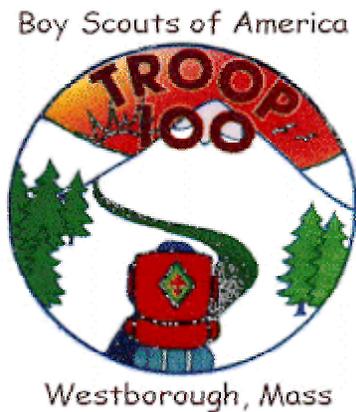


# Troop 100

## “A Scout is Reverent”

# Scouts Own Service Guide



**A Guide to the  
Preparations of a Scouts Own Service and  
to Support Spiritual Growth within the Troop**

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# The Motivation Behind this Guide

A Scout is Reverent. It may be the last word in the Scout Law but many see it as the most important. Why, well this is just one man's opinion but if you follow the teachings and beliefs of whatever faith you practice, all of the other ideals of the Scout Law just fall in place. After all, what faith does not promote the ideals of being Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, and Clean?

However, practicing your faith, particularly within a diverse group like Troop 100, where we welcome and are strengthened as a Troop by our diversity in faith, can be awkward for many.



A Scout is Courteous; so how do I practice my faith without unintentionally offending another member of the troop? This guide, in conjunction with the **Troop 100, "A Scout is Reverent" Resource Book** were developed to remove any anxiety a scout may have practicing their faith as part of a Troop 100 public activity or simply as a personal moment of devotion. Additionally, these materials were developed to assist the Troop 100 Chaplain Aide or candidate considering the position of Chaplain Aide may have in preparing a Scouts Own Service. The 'Resource Book' contains an enormous wealth of spiritual material a scout can utilize to prepare a "Scouts Own Service" and know that by utilizing this material, they can be confident that no member of the troop will have objection to any content of the service.

The "Resource Book" provides a tremendous amount of spiritual material from which literally thousands of Scouts Own Services can be developed. This guide is intended to assist a Chaplain Aide, or any member of our troop wishing to prepare a service, in developing a "Scouts Own Service" for any event from a brief spiritual moment before a hike, to a post camping trip service, to a complete "Scouts Own Service" that could be held at a Camporee.

The remainder of this guide consists of a discussion of the components of a "Scouts Own Service" and then provides examples of complete services, developed as part of this guide creation, strictly from materials in the "Resource Guide". The last section includes services that have been included, with the permission of the authors, from services that have been conducted at a variety of scouting events.

The complete services can be thought of as 'Cook Book' services used exactly 'as is' or the Chaplain Aide should feel free to introduce material not contained in the "Reference Book" that is appropriate for the service being held. This guide and the "Reference Book" are to be considered assisting tools but never "handcuffs" restricting the individuality, creativity, and spirituality of the Chaplain Aide. In fact the Chaplain Aide, is encouraged to bring in appropriate material from outside sources. If the Chaplain Aide chooses to do so, it would be appropriate to have the material approved as being nondenominational by the Chaplain, a Scoutmaster, or time permitting Troop Committee.

Lastly, we would like to think of the "Reference Book" and this "Scouts Own Service Guide" as being living documents that are continuously extended and enhanced for the benefit of all members, current and future, of Troop 100.

# Planning a Scouts Own Service

First, the authors want to make this point very clear. *There is no single correct way to develop a “Scouts Own Service”!!* This is not our viewpoint, this was Sr. Baden-Powell’s! Want to read more? Read the **Introduction to the Scouts Own** section in the **Troop 100 “A Scout is Reverent” Resource Book**.

What we are providing in this Guide are examples and guidelines to assist the creation of a service. Freedom is encouraged given the oversight of an adult leader.

## Understand the Opportunity

When is it appropriate for a Scout to be spiritual? Perhaps the question should be “When is it NOT appropriate for a Scout to be spiritual?” Spirituality and how you practice it is a personal matter. Scouts should be encouraged to attend a “Scouts Own Service” but never required within Troop 100 activities. At times, particularly Council and National events, service attendance is a requirement to participate. However, within Troop 100 activities, it is always voluntary!

