

Service Compiled and Written  
For IOLS/ BALOO

Suffolk County Council's  
**Outdoor Leader Skills  
Training**

***Interfaith  
Worship  
Service***

## I. A Scout is Reverent:

From the BSA's Charter and Bylaws:

*The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best*

*kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God.*

From the *Boy Scout Handbook*, 11th edition:

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

Wonders all around us remind us of our faith in God. We find it in the tiny secrets of creation 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. Throughout your life you will encounter people expressing their reverence in many different ways. The Constitution of the United States guarantees each of us complete freedom to believe and worship as we wish without fear of punishment. It is your duty to respect and defend the rights of others to their religious beliefs even when they differ from your own.

## II. What is a Scouts Own

The explanation provided by Baden-Powell is as valid today as when he wrote it

## XIX. Benediction

### An Old Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you

May the wind be always at your back

May the sun shine warm upon your face

The rain fall soft upon your fields

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand

***Let us greet one another in friendship and fellowship as we depart here to serve.***

XVIII. **Closing Song:**

**America The Beautiful**

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountains majesties  
Above the fruited plain.  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.

**Some Ideas on Interfaith Worship Services**

For an open troop, or for troops in camp, I think the interfaith worship service should be open to all denominations, and carried on in such manner as to offend none. There should not be any special form, but it should abound in the right spirit, and should be conducted not from any ecclesiastical point of view, but from that of the boy. Everything likely to make an artificial atmosphere should be avoided. We do not want a kind of imposed church parade, but a voluntary uplifting of their hearts by the boys in thanksgiving for the joys of life, and a desire on their part to seek inspiration and strength for greater love and service for others.

An interfaith worship service should have as big an effect on the boys as any service in [their place of worship], if in conducting the interfaith worship service 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.

To interest the boys, the interfaith worship service must be a cheery and varied function. Short hymns (three verses are as a rule quite enough—never more than four); understandable prayers; a good address from a man who really understands boys (a homily “talk” rather than an address), which grips the boys, and in which they may laugh or applaud as the spirit moves them, so that they take a real interest in what is said. If a man cannot make his point keen to boys in ten minutes he ought to be shot! If he has not got them keen, it would be better not to hold an interfaith worship service at all.

—Baden-Powell

Adapted from *The Scouter*, November 1928

### III. Call To Worship:

Mighty God, thank you for the opportunity to be here in the midst of the beauty and majesty of your creation. Give us the strength to endure the challenges of this day, the wisdom to enjoy each moment, and the courage to push ourselves further than we ever have before. Bless each Scout and Scouter as we journey through this adventure together. Amen.

Please stand and join us in singing Amazing Grace.

### IV. Song: Amazing Grace (All Sing)

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my Fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun;  
We've no less days to sing Gods praise,  
Then when we first begun.

### XVII. Closing Prayer: Oh Great Spirit

Oh 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 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 that You have taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons You have hidden under every leaf and rock. I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, 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.

XVI. **The Knots Prayer**

Dear God,

Please untie the knots that are on my mind,  
my heart and my life.

Remove the have nots, the can nots and the do  
nots  
that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots, may nots and might nots  
That may find a home in my heart.

Release from the could nots, would nots and  
should nots  
That obstruct my life

And most of all, Dear God,

I ask that you remove from my mind,  
My heart and my life all of the “am nots”  
That I have allowed to hold me back,

Especially the thought that I “am not” good  
enough.  
Amen.

V. **Invocation:**

O Lord our heavenly father, we lift our hearts to thee at the beginning of this new day. We come to this time and place of worship with thy beauty all about us; in the sky, in the trees, in the earth, and in all thy creation. We praise thee, and come to worship thee. Blessed art thou O Lord our God, who gives us each new day

VI. **Service Koran, Al Furquan, part 19, chapter 25**

The true servants of God are the following:

Those who walk upon the 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 punishment 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 keeping a balance between the two;

Those who repent and believe and do good deeds.

VII. **The Golden Principle:**

Blessed are those who prefer others before themselves

*Baha'i Faith*

Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.

*Buddhism*

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

*Christianity*

This is the sum of all duty: Treat others as you yourself would be treated ~ *Hinduism*

Not one of you is a believer until you desire for another that which you desire for yourself ~ *Islam*

In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief, regard all creatures as you would regard your own self ~ *Jainism*

What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor ~ *Judaism*

Be not estranged from another, for God dwells in every heart

~ *Sikhism*

Human Nature is good only when it does not do unto another whatever nay good for it's own self ~ *Zoroastrian*

Especially do not feign affection.

