

Scouts' Own Interfaith Worship Service

The Scout Law teaches, "A Scout is reverent. A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others." It is important that Scouts be taught to recognize the beliefs of other Scouts and to respect those beliefs. Scout outings and activities that span weekends should include an opportunity for members to meet their religious obligations. At times there might be Scouts of different faiths. If services for each faith group are not available, an interfaith worship service is recommended. However, some religions have specific requirements based on their own beliefs that would not be fulfilled through an interfaith service, and this also needs to be considered in conducting a weekend outing. When planning an interfaith service, it is recommended that scripture, prayers, hymns, and all other parts of the worship be considerate of everyone present—respectful of all religions.

Step 1 - The best way to begin is to pick a theme. This can be based on the activity program where service is to be performed, holidays, seasons or current events. Themes may also reflect scouting ideals such as leadership, cooperation and respect. Really any appropriate topic can be used.

MY THEME: _____ DATE: _____

Step 2 - Once a theme has been chosen, the search begins for material that supports the theme such as stories, poems, prayers and songs. Ceremonials may also be used in the service.

Step 3 - Now is the time to plan your "Scouts' Own Service." Complete the following information and present to your Patrol Leaders' Council for approval. Keep the following in mind:

- When selecting **Songs**, make sure they are scout-appropriate and **have a printed copy of the lyrics** for each scout to use. Choose songs that are widely known for best participation.
- The **Opening Prayer** and **Closing Prayer** should be in your own words. These should be printed out for you to use as reference.
- Begin each Prayer with the words: "A Scout is Reverent ..."
- The service should last no more than 30 minutes.
- Readings should not be too long or you will lose attention and the scouts will be less likely to grasp the message you want to share.
- Your **First Reading** does not necessarily have to be from the Bible, but can be an inspirational passage. Your **Scripture Reading** should be from the Old or New Testament.
- The "**Message**" should be **your** interpretation of the readings and how they apply to the theme you have chosen. It is recommended these comments be written out.

Opening Prayer (Call to Worship): _____

Opening Song (Optional): _____

First Reading: _____

Second Reading (Optional): _____

Scripture Reading: _____

Message: _____

Inspirational Song: _____

Closing Prayer (Benediction): _____