There are many opportunities for a Chaplain Aide to conduct a spiritual service. A few examples would include:

- A pre-hike (or other adventurous activity) prayer for a safe trip.
- A post-hike (or other adventurous activity) prayer of thanks for a safe trip and the beauty of the land we walk upon.
- A short benediction to a troop meeting
- A short post meeting prayer
- Opening and closing ceremony’s at a Troop Court of Honor.
- Troop wide pre-meal grace.
- Patrol wide grace
- Post campfire thanks
- More formal “Scouts Own Service” for a Troop trip or Council sponsored event.

## Develop the Service

First consider the purpose of the service. Is the “Scouts Own Service” to be an event in itself as part of the trip? If so then a 15 to 30 minute service is the typical length of a service. If the service is part of a formal Troop meeting, Court of Honor, or other Troop activity, find out how much time you have allotted for the service portion. A pre-meeting benediction is usually only a couple minutes in length. A post meeting or Court of Honor closing prayer is about the same.

An example format of a more formal Scouts Own Service will follow later. Using this as an outline a Chaplain Aide can include all or selectively remove components of the service depending on the amount of time the service is allotted in the overall meeting plan.

Request the active participation of other Scouts in the service. *The Chaplain Aide is not required to deliver the entire service.* In fact the Chaplain Aide should solicit the help of others. Having multiple copies of the service, at a minimum one for each active participant, greatly helps solicit the help of others. If a scout can read they can help deliver the service. On the subject of having a written copy of the service, it is also very helpful for there to be sufficient copies of the service for all scouts and friends attending the service. Having a copy of the service is particularly important if components of the service require responsive readings from the entire group attending the service.

Note: If you would like the copies back for re-use at a later opportunity to deliver the same service it is helpful to explain this at the beginning of the service.

## **Advertise the Service**

When a “Scouts Own Service” is to be held during a troop activity such as a camping trip, be sure to advertise the service at troop meetings prior to the trip. When we have troop “fall in” gatherings, remind the troop of the time and place of the service.

While on the subject of the place of the service; if attending a camping site not previously visited, try to select a site that will enhance the service. If your site has a particularly beautiful view of a lake or mountain vista that is a safe place to conduct the service go there. A site near activity of others can be helpful in attracting others to join the service but can also provide distractions for participants of the service. It is usually best to select a sight away from traffic areas. If someone in the troop is familiar with the area or camp, ask for advice on appropriate sites for the service.

When advertising the service, the request should be delivered as a “requesting the attendance” and “encouragement of attendance” of the members of Troop 100. If some members choose not to attend their desires must be respected. No scout should feel forced to attend.

## **Enjoy the Service**

Delivery of the service should not be a time of anxiety for the Chaplin Aid or any of the active participants. You will be in a community of like thinking scouts who are all participating and sharing in the spiritual experience. The service is not a time of judgment or evaluation of the participants. You are among friends.

# Developing a Scouts Own Service

Developing your own Scouts Own Service is not a daunting task. Especially if you look at it in its parts and then build it up from there. A typical Scouts Own Service will have the following components:

- Call to Worship
- Opening Hymn/Song
- Invocation
- Responsive Reading
- Hymn/Scout Song
- Reading
- Silent meditation period
- Message
- Benediction

## Call to Worship

The “Call to Worship” is often the opening of the service. It usually takes the form of a short prayer, or a short inspirational quote from a spiritual leader. If the worshipping community is Judeo-Christian, a short passage from the Psalms is often used.

The “Call to Worship” signals the worshipping community that the service is beginning.

There are several examples in section: ***Calls to Worship and Invocations*** section of the *Troop 100 Resource Book*.

## Opening Hymn/Song

Singing is a common way of praising God in virtually every religion known to mankind. Songs selected can be from traditional religious Hymn books, traditional songs that praise God and country, and even popular songs can be appropriate. Hymns and songs are important in that they bring all participants, not just the leaders of the service, into active engagement and participation in the service.

Care should be taken when selecting songs that the basic melody of the song be well known. If the words to the song selected are not common but the underlying melody is then the selection of the song this is fine. (In this case it is helpful to note in the “Scouts Own Service” program the name of the song the melody is based from.) Selection of a song that does not have a common melody may leave the leader of the song singing a-capela until the melody is learned by the participants.

