



Creating An Interfaith Scouting Service

Developed and Edited by Brian Kathenes, Scoutmaster, BSA Troop 146

Woodbadge Class NE II - 153



The ideals and values of the Scouting program have created a bridge between countries, cultures and religions. It is my belief and hope that religious diversity can, and should, bring us together, not drive us apart.

This manual is provided as a guide and a tool to help you create interfaith services designed to help all scouts better understand the commonalities of the world's religions.

The following prayers, readings, and services were not written by me, but were compiled from scouting websites.

Share them and use them to help bring the world together through the values and ideals of Scouting.

Via con Dios,

Brian Kathenes

Creating An Interfaith Scouting Service

An Interfaith Service

CALL TO WORSHIP -- A PSALM FOR THE THANK OFFERING

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.
>From the Book of Psalms, Psalm 100

PRAYER

READ IN UNISON

O Great Spirit of the North,
O Great Spirit of the South,
O Great Spirit of the East,
O Great Spirit of the West.
O Great Spirit, you are one.
You have given us our house,
Where there is food,
Where there is drink,
Where there are clothes.
You have given us our house,
Where there is fellowship,
Where there is companionship,
Where there is friendship.
You have given us our house,
Where we can grow,
Where we can learn,
Where we can know you.
O Great Spirit:
You are One,
Our house is One,
We are One!

A Native American Prayer

INVOCATION

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 for ever and ever." Amen

>From the Jewish Sabbath Service

READING

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.

>From the Koran, Al-Furqan, Part 19, Chapter 25

SILENT OBSERVANCE

May we observe a moment of silent prayer, each in his own faith.

RESPONSIVE READING - I

THE SCOUT OATH

Leader: 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.

Congregation: ON MY HONOR I WILL DO MY BEST.

Leader: Our duty to GOD and country means chiefly two things: obedience and loyalty. The duties we owe to the House of GOD, to our country, to 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 can not be a good Scout.

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

Leader: Our Lord told us that love of our 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.

Congregation: TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES.

Leader: Scouting offers us many opportunities to grow strong 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.

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

HYMN

MICHAEL, ROW THE BOAT ASHORE

Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia,
Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia.
Jordan's River is chilly and cold, Alleluia,
Kills the body but not the soul, Alleluia.
Jordan's River is deep and wide, Alleluia,
Meet my mother on the other side, Alleluia.
Gabriel, blow the trumpet horn, Alleluia,
Blow the trumpet loud and long, Alleluia.
Brother, lend a helping hand, Alleluia,
Brother, lend a helping hand, Alleluia.
Michael's boat's a gospel boat, Alleluia,
Michael's boat's a gospel boat, Alleluia.
Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia,
Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia.

RESPONSIVE READING - II

THE SCOUT LAW

Leader: "The person who is dishonest shall not live in My house; the person who is untruthful shall not stand before My eyes."

Psalms 101:7

Congregation: A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY

Leader: And Ruth said: "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

Congregation: A SCOUT IS LOYAL,

Leader: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"
Leviticus 19:18

Congregation: A SCOUT IS HELPFUL

Leader: "Can two walk together unless they agree?"
Congregation: A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY

Leader: "Honor your Father and your Mother."
Exodus 20:12

Congregation: A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS

Leader: "Withhold not good from the person to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it"
Proverbs 3:27

Congregation: A SCOUT IS KIND

Leader: "Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to the words of knowledge."
Proverbs 23:12

Congregation: A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT

Leader: "A glad heart is good medicine."
Proverbs 17:22

Congregation: A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL

Leader: "Precious treasure remains in a wise person's dwelling, but a foolish person uses it up."
Proverbs 20:12

Congregation: A SCOUT IS THRIFTY

Leader: "Be strong and of good courage."
First Chronicles 28:20

Congregation: A SCOUT IS BRAVE

Leader: "Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place?
'Me person who has clean hands and a pure heart.
Psalms 24:3-4

Congregation: A SCOUT IS CLEAN

Leader: "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

Congregation: A SCOUT IS REVERENT

OFFERING

HYMN - AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found; Was blind, but now I see
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fear relieved.
How precious did that grace appear 'Me hour I first believed.
Through many dangers, toils and snares We have already come.
'Twas grace that brought us safe this far, And grace will bring us home.

