

A Scout is Reverent

A guide for Troop 14 Chaplain Aide



Purpose for the Chaplain Aide

- **Make the 12th point of the Scout Law (a Scout is Reverent) more meaningful in life.**
- **Promote a greater understanding of and appreciation for all religions.**

Qualifications

- **Be mature, sensitive and respectful of his fellow Scouts.**
- **Be at least a First Class Scout.**
- **It might be helpful if he has received or is working on the requirements leading to the age appropriate religious emblem for his faith.**

Responsibilities

- **Plan and lead a short worship service at troop overnight outings.**
- **Encourages troop members to strengthen their own relationships with God through personal prayer and devotion and participation in religious activities appropriate to their faith.**
- **Tell Scouts about the Religious Emblems program for their faith at least once a year.**
- **Help recognize troop members who receive their religious emblems.**
- **Make sure religious holidays are considered during troop program planning.**
- **Encourages saying grace at meals while camping or at other troop activities.**
- **Help promote annual Scout Sunday or Scout Sabbath.**
- **Set a good example by correctly wearing the Scout uniform.**
- **Live by the Scout Oath and Law.**
- **Show Scout spirit.**
- **Close each troop meeting with a short prayer or Chaplain Aide Minute.**

Diversity

A Scout is reverent toward God and respects the beliefs of others. There are many different ways to be close to God and we need to respect those ways. When leading prayer or worship and the beliefs of the group are mixed or unknown you should use interfaith or nonsectarian content. In other words, focus on God or a Supreme Being and avoid religion specific terms like Jesus, Allah or Yahweh. Everyone in our troop should feel comfortable during our

prayers or worship services. If the group is known to be of the same belief, then it is appropriate to use belief – specific prayer but you must be absolutely sure that everybody shares the same belief.

Troop Worship Service

A worship service to be used at our troop outings should consist of the following:

- An opening prayer.
- At least one song.
- A middle prayer or responsive reading where the audience participates.
- A message.
- A closing prayer.

Try to pick a theme for the service that fits with the specific outing or time of year. Some examples are God's Creation, Thanksgiving, The Great Outdoors, Doing Your Best or On the Trail of the Eagle. Try to match the prayers, songs and message to the theme. The message should contain something about God, how Scouting relates to God or simply something to inspire those in attendance.

Sample Worship Service

Opening Prayer: A Philmont Prayer

Almighty God of hill and plain,
O're which we hike in sun and rain,
On mountain top and valley low,
Protect us Lord where e'er we go.

And from our grateful hearts we'll raise,
Glad hymns of thankfulness and praise.

Song: If I Had a Hammer

If I had a hammer, I'd hammer in the morning
I'd hammer in the evening, all over this land
I'd hammer out danger, I'd hammer out a warning
I'd hammer out love between my brothers & sisters,
All over this land

If I had a bell, I'd ring it in the morning
I'd ring it in the evening, all over this land
I'd ring out danger, I'd ring out a warning
I'd ring out love between my brothers & sisters,
All over this land.

If I had a song, I'd sing it in the morning
I'd sing it in the evening, all over this land
I'd sing out danger, I'd sing out a warning
I'd sing out love between my brothers & sisters,
All over this land.

Well, I got a hammer & I got a bell
And I got a song to sing all over this land
It's the hammer of justice, it's the bell of freedom,
It's a song about love between my brothers & sisters,
All over this land.

Responsive Reading: A Scout Litany

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

Scouts: A Scout is trustworthy.

Leader: We owe much to many – to home, school, community, nation, and to God.

Scouts: A scout is loyal.

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

Scouts: A Scout is helpful.

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

Scouts: A Scout is courteous.

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

Scouts: A Scout is kind.

Leader: 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.

Scouts: A Scout is obedient.

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

Scouts: A Scout is cheerful.

Leader: The world offers many gifts. A wise person uses them with care.

Scouts: A Scout is thrifty.