There are several examples in section: ***Songs*** of the *Troop 100 Resource Book*.

## Invocation

The Invocation is generally a short prayer, or a short inspirational quote from a spiritual leader. It is very similar to the “Call to Worship” in that regard. Often the invocation is a prayer which is an invitation to God to be present at the service.

There are several examples in section: ***Calls to Worship and Invocations*** section of the *Troop 100 Resource Book*.

## Responsive Reading

Responsive readings take several forms. Psalms are commonly used in Judeo-Christian services. Responsive Readings that are based on the Scout Pledge and Law provide excellent examples of how the ideals of Scouting and religion are so complementary.

“Responsive Readings” are similar to Hymns and Songs in that they actively engage all participants. Especially with younger scouts, a service that consists of readings and prayers will often in some participants becoming disengaged with the service. Songs and responsive readings help draw them back in.

Please see the ***Responsive Reading*** section of the *Troop 100 Resource Book*.

## Hymn/Scout Song

Again, the second hymn or song is to continue the full participation of all participants in the service. If the service is time constrained then it is better to eliminate the 1<sup>st</sup> or second song than to eliminate the Response reading or other section.

## Reading

The reading can come from many sources. Passages from spiritual books, poems or quotations are just a few examples of the forms that the reading can take. The selection of the reading can be a powerful way to tie together the Scouts Own Service to the immediate surroundings or purpose of the troop event. If the troop is visiting a historic site there may be writings about the site, event, or people involved that hold a particularly important message to the activities of the day. Is the day of the service a special holiday? If so try to select a passage appropriate for the day.

The ***Inspriational Thoughts and Messages*** section of the *Troop 100 Resource Book* provides many short readings to choose from.

## Silent Meditation Period

The Silent Meditation Period is an opportunity for each participant to individualize the service to their own beliefs or spiritual needs. Each individual can pray silently anything with no concern of infringing on others beliefs. Do not rush through the silent meditation period. Leave ample time for individuals to complete their prayer.

For some people, the silent period is a short period to completely come in tune with all living and natural things about them; the breeze in the trees, a brook nearby, the chirping of birds. Relishing these things provided to us by God is a form of a prayer of thanks.

## Message

The message is generally a reading that discusses of a single moral or spiritual idea. Often the message idea is more focused on an individual concept or inspirational story.

The ***Short Subject*** section of the *Troop 100 Resource Book* provides many readings to choose from.

## **Benediction**

The benediction is the closing prayer to the “Scouts Own Service”. They are generally very short, often no more than 2-3 sentences although not restricted to this length.

Sometimes the benediction may be a short poem

You can find several examples of benedictions in the **Benedictions** section of the *Troop 100 Resource Book*.

# Developing a Scouts Own Service: Two Examples

In this section we develop two example Scouts Own Service using the format in the prior section and all of the services constituents are from the examples in the *Troop 100 Resource Book*.

In order to illustrate the development of the two services, we will provide two hypothetical but very realistic scenarios for a Scouts Own Service.

## Scenario 1:

In the planning stage of a high adventure outing, the Troop 100 TLC decides that holding a Scouts Own Service would be an excellent way to fulfill a successful trip.

## Scenario 2:

Troop 100 is planning on attending a Council wide Camporee and the Council asks Troop 100 to prepare a Scouts Own Service to be held before the closing campfire. Let's also assume that the Camporee is near an upcoming national holiday such as Memorial Day or Independence Day.

## Scouts Own Service 1:

The advantage of this scenario is that the scouts (or scouts) asked to develop the service have a very clear understanding of the Judeo-Christian makeup of the troop. The writers of the service can choose freely from many of the Judeo-Christian prayers and Psalms found in the *Troop 100 Resource Book*.

### 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.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,  
And His courts with praise!  
Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

For the Lord is good;  
His steadfast love endures for ever,  
And His faithfulness to all generations.

### Opening Hymn/Song:

#### ***Morning Has Broken***

Morning has broken, Like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken, Like the first bird,  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them springing fresh from the word.

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,

Like the first dew fall on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness Where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

#### Invocation:

When facing deceit and dishonest, let us be trustworthy.  
If we see hypocrisy and faithlessness, let us be Loyal.