PRAYER

Master of the universe
Grant me the ability to be alone;
May it be my custom to go outdoors each day
Among the trees and grass, among all living things.
And there may I be alone, and enter into prayer,
To talk with the one to whom I belong.
May I express there everything in my heart,
And may all the foliage of the field
(All grasses, trees and plants)
May they all awake at my coming,
To send the powers of their life into the words of my prayer
So that my prayer and speech are made whole
Through the life and the spirit of all growing things,
Which are made as one by their transcendent source.

Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav (1772-1811)

BENEDICTION

May we all remain fast and firm in faith, that the glory of glories may rest upon us. Thou art
Gracious, the Bountiful, the Merciful, the Compassionate.
-- From the Bahai faith, Abdul Bahai.

Here is the prayer from the Greater St. Louis Area Council's S-F Camp:

For the gifts of food and freedom
and the hills to roam,
For crimson sunsets
and the earth our home,
For the stars at night
and the gentle winds in trees
we thank you great spirit for all these.
Amen.

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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

Blessed is the spot, and the house, and the place, and the city, and the heart, and the mountain, and the refuge, and the cave, and the valley, and the land, and the sea, and the island, and the meadow where mention of God hath been made and His praise glorified.

--From the Baha'i Writings

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.

--American Indian

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SAMPLE INTERFAITH SCOUT WORSHIP SERVICE

INVOCATION

Be merciful to me, O God, Be merciful, for I have taken refuge in You. In the shadow of Your wings, will I take refuge until this time of trouble has gone by.

I will call upon the most high God, The God who maintains my cause.

He will send from heaven and save me; He will confound those who trample upon me; God will send forth His love and his faithfulness. Amen.

HYMN

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

(Chorus)

America, America. God shed His Grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.

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

(Repeat Chorus)

MEDITATION

Sanctify our campsite with your presence and joy. By the spirit of affection and service unite our Scouting families, that they may show your praise in our land and in all the world.

RESPONSIVE READING (Psalm 46)

(L) God is our refuge and strength

(P) A very present help in trouble

(L) therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved

(P) and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea

(L) though it's waters rage and foam

(P) the Lord of hosts is with us

(L) the God of Jacob is our stronghold

HYMN

Kum Ba Yah my Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Kum Ba Yah my Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Kum Ba Yah my Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Oh, Lord Kum Ba Yah

Someone's crying Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's singing Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's praying Lord, Kum Ba Yah

SERMON

OFFERING FOR WORLD FRIENDSHIP FUND

HYMN

Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah
River Jordan is deep and wide, Hallelujah
River Jordan is deep and wide, Hallelujah
River Jordan is chilly and cold, Hallelujah
Chills the body but not the soul, Hallelujah

SCOUTMASTER MINUTE

CLOSING PRAYER

GREAT SPIRIT PRAYER

SAMPLE INTERFAITH SCOUT WORSHIP SERVICE:

GATHERED TONIGHT IN OUR MAKER'S HOUSE

Written by Vince Sutherland (Vigil Name: AWELENDAM - "One Who Is Certain), Kia Kima Scout Reservation Staff, Cherokee Village, AR, Chickasaw Council, Memphis, TN, July 1993. (Note: It is imperative that the Scouts & Scouters bring walking staffs with them to the service. Without them, the service does not have the same level of involvement needed to conduct an inter-active service.)

Introduce For the opening prayer.

Good evening Scouts and Scouters and welcome to the Tuesday night Kia Kima Vesper Service. It is important at this time to ask each Scout and Scouter to remain silent as we observe this service tonight. My name is _____ - tonight we will be exploring matters of importance regarding our journey as Scouts down the Scouting trail as well as the trail of Life.

We have gathered here tonight to observe the 12th point of the Scout Law, a Scout is Reverent, and the first part of the Scout Oath - to do our Duty to God and Country.

As we gather tonight in this, our Maker's House we must pay particular attention to the blessings of Nature which, crafted by our Maker, surround us at every turn.

Let us pause and ponder then, some special blessings we have encountered so far this week, let us remember:

The cool, trickling waters of our River as it continues its eternal journey to the distant oceans.

And think of the heart-warming and joyful laughter of swimmers splashing in the water on a hot, humid afternoon.

Or think of the deep, inviting shade of the woodlands with powerful trees reaching ever toward the sky.