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

Scouts: A Scout is brave.

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

Scouts: A Scout is clean.

Leader: 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 plane.

Scouts: A Scout is reverent.

All: Give us clean hands, clean words, and clean thoughts, O God. Teach us to work hard and to 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 to live after Thy will. Amen.

Message: Do your best.

Do more than belong... participate.

Do more than believe... practice.

Do more than be fair... be kind.

Do more than forgive... forget.

Do more than dream... work.

Do more than teach... inspire.

Do more than live... grow.

Do more than be friendly... be a friend.

Do more than give... serve.

Closing Prayer: A Scouting Benediction.

Dear God,

Thank you for the opportunity to be here in your garden. Give us the strength to endure, the wisdom to enjoy each moment, and the courage to push ourselves further than we ever have before. Bless our troop and our leaders as we journey through Boy Scouting.

Amen.

Sample Prayers

Sample Interfaith Prayers and Benedictions

- For health, strength, and daily food, we give you thanks, o Lord.

- For this and all your mercies, Lord, make us truly grateful.
- For food, health, and friendship, we give you thanks, o Lord.
- For food, for raiment, for life, for opportunity, for friendship and fellowship, we thank you, o Lord. (Philmont grace)
- Come, o Lord, be our guest and bless what you have bestowed on us.
- Gracious giver of all good, we thank you for food and rest. Grant all we say or do pleases you.
- Lord, bless our Scouting leaders who spend so much of their time and energy to help us grow up well. Guide them in their work, give them patience and wisdom, and reward them in this life and the next. Amen.
- As our campfire fades, we thank you for the joys and blessings of this day. We lift our minds and hearts to you in gratitude for life, happiness, and the Scouting movement. Lord, protect our camp this night. May we rise refreshed and ready to serve you. Amen.
- May the great Scoutmaster of all Scouts be with us until we meet again.

Blessings for Our Journeys and Our Resting

A Sixfold Blessing

God, make your home within us to strengthen us; be outside us to keep us as your own; be beneath us to uphold us, before us to guide us on our way, behind us to keep us from straying, around us to protect us and over us to bless us.

The Four Winds Blessing

O Great Spirit, bless us from the north with the cool winds that calm our passions. Bless us from the east with winds that bring and renew life. Bless us from the south with the warm, wet winds that invite growth. Bless us from the west with the winds that lead us through this life to the next life. Fill the sky that we might sense your presence. Bless us on our journeys here and lead us into your eternal presence.

The Aaronic Blessing

May God bless us and keep us. May God make his face shine on us and be gracious to us. May God look upon us with favor and grant us peace.

Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft on your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, Lord, for this day, for the morning sun and the evening star, for flowering trees and flowing streams, for life-giving rains and cooling breeze for the earth's patient turning, the changing of the seasons, the cycle of growth and decay, of life and death.

When our eyes behold the beauty and grandeur of our world, we see the wisdom, power and goodness of You, our Creator. We awake at dawn, and behold! It's a great day!

Amen!

Author unknown

Prayer for Our Nation

God of our forefathers, bless our country, the leaders of our nation, and all who exercise authority in our communities. Unite the residents of our land, whatever their creed or origin, into a bond of genuine friendship. Banish all bigotry and hatred among us.

Safeguard our ideals and the institutions of freedom. Grant that our nation, under your blessing, may serve as an instrument of justice, freedom, and peace in the world. Amen.

Sample Songs

God Bless America

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

Words and music: Irving Berlin (1938)

This Is My Father's World

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears,
All nature sings and 'round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, His hand the wonders wrought.
This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

Words: Maltbie Davenport Babcock (published 1901)

Music: adapted from a traditional English hymn by Franklin L. Sheppard

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the big round world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the wind and the rain in His hands,
He's got the sun and the moon in His hands.
He's got the wind and the rain in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got you and me, brother, in His hands,
He's got you and me, sister, in His hands,
He's got you and me, brother, in His hands.
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got everybody here in His hands,
He's got everybody here in His hands,
He's got everybody here in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

Traditional American spiritual

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!
O Lord, kum ba yah.
Come by here, my Lord, come by here!
Come by here, my Lord, come by here!
Come by here, my Lord, come by here!
O Lord, come by here.