Where disregard of others and mere materialism prevail, let us be Helpful.  
In an atmosphere of ill manner, let us be courteous.

Where some measure manliness in brutality and crudeness, let us be Kind.  
Though lawbreaking and rule-scoffing are common, let us be Obedient.

While others grumble and grouch, let us be Cheerful.  
In an environment blighted by waste and extravagance, let us be Thrifty.

When confronted with danger and temptation, let us be Brave.  
As we see filth and pollution everywhere, let us be Clean.

While witnessing impiety and irreligion, let us remember to be Reverent.

#### Responsive Reading:

Leader: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart. (Deuteronomy 6:5)

**Scouts: I promise to do my best to do my duty to God.**

Leader: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. (Psalms 33:12)

**Scouts: I promise to do my best to do my duty to my country.**

Leader: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (Romans 13:9)

**Scouts: I promise to do my best to help other people.**

Leader: My son, forget not My law; but let thine heart keep My commandments. (Proverbs 3:1)

**Scouts: I promise to do my best to obey the Scout Law.**

Leader: Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people; and walk in all the ways that I command you. (Jeremiah 7:23)

**Scouts: I promise to do my best to keep myself physically strong.**

Leader: A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength. (Proverbs 24:5)

**Scouts: I promise to do my best to keep myself mentally awake.**

Leader: Thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord. (Deuteronomy 6:18)

**Scouts: I promise to do my best to keep myself morally straight.**

Leader: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your path. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

#### Hymn/Scout Song:

### ***Kum Ba Ya -- The Scout Law Version***

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

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

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

(continued ...)

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

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

Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah  
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah  
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah

#### Reading:

##### ***Be At Peace***

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.  
And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.  
Therefore, be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be and, whatever your labors  
and aspirations in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your soul.  
With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world...

#### Silent Meditation Period:

#### Message:

##### ***Isn't It Funny***

When the other fellow takes a long time to do something, he's slow.  
But when I take a long time to do something, I'm thorough.  
When the other fellow doesn't do it, he's too lazy.  
But when I don't do it, I'm too busy.  
When the other fellow goes ahead and does something without being told, he's overstepping his bounds.  
But when I do something without being told, that's initiative!  
When the other fellow states his side of a question strongly, he's bull-headed.  
But when I state my side of a question strongly, I'm being firm.

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.

## Scouts Own Service 2:

When planning a Scout own Service for what will undoubtedly be a more diverse audience than our own troop you can still safely refer to the writings contained in the *Troop 100 Resource Book*. When planning this service we might want to look for prayers, songs, and readings that will honor our fallen heroes who died for us and our country so that we can enjoy the freedoms that we so frequently take for granted.

### Call to Worship:

O Great Spirit! Watch over us as we begin this day.  
Protect us as we live in your care.  
Give us bounty and hold us from harm.  
We are your children and wish only to please you.  
We hold our Mother Earth close to our hearts and wish her goodness.  
We thank you for your love.

### Opening Hymn/Song:

#### ***God Bless America***

God Bless America, land that I love  
Stand beside her, and guide her,  
Through the night with the light from above,  
From the mountains, to the prairies,  
To the ocean, white with foam,  
God bless America, my home sweet home.  
God bless America, my home sweet home.

[If time permits you may wish to add additional verses.]

### Invocation:

#### ***A Prayer for Peace***

God, make me an instrument of Your Peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy;  
That I may seek to console, rather than to be consoled,  
To understand rather than to be understood,  
To love rather than to be loved:  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
In self-forgetfulness that we find our true selves,  
In forgiving that we are forgiven:  
God, make me an instrument of Your Peace.