And let us not forget the pride felt by all who have endured the ultimate challenge of the COPE experience as well as that very first, chilling step off of the repelling tower.

And think of that wonderful, woodsy smell of a Scout campfire at night as stories are told and memories are shared and created.

Each of these experiences as well as many others, have become a vital part of each one of us and will stay with us as happy, wonderful memories throughout our entire lives.

Therefore, a Duty and Responsibility as Scouts rests upon our shoulders to ever offer our sincere and heart-felt gratitude to our Maker for the opportunity we have to visit this special world of His Nature - a world that strengthens our bodies, our minds and our spirits by the wonderful gifts so freely given us. Let us pause now and offer our Thanks to our Maker.

Everyone please rise, remove your head-cover and bow your heads.

Dear Heavenly Father:

We have come here tonight atop this hill in view of your wonderful vistas below and skies above to offer our sincere appreciation for the blessings You so freely bestow upon us.

We thank You for the Nature that You have so bountifully provided for our use. May we always be mindful of our duty as Scouts to be reverent and dutiful to Your calling.

Remind us Father to always treat Your Nature with the respect and reverence it so richly deserves.

Help us also Father, as Scouts, to share our experience and knowledge of your Nature with those who would do it harm so that all peoples may continue to revere Your bountiful gifts.

This we ask in Your Precious name. AMEN

As we are aware of the blessings that surround us tonight atop this magnificent crest we must also be mindful of the troubles and dangers that await us as we walk the trail of Life.

Life's troubles and dangers are vast and varied, confronting us each day as we live our lives amongst our families, friends, and communities.

These troubles and dangers can be over-come by sincerely trusting in our Maker and striving to develop an ever closer relationship with Him. By doing so, we find the strength and determination so vital to us as we face the adversities of this life with strong, true Faith and Courage.

The history of man-kind has always taught all peoples to lean on their Maker for guidance and support in their journeys.

Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, spoke at great length in his first book, Scouting for Boys, of the need for a Scout to have a basis of strength and support as he undertakes a journey.

Baden-Powell speaks of this basis of strength and support in the form of a Hiking Stave, known in the United States as a Hiking Stick or Hiking Staff.

In his first drawing of a Scout, the founder of the Scouting Movement showed a boy with a staff in his hand. The hiking staff has long been a symbol of a journey. By carrying one with you, you will find the miles glide by. The staff swings comfortably in your hand, giving balance and rhythm to your pace.

Use your staff to push back branches and brush, to flick sticks and stones off the trail, and to poke behind rocks and into holes. The staff precedes you down the trail and is able to point out dangers and pitfalls which lie ahead. By trusting in the strength, support and guidance of the staff, you are assured of a safer journey.

However, not heeding the clues offered by your hiking staff and taking your own direction can cause you to stumble and fall. But, the good news is that the hiking staff is still there -beside you - ready to offer you the assistance you now need to pick yourself up and continue your journey.

If the fall produced an injury, making your journey more difficult, you can lean on the hiking staff to reduce the pain as you continue on.

Such is the same for our Faith and Belief in our Maker. He points the direction for us in this life if we will but pay heed and listen.

He knows the path and pitfalls that lie ahead well, pointing them out to us as we continue forward on our journey. Close attention to His guidance eases the path through Life exactly as the walking staff provides us clues of the unknown trail ahead.

When, in this life, we do not heed His guidance we are sure to stumble and fall. However, we can take great joy and comfort in knowing, like the hiking staff, that He is there beside us to help us regain our footing and continue our journey. Any harm or pain that may have come to us is reduced by leaning on His strength as He eases the journey ahead.

Walking staffs have been with us since the dawn of time and have been used by all peoples in every civilization. Such is the case with our belief in our Supreme Being, our Father, our Lord, our Creator, or any other name that we, as humans associate with Him.

A glance at the varied walking staffs present here tonight gives us a clue of the variety of faiths known around the world. No two staffs here are identical. Some are taller, some are thicker, some are straighter, some are hardwood, some are softwood, some are plain, some are carved - the varieties and details are limitless.

So then are the faiths known by us and all other peoples. No single individual can determine which walking staff is the best for all peoples - no more than they can determine which faith is the best for all peoples - the varieties, differences, strengths and styles of each faith, like the walking staff - are so vast. Only an individual decision can suffice in this important and personal matter.