Neither be cynical about love;

For in the face of all aridity and disenchantment

It is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the  
years,

Gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.

But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.

Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline,

Be gentle with yourself.

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.

Be Cheerful.

Strive to be happy.

- Max Ehrmann

XV. Desiderata of Happiness

Go placidly amid the noise and haste,

And remember what peace may be in silence.

As far as possible without surrender

Be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly;

And listen to others,

Even the dull and ignorant;

They too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons,

They are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others,

You may become vain and bitter;

For always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble, it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs;

For the world is full of trickery.

But let this not blind you to what virtue there is;

Many persons strive for high ideals,

And everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself.

VIII. Build Me A Scout

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, as a Scouter who knew him, will dare to whisper, "I have not lived in vain."

#### **IX. 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.

#### **XIV. A Silent Prayer**

Baden Powel wrote: First love and serve God...Second, love and serve your neighbor. In doing your duty to God always be grateful to Him. Whenever you enjoy a pleasure or a good game, or succeed in doing a good thing, thank Him for it, if only with a word or two.

Let us each now take a moment to meditate and pray in silence. Each as his heart moves him.

May the words of my mouth,  
And the meditation of my heart,  
Be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord,  
My rock and my redeemer.

-Psalm 19:14

(moment of silence and prayer)

**Leader: A Scout is Kind:**

All: Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it is in your power to act. (Proverbs 3:27)

**Leader: A Scout is Obedient:**

All: Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to the words of knowledge. (Proverbs 3:2)

**Leader: A Scout is Cheerful:**

All: A Glad heart is good medicine. (Proverbs 17:22)

**Leader: A Scout is Thrifty:**

All: Precious treasure remains in a wise person's dwelling, but a foolish person uses it up. (proverbs 21:20)

**Leader: A Scout is Brave:**

All: 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)

**Leader: A Scout is Clean:**

All: Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? The person who has clean hands and a pure heart. (Psalm 24: 3-4)

**Leader: A Scout is Reverent:**

All: It has been told to you what is good, and what the Lord requires of you; only to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

X. **Good Neighbor and Sharing:** - Hindu from Sharing

Not long ago there was a severe drought in one part of India and in one village the water tanks went dry. There was no water for the crops and it looked as if they must fail. This would be a disaster, for failure of the harvest might mean starvation. One man in the village had water; a farmer who owned the only well. But he was afraid that if he allowed the whole village to use his well, there might not be enough water for his own crops. And yet he felt, as a good neighbor, he should be willing to share what he had. In despair, he asked God what he should do; and then he waited for the answer. It came. "As long as your heart does not dry up with selfishness, the well will not dry up". So he gave the water to his neighbors of the village and there was enough for everyone.

XI. **Your Task: To Build A Better World:**

"Your task: To build a better world" , God said.

I answered "How? The world is such a large, vast place, so complicated now, And I so small and useless am, There's nothing I can do"

And God, in all His wisdom said, "Just build a better you."

## XII. A Closed Hand Can't Receive

A closed hand can't receive. The one who will not share himself with his neighbor, receives very little friendship in return. The tight parental grip that holds a child too closely, defeats its own purpose in the end.

Is it an accident that in many countries the symbol of dictatorship is a clenched fist thrust upward away from others? It's the same hand we offer openly to others for a warm greeting.

All people need to open up, to make themselves vulnerable to others. It is a necessary ingredient in all real friendships. Before we can sow seeds, we must open our hand and clearly, we must do this before we can harvest.

The simple truth doesn't stop with our illustration. Before we can possess wisdom or knowledge, we must first open our minds. Those who want to receive love must first offer it; to do this, people need to have an open heart.

Look around and you'll see the truth of these five words shining everywhere: **A closed hand can't receive.**

It can't receive partly because it is shut and nothing can get in. But mostly, a closed hand can't receive because it has nothing to give.

## XIII. The Scout Law: A Responsive Reading

The Scout Law is a guiding light to millions of youth and adults throughout the world today, but the principles of the law have been brought to us from ancient days.

**Leader: A Scout is Trustworthy**

All: Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbors  
(Exodus 20:13)

**Leader: A Scout is Loyal**

All: Do not beg me to leave you or to return from following after you, for where you go I will go, and where you stay, I will stay (Ruth 1:16)

**Leader: A Scout is Helpful**

All: Thou shall surely open thy hand unto thy poor and needy brother in thy land. (Deuteronomy 15:11)

**Leader: A Scout is Friendly:**

All: A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (proverbs 18:24)

**Leader: A Scout is Courteous:**

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