Responsive Reading:

Leader: The Scout Law is a guiding light to millions of boys and men throughout the world today, but the principles of the law have been brought to us from ancient days. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbors. (Exodus 20:13)

**Scouts: A Scout is Trustworthy.**

Leader: He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least, is also unjust in much. (Luke 16:10)

**Scouts: A Scout is Loyal.**

Leader: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (Leviticus 19:18) Thou shalt surely open thy hand unto thy poor and needy brother in thy land. (Deuteronomy 15:11)

**Scouts: A Scout is Helpful.**

Leader: Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another. (Romans 12:10) Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity. (Psalms 133:1)

**Scouts: A Scout is Friendly.**

Leader: Let no bad word pass your lips, but only such speech as is good for edification. As occasion may require, use words that are gracious and a means of grace to those that hear them. (Ephesians 4:29)

**Scouts: A Scout is Courteous.**

Leader: A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast. (Proverbs 12:10)

**Scouts: A Scout is Kind.**

Leader: Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor thy father and thy mother, which is the first commandment with promise; that is may be well with thee and thou mayest live only on the earth. (Ephesians 6:1-3)

**Scouts: A Scout is Obedient.**

Leader: A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but a sad heart breaks the spirit. For the hapless, every day is hard, but a cheerful heart is an unending feast. (Proverbs 15:13)

**Scouts: A Scout is Cheerful.**

Leader: Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise; which, having no chief, overseer or ruler, provides her bread in the summer and gathers her food in the harvest. (Proverbs 6:6)

**Scouts: A Scout is Thrifty.**

Leader: Be strong, be brave, fear not, be not terrified of them, for it is the eternal, your God, who goes with you. He will never fail nor forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

**Scouts: A Scout is Brave.**

Leader: Who shall ascend unto the mountain of the Lord, and who shall stand in His holy place? He that has clean hands and a pure heart, who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. (Psalms 24:3)

**Scouts: A Scout is Clean.**

Leader: And thou shalt love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength; this is the first commandment. (Mark 12:30)

**Scouts: A Scout is Reverent. He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others.**

Hymn/Scout Song:

***America (My Country 'Tis of Thee)***

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

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

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

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

Reading:

***Success***

Success is in the way you walk,  
The paths of life each day;  
It's in the little things you do  
And in the things you say.  
Success is not in getting rich  
Or rising high to fame;  
It's not alone in winning goals  
Which all men hope to claim.  
It's being faithful to your friends  
And to the strangers kind,  
It's in the children whom you love  
And all they learn from you;  
Success depends on character  
And everything you do.

Silent Meditation Period:

Message:

***Man's Share in Creation***

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

### Benediction:

May I grow in character and ability as I grow in size.  
May I be honest with myself and others in what I do and say.  
May I always honor my parents, my elders and my leaders.  
May I develop high moral principles and the courage to live by them.  
May I strive for health in body, mind and spirit.  
May I always respect the rights of others.  
May I set a good example so that others may enjoy and profit from my company.  
May I give honest effort to my work.  
May I learn things that will help me make life better for every living thing in God's beautiful world.

## Short Services:

There are times when the Scouts Own Service may simply be a single prayer to open or close a meeting, provide a pre-meal blessing, or to conclude a Troop Campfire.

### **Court of Honor Opening Prayer**

#### ***Prayer of Thanks Giving***

We thank you today  
For the adventure of Scouting,  
For the unselfishness of parents,  
For the patience of teachers  
And for the encouragement of friends.

Or if more time permits:

#### ***A Scouts Prayer***

We have hiked along life's pathway,  
Our packs upon our backs,  
We have pitched our tents and rested  
Here and there along the tracks.  
We have used our compass wisely  
To guide us on our way  
And hope to reach the campsite  
Of our Great Chief Scout some day.

We have tried to be trustworthy -  
Kept our honor high and clean,  
We have been as loyal as any  
To our Country and our Queen.  
We have done our best at all times -  
Kept our Promise - been prepared,  
And hope our good deeds please Him  
When at last our souls are bared.

We have lightened others' burdens,

With our smiles along the way,  
We have kept our hand in God's hand,  
Walked beside Him day by day.  
And when our span of life runs out,  
We'll make this gentle plea -  
May we sit around His Campfire  
At the Final Jamboree.

## Thanksgiving Feast Blessing

There are many many Graces written. Below are just two examples from the *Troop 100 Resource Book*.

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

Or

We thank the Lord for the food we eat,  
For camping fun and the friends we meet,  
For the rushing streams and the calm cool breeze,  
For lovely meadows and tall green trees.