So, let us each heed the guidance offered to us on our journeys - our journeys down wooded paths and our journey through life. Let us continually foster a strong belief and trust in the guidance and strength of our hiking staffs and, more importantly, our Maker.

May your journeys be smooth and stumble-free throughout this Life.

At this time, I would like to call upon _____ for the Benediction. Once the Benediction has been completed, please exit the Chapel in reverent SILENCE. Thank you.

_____ gives the Benediction.

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## Inter-Faith Girl Scout Sunday Services

Every effort should be made to hold ecumenical inter-faith service when celebrating the spiritual foundation of Girl Scouting. The varied personal beliefs of our members necessitate including sensitivity towards inclusiveness when planning these types of activities.

There is no set structure to an inter-faith service and if you have attended more than one, most likely you have found that they differed in theme, arrangement and elements. Yet, there are similarities. Listed below are the "ingredients" that are usually found in formal ecumenical services arranged by and for Girl Scouts.

### 1. Procession

This may be arranged many ways. Troops may proceed in first with the flags. If readings will be taken from the Bible, Torah and/or the Qur'an, you may want to have two girls with candles follow the troops, followed by one girl with these texts. The rabbi, minister, Muslim cleric, and/or priest would be last.

Upon reaching the front of the place of worship, everyone would remain standing as the texts are placed on the lectern and the colors are presented.

### 2. Presentation of Colors

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

### 4. Invocation by one of the presiding clergy

This prayer should in some way present the theme of the service.

### 5. Song - The song should express the theme of the service.

### 6. Reading by a Girl Scout

This reading, if possible, should pertain to both Girl Scouts and to the theme of the service, i.e. readings taken from the Girl Scout Handbook. If more participation is desired, two or more short readings may be substituted for one. (Should not exceed five minutes.)

### 7. Reading by one or more of the presiding clergy

The reading(s) should be in accordance with the theme.

### 8. Song - The song should express the theme of the service.

### 9. Reading by Girl Scout

Again; there may be more than one Girl Scout. These readings need not pertain to Girl Scouts - but to the theme. You may want to use writings of famous Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Islamic, etc. authors.

### 10. Group Prayer

Group prayer would be one which is either recited by all such as a psalm, or petitions to which the group responds by a short phrase. (Total time about three minutes.) If desired, this could be followed by a few minutes of silent prayer during which time the troop members could be asked to share their thoughts or prayers.

### 11. Sermon or Homily

The sermon or homily is given by one or all of the clergy presiding. (The total time here should not exceed 20 minutes.)

### 12. Girl Scout Promise and Law

You may wish to have the Girl Scout Promise and Law follow the presentation of colors.

### 13. Song

Choose a Girl Scout song or a patriotic song that is a fitting closing.

14. Retire colors
15. Closing prayer by one of the presiding clergy
16. Recessional - The Recessional may be music or a song which expresses the theme of the service.

The time allowance for a service which would include all the elements mentioned above would range from 1 hour and 15 minutes to one and a half hours. You may wish to adjust the program according to your preferences and time.

Prayers for Jewish Girl Scouts

Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One.

Blessed be his Name, whose glorious kingdom  
is forever and ever.

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy might. And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thy heart. And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt speak of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thy hand; and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the doorposts of thy house and upon thy gates.

AMEN

O Lord our God, we ask Thy blessing upon us and upon our sister Girl Scouts. Give us strength of character and of purpose so that we may fulfil our Promise and faithfully obey our Law. Teach us to understand that by living up to the ideals of our Movement we are helping to build a better tomorrow for ourselves and all people.

AMEN

Almighty God, we pray to Thee for courage to do what we know is right. Guide us when we are in doubt. Grant us strength to resist temptation and gentle hearts to help those who are weaker than ourselves. Keep us in health and strength and let us always be a source of pride and satisfaction to our parents and to all whom we love and respect.

AMEN

O God, we thank Thee for the opportunity of gathering together in friendship. Grant that we may ever be understanding and so considerate of our companions that we may be a help and example to them by our work and our sympathy. May we always remember that we are doing Thy will.

