




DUTY TO GOD AND YOU



RATIONALE FOR ADVENTURE

Scouts are reverent. They are reverent toward God. They are faithful in their religious duties and respect the beliefs of others. The BSA Statement of Religious Principle “maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God.” This adventure provides each Webelos Scouts an opportunity to learn about and practice their religious faith.

TAKEAWAYS FOR CUB SCOUTS

- Learning about what duty to God means to you and your family.
- A Scout is reverent. 

Webelos Handbook, page 42

ADVENTURE REQUIREMENTS

Complete requirement 1 and at least two others.

1. Discuss with your parent, guardian, den leader, or other caring adult what it means to do your duty to God. Tell how you do your duty to God in your daily life.
2. Earn the religious emblem of your faith that is appropriate for your age, if you have not done so already.
3. Discuss with your family, family's faith leader, or other caring adult how planning and participating in a service of worship or reflection helps you live your duty to God.
4. List one thing that will bring you closer to doing your duty to God, and practice it for one month. Write down what you will do each day to remind you.

NOTES TO DEN LEADER

Webelos Scouts will fulfill the requirements for this adventure primarily at home.

Your local council service center can help you and the families in your den learn more about the religious emblems program. Families can also visit www.praypub.org or www.scouting.org/awards/religious-awards/

MEETING RESOURCES

Several of the requirements are reflective in nature. Invite Webelos to share faith-building experiences during the opening or closing parts of the den meeting.

“MY FAITH” QUIZ

- Each Webelos Scout could create a list of interesting details about their faith of choice. The list might include common terms, favorite scriptural verses or text, and historical figures or current leaders in that faith tradition.
- When Scouts finish their lists, they can use it to create “My Faith” flash cards. Scouts can then play a game with the cards, quizzing their family or the den to demonstrate the knowledge gained about that faith.

DECLARATION OF RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLE

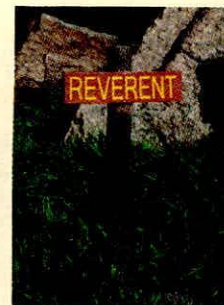
Article IX. Policies—From the Charter and Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America

Section 1. Declaration of Religious Principle, clause 1. The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God. In the first part of the Scout Oath or Promise the member declares, "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law." The recognition of God as the ruling and leading power in the universe and the grateful acknowledgment of His favors and blessings are necessary to the best type of citizenship and are wholesome precepts in the education of the growing members. No matter what the religious faith of the members may be, this fundamental need of good citizenship should be kept before them. The Boy Scouts of America, therefore, recognizes the religious element in the training of the member, but it is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that religious training. Its policy is that the home and the organization or group with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life.

Section 1. Activities, clause 2. The activities of the members of the Boy Scouts of America shall be carried on under conditions which show respect to the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion, as required by the twelfth point of the Scout Law, reading, "Reverent. A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others."

Section 1. Freedom, clause 3. In no case where a unit is connected with a church or other distinctively religious organization shall members of other denominations or faith be required, because of their membership in the unit, to take part in or observe a religious ceremony distinctly unique to that organization or church. However, no church or religious organization holding a valid charter shall be required to accept as an adult leader any person whose espoused personal beliefs are in conflict with the chartered organization's religious principles.

Section 1. Leaders, clause 4. Only persons willing to subscribe to these declarations of principles shall be entitled to certificates of leadership in carrying out the Scouting program.



SCOUT INTERFAITH SERVICE

The following is adapted from "Conducting an Interfaith Service," www.scouting.org/training/adult/supplemental/interfaith-service/.

A **Scout interfaith service** is a brief worship or meditation, specifically designed for Scouting events where there may be members of more than one faith group. The intention of an interfaith service is to provide a spiritual focus during a camping experience that does not reflect the views of a particular denomination or faith, but rather includes elements appropriate for all who might be present. An interfaith service can be defined as a gathering of Scouts held to contribute to the development of their spirituality and to promote a fuller understanding of the Scout Oath and Scout Law, with emphasis on one's duty to God. Let's take a look at what this definition means.

