



DUTY TO GOD



at

Camp Frontier

Erie Shores Council

MISSION OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

A Scout is Reverent

In 1907, Scouting's founder, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, knew that faith gives young people a road map for life, and that it is a wise guide for thoughts and actions. We still believe that, and our individual faith traditions inspire us to look beyond ourselves and turn our attention to helping others. Camp Frontier is a beautiful setting to ground ourselves in faith and reverence, both in our personal lives and in the BSA's daily mission to make the world a better place.

Words to Live By . . .

The Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best
to do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
to help other people at all times;
to keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake and morally straight.

The Scout Law

A Scout is:
Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful
Friendly, Courteous, Kind,
Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty,
Brave, Clean and Reverent.

The Scout Oath and the Scout Law define a set of principles to which every member commits himself or herself. These principles include duty to God and country, duty to others and duty to oneself. These values have remained the same for more than 100 years.

. . . Values for a Lifetime

WELCOME TO CAMP FRONTIER!

We are so glad to have you join us here at Camp Frontier
on the Richard P. Anderson Pioneer Scout Reservation!

Whether attending for the first time or as a “grizzled veteran”, it is our hope that each of our Scouts and adult leaders will find Camp Frontier to be a place of beauty, peace and solace where they can feel the nearness of God, the Creator of this special setting.

As your week at camp goes by, you will have opportunities to see and experience God’s presence in many ways – learning new skills, developing leadership, walking the trails, hearing the wind in the trees, feeling the cool waters of the lake, studying birds or insects, stargazing, helping a Scout advance, or just watching the clouds go by. The key is to open your eyes, ears, heart and mind with a receptive spirit.

One of the basic tenets of Scouting is the concept of “*Duty to God*”. This booklet was developed as a resource for Scouts and adult leaders to use in daily observation of their religious duties, whatever their particular faith group or background may be. The devotions are adapted from *Praypub.org* materials and are designed to be used by any faith group.

“A Scout is Reverent – A Scout is reverent toward God. A Scout is faithful in fulfilling religious duties. A Scout respects the beliefs of others.”

It is important to note that these words from the Scouts BSA Handbook do not specify any particular faith group or background. We recognize this and encourage each Scout and adult leader to observe and fulfill their religious duties in their own way.

We wish you a safe, enjoyable, exciting and rewarding experience here at Camp Frontier. May God bless you and keep you and give you peace!

Introducing the Camp Frontier Duty to God Award

Requirements

Eligibility: All Scouts and adult leaders

Program Requirements:

Participants must complete these requirements and have them signed off by their Chaplain Aide or troop leader:

_____ Attend a camp-wide religious service or vespers.

_____ Participate in at least three daily devotionals with your unit at camp.

_____ Say grace before meals.

_____ Participate in “*Roses, Thorns and Buds*” reflections with your unit at camp.

Participants must obtain the signature of the Camp Chaplain (or other designated camp staff member) to affirm completion of the requirements.

Camp Chaplain’s Signature

Upon presentation of this signed page, Scouts and leaders can purchase a Duty to God patch from the trading post.

CHAPLAIN AIDE RESPONSIBILITIES

Camp Frontier strongly recommends one Scout be asked or designated to serve as the troop's chaplain aide. A Scout or Venturer who has earned or is working on their religious award may be ideal for this position. The Chaplain's Aide is responsible for assisting the Scouts in being reverent during their time in camp, as well as working with the youth and adult leaders to ensure the smooth operation of the unit.

The Chaplain's Aide's responsibilities include:

- Set a good example by living the principles of the Scout Oath and Law.
- Lead unit members to attend chapel or vesper services at camp.
- Lead Grace before meals.
- Lead the daily devotions from this booklet.
- Lead **“Roses, Thorns, and Buds”** each night (see description below).
- Provide support to fellow Scouts that are having difficulties.
- Encourage fellow Scouts in their own personal walk with God.

The Chaplain's Aide will guide the unit's participation in the Duty to God program and will affirm completion of the Duty to God Award requirements for each unit member. Awards will be available for purchase at the Trading Post at the conclusion of the week.

ROSES, THORNS AND BUDS

(formerly known as “Thorns and Roses”)

Scouts and adult leaders are encouraged to reflect each evening on their experiences at camp that day. Sitting around the campfire is a great setting. **Roses, thorns, and buds** is a reflection technique that involves sharing one of each of the following:

- **Rose:** Something positive, a highlight, success, or small win.
- **Thorn:** A challenge experienced or something that needs more support.
- **Bud:** A new idea or something to look forward to for the next day.

Although sharing is not mandatory, it is important that each person be able to speak without interruption or judgement. This is an opportunity to strengthen the teamwork of the unit and to promote the mental, social and emotional health of each member. It also gives Scouts an opportunity to share and practice active listening.

GRACE AT MEALS

Camp Frontier Grace

For gifts of food and freedom, in the woods in which we roam;
For the beautiful crimson sunsets in the camp that is our home;
For the starry skies at night, and the gentle wind in the trees;
We thank you, Great Spirit, for giving us all of these.