AMEN



## **Prayers for Catholic Girl Scouts**

Dear Jesus, without your grace we can do nothing, and with it we can do all things. We implore you that we Girl Scouts may ever be strong in the Faith and fight the good fight, and win the battle of our salvation. Make our hearts like your Sacred Heart, so that in all things we may do your will. Help us to think widely, to speak rightly, to act kindly, to live purely. Bless us in soul and body, and make us a blessing to our comrades. Whether at home or abroad, may we ever seek your glory and the extension of your kingdom. May the thought of your presence be always with us to save us from sin, to strengthen us in life and comfort us in death. And through the prayers and example of your Blessed and Immaculate Mother, who is the Leader of all Girl Scouts, may we never cease to seek and to find you, Our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. AMEN

Dear Jesus, we ask you to bless us and all other Girl Scouts.  
Give us grace to serve you and our country and to keep our Girl Scout Promise & Law.

Make us humble and friendly, eager for adventure, alert and prepared for service.

Give us courage to dare to do right; make us both strong to fight and steadfast to endure; and may our lives be filled with joy that spreads happiness everywhere.

Grant us these graces through the prayers of your Blessed Mother.

Our Lady, Leader of the Way, pray for us. AMEN.

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Prayers for Christian Girl Scouts

Lord Jesus, we ask you to look after all the Girl Scouts and leaders who live all over the world.
You were good and kind in your home at Nazareth and you were always ready to help other people.
Help us to be like you to love everybody, and to be honest, truthful, and obedient at all times.
AMEN

O God, our heavenly Father, Help all Girl Scouts to know and look after the wonderful world you have made,
the sky and sea, the trees and flowers, the birds and animals.
Help us to love all the people in it, that in love we may help them, and to serve you.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Dear Father in heaven,
We know we are your children,
We want to serve you faithfully,
We want to keep our Girl Scout Promise.
Help us to listen to your voice;
Help us to be willing and quick to do your work;
Help us to be friendly and loving;
And help us to thank you every day for all your gifts to us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN

Grant O Lord, we pray Thee, that Thy blessing may rest upon us and all other Girl Scouts.
Help us, with Thy grace, to serve our country and to keep our Girl Scout Promise and Law.
Make us humble and friendly, eager for adventure, alert and prepared for service.
Give us the courage to dare to do right. Make us both strong to fight and steadfast to endure,
And may our lives be filled with joy that spreads happiness everywhere.
Grant this we pray Thee, for the sake of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
AMEN

Dear God, we feel your nearness
By a brook and midst the trees,
Round a fire when we are camping
You're the guest we sing to please.
For Your praises we serve others,
With Your blessings, live our Law.
The good feeling of fulfillment
Is a Girl Scout's just applause.
Keep Girl Scouts forever near You.
Guide their steps along life's way.
As they strive to keep their Promise
Hold their hands in Yours, we pray.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN



A Prayer for Girl Scouts

God, help us keep our Promise bright,
Show us how to do things right
Help us all be Girl Scouts true,
That we may have more to offer you.
AMEN

A Creed for Girl Scouts

God, help each Girl Scout to be
Ready to give of themselves wisely.
Honest, friendly, respectful, fair;
Providing service to show we care.
What is right, may we possess,
What is wrong, refuse to do,
What is evil, seek to shun,
This we ask for everyone.

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## **Hindu Prayer for Peace**

O Lord God almighty,  
May there be peace in celestial regions.  
May there be peace on earth.  
May the waters be appeasing.  
May herbs be wholesome, and  
May trees and plants bring peace to all.  
May all beneficent beings bring peace to us.  
May your Vedic Law propagate peace all through the world.  
May all things be a source of peace to us.  
And may your peace itself bestow peace on all, and  
May that peace come to me also.

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A Reading for Muslim Girl Scouts

From the Qur'an

Abraham said to his father Azar, "Do you take idols for gods? I surely see you and your people in evident error."
And likewise he showed Abraham the power and the laws of the heavens and the earth that he may be of those who have certitude.
When the night covered him, he saw a star and said, "This is my Lord."
But when the moon set, he said, "Unless my Lord guides me, I will surely be among those who have gone astray."
When he saw the sun rising in splendor, he said, "This is my Lord; this is the greatest of all." But when the sun set, he said, "O my people! I am indeed free from your guilt of giving partners to Allah."
"For me, I have set my face, firmly and truly, towards the One who has created the heavens and the earth, and I will never ascribe partners to Allah."