An interfaith service is a gathering of Scouts consistent with the 12th point of the Scout Law. This can be in groups as small as two or as large as a world Scout jamboree, though groups of a few patrols work best. In smaller groups, Scouts are able to get involved, share their experiences, and learn that spirituality is something that affects everyone.

An interfaith service is held for the development of the Scouts' spirituality. Spirituality is that which is beyond the material, that which gives meaning and direction to one's life. Scouting is primarily concerned with how people live out their beliefs in everyday life.

Hence, an interfaith service should connect in some way to the Scout Law, the ethical code of Scouting. Usually, mentioning the Scout Law, making allusions to it, and/or including a recitation of the Law as part of an interfaith service provides this connection. An interfaith service may simply include ethical content that the Scouts themselves can connect to the Scout Law.

Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scouting movement, believed that a person's religion is not in how he behaves; rather it is in what he believes. This is where the Scout Law intersects with spirituality. In developing character, Scouts may connect their spirituality to the Scout Law so that the living out of their religious faith is also an active expression of the Scout Law.

As explained herein, the goal is to provide an uplifting and positive experience for all attendees. It is not necessary to attempt to account for the sensitivities of every conceivable religion on Earth; rather, seek to account for those religions whose members reasonably might be expected to be present. As promoters of the religious emblems program, unit leaders should have a good sense of the religions of those unit members present on a campout. For larger camping activities, all unit leaders could be asked about members' religious preferences to ensure that reasonable care is given to inclusiveness.

In the event that an individual attendee becomes offended as an outcome of an interfaith service, an apology is in order in the spirit of "a Scout is friendly." Similarly, though, in the spirit of "a Scout is friendly," the individual offended should accept the apology graciously and explain how the service might have been conducted so as not to be offensive to him or her. The acts of seeking to make subtle theological distinctions or looking to be offended are grossly out of place at an interfaith service, particularly when the service is planned by youth members with adult mentoring and conducted by youth members.

Location of the Service

Any location separate from the noise and activity area is fine—a clearing in the woods, an empty campsite, the chapel area at a camp, a scenic overlook, an unused room in a building, the far corner of a gym.

Content of the Service

An interfaith service is an inspirational experience, usually built around a central theme, such as friendship, world peace, save the Earth, or appreciation of the world around us. Just about any topic is appropriate if it is consistent with the Statement of Religious Principle and program goals of the Boy Scouts of America. Scouts should be part of the planning process so that they learn and grow spiritually. Active adult coaching, consistent with the training provided herein, is critical for success.

The form of an interfaith service can range from lively to somber. While the content may take different forms, an interfaith service always should be conducted with reverence. Advance planning (and scripting) is critical because extemporaneous comments, while well-intentioned, may lead to discomfort on the part of members of some faith groups.

Songs (hymns) are best when accompanied by an instrument, like a guitar or harmonica, to help the singers with the melody. The simpler the song, the easier it will be for Scouts to sing along. Songs like "America the Beautiful," "God Bless America," or other well-known melodies are the easiest to sing if no accompaniment is available. The leader (or song leader) may choose to hum the opening note to help get everyone started, or have the accompanist give the first chord or note.

Planning an Interfaith Service

While the leader can be either a Scout or an adult, the content of an interfaith service needs to promote a meaningful and inclusive experience. To help ensure that nothing in an interfaith service would offend any participant, invite representatives of all faith groups with members present to participate in developing the service. Care must be used so that one person's religious traditions are not imposed to offend another person. For example, one should not direct all attendees to remove their hats before prayer, as those of the Jewish and Muslim faiths pray with heads covered. A more acceptable call to prayer would be: "Let us each prepare to pray according to his or her tradition." Similarly, stating, "This we ask in Jesus' name," while making the prayer personal to the person leading it, could be troubling to people of other religions.