Miakonda Graces

Morning

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

Evening

Tireless guardian of our day,
Thou has kept well this day,
While we thank Thee we request,
Care continued, pardon, rest.

Noon

Father for this noon-day meal,
We would speak the praise we feel.
Health and strength we ask from thee,
Help us Lord to grateful be.

Philmont Grace

For food, for raiment;
For life, for opportunity;
For friendship and fellowship;
We thank thee, O Lord.

Summit Grace

For this time and this place;
For your goodness and grace;
For each friend we embrace;
We thank thee, O Lord.

Of course, you're not limited to these examples. Don't be afraid to say what you feel – God doesn't care what words are used, just say what's in your heart!

SUNDAY

FINDING GOD IN CAMP

Whether this is your first time at summer camp or whether you have been to camp many times before, you have been anticipating this week for a long time. You are finally here!

New sights, new sounds, new smells surround you. Every day will bring a new discovery about God, about yourself, about your relationship with your fellow Scouts, and about God's magnificent creation.

In the middle of all the other exciting activities, you can also make this a time to live fully the twelfth point of the Scout Law: *A Scout is Reverent*. Reverent not just on the Sabbath or Holy Day of your faith, but every day. God will be your Counselor, your Guide, your Strength, and your Friend here at Camp Frontier, as God is at all times in your life.

The amazing and wonderful marvels of God's creation help you to know God better at Camp Frontier, perhaps more than at any other time. Look up at the sky, day and night, and to the land and the waters. Nature reveals the enormity and power of God. See how things fit together by design and for a purpose so perfectly in God's creation from the tiniest to the greatest forms of life.

Remember: "God doesn't make junk." God loves you and cares about you so much that even if you were the only person on the face of the Earth, God still would have created this Earth just for you.

PRAYER:

Thank you, God, for this opportunity to be at Camp Frontier.

May it bring me the right balance of challenge and reward.

May I give to it my best efforts and may you bless me as I do.

Amen

MONDAY

RESOURCES THAT ORIENT THE COMPASS OF LIFE

One requirement for advancement in Scouting is to learn how a compass works and how to orient a compass to find a direction for travel. It also requires a Scout to learn how to read a topographical map with all its colors, lines, and symbols and to use a map and compass together to complete a hike or bicycle trip without getting lost. These orienteering skills will help give you some of the best Scouting experiences you can enjoy.

What are some other “maps” that help us orient our direction in life? The Scout Oath and the Scout Law are among those “maps” we are most familiar with. So are our families, friends, teachers and coaches, and religious leaders.

But best of all are the sacred scriptures and sacred writings of our faith traditions. It is here that we find the teachings that give us guidance and direction for the journey of life so we can live life as fully as possible. The sacred writings of most of our faith traditions tell us that God is personal, loving, and just and wants to have a personal relationship with us.

In almost every faith tradition is found the teaching that we know as “The Golden Rule,” which says that we should do to and for others what we expect others to do to and for us.

Our scriptures and sacred writings are the compass, the map, the chart, and the guide for us to draw near to God. You are encouraged to use them as a daily reminder of your promise as a Scout to strive to live the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.

PRAYER:

Thank you, God, for giving me many ways to know your will for my life. Give me the wisdom to follow you.

Amen

TUESDAY

THE TRULY WONDERFUL THINGS OF LIFE

A story is told about a teacher who had her students write down what they thought were the present-day “seven wonders of the world.” Many different ideas were presented, but among those most often mentioned were the great pyramids in Egypt, the Taj Mahal in India, the Grand Canyon, the Panama Canal, and the Great Wall in China.

One student was having trouble with the assignment, so the teacher asked her to read her list. She said, “I’m having trouble because there are so many.” She went on to say, “I think the seven wonders of the world are to see, to hear, to touch, to taste, to smell, to laugh, and to love.” She had discovered that the most precious things in life are not things that can be built with human hands or purchased at any price.

The truly wondrous things of life are those things we overlook as simple and ordinary and take for granted. All our senses are given by God to make us more human and fulfilled in our life in God’s creation.

Laughing and loving are universal in their meaning among all peoples of the Earth. In what ways are you seeing, hearing, feeling, tasting, and smelling familiar things in new ways to expand your experience of God’s creation?

PRAYER:

God, make my heart wide open to all the ways you connect me to your creation and to other people. I thank you for the wonderful ways you have created me in your image and likeness.

Amen

WEDNESDAY

WORK HARD, PLAY FAIR, AND PADDLE YOUR OWN CANOE

“Work hard, play fair, and paddle your own canoe.” These are the words of Walter Jones, who was the equivalent of an Eagle Scout as a boy in Canada and an active adult Scout leader in both Canada and the United States throughout his life. He was also a leader in his religious faith tradition in both countries.

His favorite advice to his own children and to youth in general is summed up in these words, “work hard, play fair, and paddle your own canoe.” Walter Jones’s wish for every young person, indeed every person, was for each to reach his or her full God-given potential in life.