[Additional stanzas: Someone's crying, praying, singing.]

African American spiritual (circa 1930)

Sample Messages

God Is Good . . . All the Time

They say, "Bad things happen to good people." Good things also happen to bad people. God is good all the time. He can take the bad and turn it into good. Some sacred writings relate the story of a boy named Joseph. He was a favorite of his parents. They gave him a coat of many colors. His brothers naturally were jealous. When he visited them in the field where they were watching the sheep, they planned to kill him. The older brother

intervened. Instead they threw him into a pit and then sold him as a slave to a traveling caravan on its way to Egypt. The brothers soaked Joseph's coat in lamb's blood and told the parents that a lion had killed him. God was with Joseph in Egypt, and Pharaoh put him in charge to store grain so they would have food when crops failed. When a famine came to the land of Joseph's family, the brothers traveled to Egypt for food. Joseph recognized them. They thought he would punish them, but Joseph forgave them because he believed in a forgiving God. He said, "You thought evil against me but God meant it unto good. Now you and our parents will not starve. Take some grain now and go bring our parents and your families to live with me. We will have plenty. God is good all the time."

Now let us pray:

Gracious God, when bad things happen in our life, like they did to Joseph, then in your mercy turn them around and bring good into our lives. We ask this, not because we deserve better, but because we trust in your mercy. Amen.

The Butterfly's Struggle

Remember a day when you wanted something to happen so badly, and it did not happen? Maybe you wanted a higher score in archery or a higher rank in swimming. It didn't happen. You wanted to be on the starting team back home. It didn't happen. Why didn't God make it happen for you? We do not always know the why. Sometimes God permits a dark cloud to overshadow our lives. If we are patient and trust God to shape our future, often what looks bad to us turns out to be good. There was a young gardener with a kind heart who watched a butterfly trying to break out of its cocoon. He wanted to do his good deed for the day. So he took a pair of scissors and clipped off the tip of the cocoon. The butterfly fell out without a struggle. Good? No, bad. The butterfly's body became swollen and its wings shriveled. It could not fly. It died. The gardener did not understand God's plan. Creating a struggle for the butterfly was God's way of forcing the fluid from the body into the wings so that they would be strong enough to fly. There is a passage in some sacred writings that reads, "When all sorts of trials and temptations crowd into your life, do not resent them as intruders but welcome them as friends." Does that not sound crazy? It goes on, "Realize that they come to produce in you the quality of endurance. Rather, let the process go on until you become a mature person with the right sort of independence, and if in the process anyone lacks wisdom, he has only to ask God who gives freely without making a person look foolish." Wow! It's like in the story of the butterfly's struggle. When there is a struggle in your life, talk to God. Also talk to a good friend or a caring adult. Even if there is not an answer immediately, it may become known later. Talking to someone can help lift your burden. Be patient. Trust God to guide you. He cares for the butterfly. He cares even more for you. You are His special creation.

Let us pray:

God, you know my struggle. Even as in the struggle of the butterfly's life, make me stronger through the struggle. Teach me patience and endurance and so make me a better human being. Lift me up on eagle wings to see the greater vision.
Amen.

Resources

There are many resources online for the Chaplain Aide, use them freely. But also, don't be afraid to come up with your own prayers and messages, it can bring you closer to God and might just teach you a little about yourself.

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/membership/pdf/522-037_web.pdf

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/membership/pdf/522-036_web.pdf

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Media/Relationships/ManualforChaplainsandAides.aspx>

http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Chaplain_Aide

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/ReligiousAwards.aspx>

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