear that glorious word!  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
We will be true to thee till death!

Faith of our fathers, we will love  
Both friend and foe in all our strife;  
And preach thee, too, as love knows how,  
By kindly words and virtuous life;  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
We will be true to thee till death!

BENEDICTION:

Dear God, thank you for the wonderful opportunity  
to be here. Give us the strength to endure, the  
wisdom to enjoy each moment, and the courage to  
push ourselves further than we ever have before.  
Bless our troop and its leaders as we begin our jour-  
ney through Boy Scouting. Amen.

HYMN:

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

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

For the joy of human love; brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends of earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

WORSHIP MESSAGE:

OFFERING: For World Brotherhood of Scouting