Responsive Reading of the Girl Scout Law

(For Use at Christian Girl Scout Programs)

Ldr: The Girl Scout Law is a guiding light out millions of girls throughout the world today, but the principles of the Law have been brought to us from Ancient times.

Ldr: I will do my best to be honest and fair

Proverbs 16:8 and Micah 6:8

All: It is better to be poor and do what is right than to be wealthy and unfair. The Lord has told you what is good. He has told you what he wants from you: Do what is right to other people. Love being kind to others. And live humbly, trusting your God.

Ldr: Friendly and helpful

Proverbs 18:24 and Deuteronomy 15:11

All: Some friend may ruin you. But a real friend will be more loyal than a brother. There will always be poor people in the land. So I command you to give freely to your brothers. Give freely to the poor & needy in your land.

Ldr: Considerate and caring

Proverbs 16:24 and 16:15

All: Pleasant words are like a honeycomb. They make a person happy and healthy. A king's kindness can give people life. His kindness is like a spring shower.

Ldr: Courageous and strong

Psalms 3:3 and Romans 15:1

All: But, Lord, you are my shield. You are my wonderful God who gives me courage. We who are strong in faith should help those who are weak. We should help them with their weaknesses, and not please only ourselves.

Ldr: Responsible for what I say and do

Proverbs 10:31,32 and 11:3

All: A good person says wise things. But a liar's tongue will be stopped. Good people say the right thing. But the wicked tell lies. Good people will be guided by honesty. But dishonesty will destroy those who are not trustworthy.

Ldr: Respect myself and others

Psalms 24:4,5

All: Only those with clean hands and pure hearts. They must not have worshiped idols. They must not have made promises in the name of a false God. It is they who will receive a blessing from the Lord. The God who saves them will declare them right.

Ldr: Respect authority

Proverbs 28:7

All: The son who obeys what he has been taught shows he is smart. But the son who makes friends with those who have no self control disgraces his father.

Ldr: Use resources wisely

Proverbs 6:6

All: Go watch the ants, you lazy person. Watch what they do and be wise.

Ldr: Make the world a better place

Psalms 24:1

All: The earth and everything in it belong to the Lord. The world and all its people belong to him.

Ldr: Be a sister to every Girl Scout

Romans 12:9

All: Your love must be real. Hate what is evil. Hold onto what is good.

Revised by Sarah Winzer, Girl Scout Troop 518



Native American Prayer

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
ever 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 I have taught my people.
Let me Learn the lessons you have hidden in
every leaf and rock.

I seek Strength, not to be greater than
my brother,
But to fight my greatest enemy---myself.



A Buddhist Prayer

When someone is wronged he must put aside all resentment and say, My mind shall not be
disturbed;
no angry word shall escape my lips; I will remain kind and friendly, with loving thoughts and no
secret spite."



A Japanese Prayer

Oh, make my heart so still, so still,
When I am deep in prayer
That I might hear the
white-mist-wreaths
Losing themselves in air.

SCOUT LAW PRAYERS

A SCOUT LAW PRAYER – Version 1

Oh God, we pray that You will make us **Trustworthy**, for there are those who have placed their trust in us.

Make us **Loyal**, for through loyalty we reach our highest ideals.

Let us be **Helpful** and **Friendly**, for each of us needs help and friendship throughout life.

Train us in **Courtesy** - for courtesy is the carpet on life's floor.

Make us **Kind** - for the world is full of your creations and every living thing deserves our respect.

Remind us that success comes to those who first learn to **Obey**.

Make us cheerful, for **Cheerfulness** makes our journey through life a pleasant experience.

Train us to be **Thrifty** in our wants and generous in our charity.

Give us courage that we might **bravely** face life's challenges.

Help us to be **Clean** in thought, word, and deed.

Make us **Reverent** to You and respectful of the beliefs of all people.

Guide us in all these things and never let us forget the promise to which all Scouts are pledged.

Amen.

A SCOUT LAW PRAYER – Version 2

Dear Lord, bless all those everywhere who contribute
to shape the hearts, minds, and bodies of young people.

Let us remember what they have taught and apply it daily.

When facing deceit and dishonesty, 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**.

In short, in a world that has for generation after generation lamented the lack of good examples,
let us, as Scouts, stand out, grow up, and be real adults. --Amen