As a leader you should ensure that youth members are included in the planning and conducting of the interfaith service. It is important that those chosen to conduct the service gather ahead of time to plan the service and bring along all the needed papers and material. Decide who will read what and who will provide accompaniment (ensuring that the songs are known or that musical scores are available), and determine where the service will be held. If time permits, those conducting the interfaith service should rehearse their parts as a group.

Interfaith Worship Service Planning Worksheet

Date: _____
 Location: _____
 Event: _____
 Leader: _____

Helper 1: _____
 Helper 2: _____
 Helper 3: _____
 Helper 4: _____

Include ✓ Y/N	Possible Elements in Order of Service	Sequence Number in Order of Service	Assigned to
	Processional with flags		
	Call to worship		
	Opening song (No. 1)		
	Prayer		
	Responsive reading		
	Offering, if appropriate		
	Song (No. 2)		
	Meditation		
	Suitable prayer		
	Song (No. 3)		
	Benediction or closing prayer		

Other notes: _____

Possible Elements in Order of Service

- Processional with flags
- Call to worship
- Song No. 1: "God Bless America" (*Cub Scout Songbook*)
- Prayer (excerpted from "We Thank Thee" by Ralph Waldo Emerson):

*For each new morning with its light,
Father, we thank-you.
For rest and shelter of the night,
Father, we thank-you.
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything your goodness sends,
Father, in heaven, we thank-you.*
- Responsive reading
- Offering, if appropriate (such as for the World Friendship Fund)
- Song No. 2: "Kum Ba-Yah" (*Cub Scout Songbook*)
- Meditation
- Suitable prayer
- Song No. 3 (additional reverent songs are included in the *Cub Scout Songbook*)
- Benediction or closing prayer: *May the Lord bless thee and keep thee; may He show His face to thee and have mercy upon thee; may He turn His countenance to thee, and give thee peace. May the Lord bless thee. Amen.*

Presentation of Colors: Flagpole

Narrator	Actions
Attention. Will the audience please rise. (<i>Pause.</i>)	The color guard waits in the rear for the audience to become quiet.
Color guard, advance.	The U.S. flag guards and bearer walk in and take their positions near the flagpole, facing the audience.
Color guard, prepare to raise the colors.	The line is unwound. The flag is unfolded and attached to the rope.
Hand salute.	Everyone, with the exception of the U.S. flag guards and bearer, salutes.
Color guard, raise the colors.	The flag is raised quickly to the top of the pole, and the cord is wound back in place.
Please repeat with me the Pledge of Allegiance. (<i>All join in.</i>)	The U.S. flag guards and bearer stand at attention. The U.S. flag guards and bearer do not salute or say the Pledge of Allegiance.
Two.	The audience drops its salute.
Color guard, salute.	The U.S. flag guards and bearer salute.
Color guard, dismissed.	The color guard retreats to the back of the group.

Retrieval of Colors: Flagpole

Narrator	Actions
Attention. Will the audience please rise. <i>(Pause.)</i>	The color guard waits in the rear for the audience to become quiet.
Color guard, advance.	The U.S. flag guards and bearer walk to the flagpole. They stand behind the flag, facing the audience.
Color guard, salute.	The U.S. flag guards and bearer salute.
Color guard, prepare to retrieve the colors.	They unwind the cord and wait.
Hand salute.	Everyone, with the exception of the U.S. flag guards and bearer , salutes. The U.S. flag is quickly lowered.
Two.	As soon as the flag touches the hands of the guard, this command is given. Everyone drops the salute. The U.S. flag guard and bearer remove the flag from the rope and fold it correctly.
Color guard, retreat.	They retreat to the back of the group.

Additional resources for interfaith services, including religion history, videos, and faith-based activities, can be found at www.praypub.org.

Upon completion of the Duty to God and You adventure, your Webelos Scouts will have earned the adventure pin shown here. Make sure they are recognized for their completion by presenting the adventure pins, to be worn on their uniforms, as soon as possible according to your pack's tradition.