## Campfire Service

Day is done (raise hands up)  
gone the sun (lower hands)  
from the lakes (arms stretch in front of you)  
from the hills (arms stretch upward and diagonal, like a hill)  
from the sky (arms reach up to sky)  
all is well (arms in front, bend at elbow toward you)  
safely rest (arms together cross in front of body--like folding your arms in front of you)  
God is nigh. (bow head on your crossed arms.)

# Example Scouts Own Services

This section contains examples of past Scouts Own Services. The authors of this guide would like to thank the writers of the following services for their permission for the inclusion of their services in this guide. We thank them for their commitment to both God and to the good of the entire Scouting community.

## Scouts Own Service Example 1:

Service Created by: Brandon Morris  
Scout Organization: Mohegan Council  
Service Prepared for: 2005 Section NE-1B Conclave

### **To Do My Duty to God**

Welcome and Introduction

Sharing of Fellowship One With Another

Call to Worship

**O dear friend  
in search of  
my Beloved,  
I wandered  
all over the earth  
in far and distant lands;  
But on meeting  
with God,  
my own courtyard  
became the universe!**  
*(Kabir, India 1398-1518)*

Opening Song: America the Beautiful

**O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!  
O beautiful for pilgrim feet  
Whose stern impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare of freedom beat  
Across the wilderness!  
America! America!  
God mend thine every flaw,**

**Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law!**

Opening Prayer: Dag Hammarskjold

**Give me a pure heart, that I may see Thee  
A humble heart, that I may hear Thee  
A heart of love, that I may serve Thee  
A heart of faith, that I may live Thee**

Reflection of Duty: Baden-Powell, Scouting for Boys

Responsive Reading: Psalms 119: 9-16

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living your word.  
**I seek you with all of my heart; do not let me stray from your voice.**  
I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.  
**Praise be to you, O Lord; teach me your decrees**  
With my lips I recount all the laws that have come from your mouth.  
**I rejoice in following your laws, as one rejoices in great riches.**  
I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.  
**I delight in your decrees, and I will not neglect your words.**

Prayer Requests / Silent Prayer and Meditation

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Reflection: The Tao Te Ching

Nature doesn't make long speeches  
A whirlwind doesn't last all morning  
A cloudburst doesn't last all day  
Who makes the wind and the rain?  
Heaven and earth do.  
If heaven and earth don't go on and on,  
Certainly people don't need to.  
Who accepts harmony, becomes harmonious.  
Who accepts loss, becomes lost.  
For who accepts harmony, the Way harmonizes with him,  
And who accepts loss, the Way cannot find.  
(*Lao-Tze, Tao Te Ching, 23*)

Message: The Lessons Camp Can Teach Us

Reflections on Service:

Ah, there is many a scholar  
who has read all the scriptures,  
but only rarely is there a man of knowledge!  
O dear friend, to be a man of knowledge  
one needs to understand only one word:  
Love!  
(*Kabir, India 1398-1518*)

And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom:  
That ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow  
beings, ye are only in the service of your God.  
(*Mosiah 2:17, The Book of Mormon*)

Closing Song: For The Beauty Of The Earth

**For the beauty of the earth  
For the beauty 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 ear and eye  
For the heart and mind's delight  
For the mystic harmony  
Linking sense to sound and sight  
Lord of all to Thee we raise,  
This our hymn of grateful praise**

Closing Meditation: Doing Our Duty

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.  
(*The Qur'an, Part 19, Chapter 25*)

Benediction:

**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 forever  
and ever." Amen.**  
(*From the Jewish Sabbath service*)

## Scouts Own Service Example 2:

Service Created by: Ed Behn and others  
Scout Organization: Former Scoutmaster Troop 100 Westborough  
Current Assistant Scoutmaster Troop 100 Westborough  
Knox Trail Council  
Service Prepared for: 2006 Introduction to Outdoor Leaderships Skills Course  
Knox Trail Council

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## A SCOUT IS REVERENT

### Service For Troop Campouts

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#### A SCOUT IS REVERENT

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

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## Calls to Worship

Come let us sing unto the Lord: Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands. Let us serve the Lord with gladness and come into his presence with singing.

--Psalm 100

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## Invocations

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

--*From the Jewish Service of the Heart*

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## Responsive Readings

### I. The Scout Oath

Reader: 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: ON MY HONOR I WILL DO MY BEST

Reader: 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 DO MY DUTY TO GOD AND MY COUNTRY AND TO OBEY THE SCOUT LAW.