To “work hard” does not necessarily mean hard physical labor. It means to dedicate yourself to getting a good education, to helping out at home in the neighborhood and community where you live, and to finding the career that best fits your abilities and gifts. This will help you support your family and make you a productive citizen willing to give of yourself to make your community better.

To “play fair” means to have fun in life, to enjoy time with family and friends, to know the benefits of recreation without always having to come in first, to develop the kind of values and character that will make others want to spend time with you.

To “paddle your own canoe” means not to compare yourself with others, but to fully be the person God would have you to be. What other meanings in these words of advice can you think of for your own life? How does your Scouting experience help you fulfill these concepts? God does indeed want us to be the best we can be, and one way to reach that is to “work hard, play fair, and paddle your own canoe.”

PRAYER:

God, help me to honor you with my life today. Help me to do my best for you in things I will learn today, in my companionship with my friends, and in reaching the goals that you have helped me set for myself.

Amen

THURSDAY

PURPOSE AND DESIGN IN GOD'S CREATION

God's design of God's creation is a wonderful miracle. The beauty of nature is inspiring. As often as you can, spend at least a few minutes a day to look closely at some part of the natural world around you. Give thanks to God for its design and its connection to all other living things (and nonliving too, such as rock and earth and water and clouds). You will be awed by what you experience and discover.

One day, a Scout was sitting quietly in a sunny location when he happened to spot the tiniest of brightly colored spiders dropping on a thread of silk from a tree branch. As he watched, this spider swayed in the light breeze until he landed on another lower branch. It was not long before a framework for a web was formed from three or four sturdy single vertical strands placed at some distance from one another. Then the work of shaping the web began in earnest and was accomplished quite quickly. Around and around, beginning from the outside and working toward the center, this tiny spider connected strands of its web together in an exquisite geometric pattern, each circular strand perfectly separated from the next in an exact design.

Finally, the spider reached the very center and took up residence, waiting for an unsuspecting insect to be caught in the newly constructed web to provide the food and nourishment for the spider's life and species to continue.

Each part of God's creation is uniquely gifted by its Creator with all it needs for survival and the continuance of its species. This is no less true for you. The difference is that you are aware of how you are using God's gifts to you. Use them wisely and for their intended purposes, and your life will bring equal glory to God as that tiny little spider in a tree in Florida did.

PRAYER:

When our eyes behold the beauty and grandeur of your world, O God, we see the wisdom, power, and goodness of its Creator. Your name alone is exalted.

Amen

FRIDAY

“THE WHOLE WORLD HAS BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO SHOW UP.”

“The whole world has been waiting for you to show up!”, said the camp director to the Scouts at the closing campfire. They are potent words, filled with hope, promise and expectation, setting the tone for every Scout’s return back to home and community.

You have enjoyed a terrific week of camp. You’ve worked on skills to advance in rank and to take with you for the rest of your life. Skills in leadership, camping, waterfront activities, cooking, hiking, perhaps in craft making, field sports, and in building confidence and a stronger sense of yourself.

You have enjoyed competitive games, campfire programs, service projects and special events. Maybe you’ve made some new friends who have helped to bring out the best in you, and you have done the same in them. You’ve learned to trust in yourself, in others, and in God. What other things can you add to this list as you reflect on your week at camp?

Without perhaps even realizing it, you most likely have practiced every one of the twelve points of the Scout Law sometime this week. You’ve been trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. It has become ever so much more a way of life for you.

You’ve changed this week and will return home stronger in body, mind, and spirit. You’ve grown up a bit and are that much closer to fulfilling all the potential that God has given you for a healthy, productive and full life.

PRAYER:

God, life is full of beginnings and endings. Help me to make the best of each new experience as I grow in my relationship with you, with my family, and with my friends. Help me to not waste a single day, but to use every day to make a difference for the betterment of all.

Amen

SATURDAY

HOMeward BOUND

You've come to the end of your Camp Frontier experience for this year. And while you can't stay here now, you can return again. And you probably will, because it has been one of the best weeks of your life.

Do you feel good about having completed your week at camp? What do you think was one of your biggest accomplishments these past seven days?

As you leave for home remember that you can do anything with your life from this moment on and also that you are called by God to make a difference in the world. You are a Scout!

PRAYER:

Thank you, God, for every gift that you gave me over these past days. As I go home, make me a special gift to my family and friends.

Amen



Duty to God

*In the words of
Scouting's Founder*

Robert Baden-Powell



"There is no religious "side" of the movement. The whole of it is based on religion, that is, on the realization and service of 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 recognizing that God is the one Father of us all, that we Scouts count ourselves a brotherhood despite the difference among us of country, creed, or class."

"In the Scouts each form of religion is respected and its active practice encouraged and through the spread of our brotherhood in all countries, we have the opportunity in developing the spirit of mutual good will and understanding."

One way of helping you to do your duty to God is to complete the religious emblem(s) of your faith.

To learn more, scan the image below



or log onto:

<https://www.praypub.org/religious-emblems>

*Devotions from the "Interfaith Devotions Summer Camp"
collection from P.R.A.Y., St Louis, MO – used with permission.*