Reader: 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 HELP OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES

Reader: 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.

People: TO KEEP MYSELF PHYSICALLY STRONG, MENTALLY AWAKE, AND MORALLY STRAIGHT.

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## II. The Scout Law

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

People: A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY.

Reader: We owe much to many - to home, school, community, nation, and to God.

People: A SCOUT IS LOYAL.

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

People: A SCOUT IS HELPFUL.

Reader: Courtesy is the mark of all faiths. It is shown in thoughtful acts and kindly respect for everyone.

People: A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS.

Reader: Kindliness is the way people show respect for others.

People: A SCOUT IS KIND.

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

People: A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT.

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

People: A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL.

Reader: The world offers many gifts. a wise person uses them with care.

People: A SCOUT IS THRIFTY.

Reader: To each of us comes danger, difficult tasks, and temptations. In choice of courage or cowardice, may we be brave.

People: A SCOUT IS BRAVE.

Reader: Cleanliness is next to Godliness. To have a clean body, a clean mind, and a clean record is a rewarding achievement.

People: A SCOUT IS CLEAN.

Reader: Character is determined by the things we worship. If we respect ourselves and our brothers and sisters, and see them as gifts of the goodness of God, we live on a high plain.

People: A SCOUT IS REVERENT.

All: GIVE US CLEAN HANDS, CLEAN WORDS, AND CLEAN THOUGHTS, O GOD. TEACH US TO WORK HARD AND PLAY FAIRLY. FORGIVE US WHEN WE ARE UNKIND AND HELP US TO HELP OTHERS. SEND US STRENGTH TO DO A GOOD TURN EACH DAY AND SO LIVE AFTER THY WILL.

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## Special Requests and Intentions

Reader: Almighty God please hear our prayers.

People: Respond with any special requests for prayers.

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## Prayers

### A SCOUTER'S PRAYER

Build me a Scout, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory...

Build me a Scout whose wishes will not take the place of deeds; a Scout who himself is the foundation stone of knowledge. . .

Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail...

Build me a Scout whose heart will be clear, whose goals will be high. A Scout who will master himself before he seeks to master others, one who will march into the future, yet never forget the past...

And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of true wisdom, and the meekness of true strength... Then I, a Scouter who knew him, will dare to whisper, 'I have not lived in vain.'

## Inspirational Quotes – Scoutmaster Minute

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

--*Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

"Every good act is charity. A man's true wealth hereafter is the good that he does in this world to his fellows."

--*Mohammed*

"Man becomes great exactly in the degree in which he works for the welfare of his fellow-men."

--*Gandhi*

The best things in life aren't things."

--*Art Buchwald*

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## Inspirational Thoughts and Messages

### ***The Scout Beatitudes***

Blessed are the Scouts who are taught to see beauty in all things around them... for their world will be a place of grace and wonder.

Blessed are the Scouts who are led with patience and understanding... for they will learn the strength of endurance and the gift of tolerance.

Blessed are the Scouts who are provided a home where family members dwell in harmony and close communion... for they shall become the peacemakers of the world.

Blessed are the Scouts who are taught the value and power of truth... for they shall search for knowledge and use it with wisdom and discernment.

Blessed are the Scouts who are guided by those with faith in a loving God... for they will find Him early and will walk with Him through life.

Blessed are the Scouts who are loved and know that they are loved... for they shall sow seeds of love in the world and reap joy for themselves and others.

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## Songs and Hymns

### **"America the Beautiful"**

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

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

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

America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
from sea to shining sea!

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## Poems

### The Concord Hymn

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1837)

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,  
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled;  
Here once the embattled farmers stood;  
And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept;  
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps,  
And Time the ruined bridge has swept  
Down the dark stream that seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,  
We place with joy a votive stone,  
That memory may their deeds redeem,  
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

O Thou who made those heroes dare  
To die, and leave their children free, --  
Bid Time and Nature gently spare  
The shaft we raised to them and Thee.

## Benedictions;

The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face to shine upon you, And give you peace.

*--Traditional*