

# Scouting's Anniversary

## Scout Jumu'ah, Scout Shabbat, Scout Sunday

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) designates the weekend that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scouting Anniversary Weekend. This is the primary weekend to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting.

Muslims observe Scout Jumu'ah from Thursday at sundown until Friday at sundown. Jews observe Scout Shabbat from Friday at sundown until Saturday at sundown. Others observe Scout Sunday on Sunday.

Even so, each chartered organization can use either of two other options to celebrate this special weekend. An organization can adopt a specific date to celebrate. For example, the United Methodist Church celebrates Scout Sunday on the second Sunday in February. It is always permissible for a local faith organization to celebrate on the date most acceptable to the faith leader and faith group.

On these important days, which are timed to fall near the February 8 anniversary of the BSA, Scouts give back in visible and meaningful ways. In some units, that means simply wearing the full field uniform to worship services, where the worship leader presents religious emblems and awards to Scouts and Scouters respectively. In others, the pack, troop, team or crew conducts a service project that benefits the religious organization.

## How to Celebrate Scouting's Anniversary in your Unit

How can your unit participate?

Here are suggested services for an inter-religious celebration, an Islamic celebration, a Jewish celebration, and a Christian celebration. You can pick one of the Scouting anniversary celebrations, combine two or all three, or join with another unit or several other units to combine celebrations. You can do so at your chartered organization or more than one over the weekend.

# 1. Suggested Inter-Religious Celebration

## **OPENING CEREMONY**

Procession with American flag, state flag (if available) and unit flags.

## **OPENING REMARKS**

“On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty to God.” It is hard to describe duty to God for any one person. This duty is based on a person’s own religious teachings. Duty to God is different for people of different faiths; however, for all people, it means living according to the teachings of their religion.

Membership in the Boy Scouts of America explicitly requires recognition of a Supreme Being, belief in God and respect for other Scouts’ and Scouters’ belief in God is an expectation that has been repeatedly affirmed by the National Council of the BSA. Whether the sponsor of a Scouting unit is secular or religious, duty to God is a basic tenet of our movement. We express it each time we recite the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

We invite all Scouts and Scouters attending this inter-religious service to join in prayer in a way that we hope all will find comfortable. Let us express thanks for the many blessings that God has given to us and ask for the wisdom and skills to carry out and enhance the Scouting program. We hope that this observance will be a positive experience that will help you encourage appropriate religious observances within the world brotherhood of Scouting.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

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.

~ Lakota Blessing

**-OR-**

For this time and this place  
For your goodness and grace,  
For each friend we embrace,  
We thank thee, O Lord.

## WORSHIP MESSAGE

“In doing your duty to God, always be grateful to Him. And it is a good thing to bless other people. In doing your duty toward man, be helpful and generous, and always be grateful for any kindness done to you and be careful to show that you are grateful. Remember again that a present given to you is not yours until you have thanked the giver for it.

While you are living your life on this Earth, try to do something good which may remain after you. It is something to **BE** good, but it is far better to **DO** good.

First love and serve God; second, love and serve your neighbor.”

~ Lord Robert Baden Powell

## INVOCATION

Almighty Creator, 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 each leader as we journey together through the adventure of Scouting. Amen.

## 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 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.

~ From the Koran, Al-Furqan, part 19, chapter 25

### INSPIRATIONAL READINGS

The World, we are told, was made especially for humans – a presumption not supported by all the facts. Why should humanity value itself as more than a small part of the one great unit of creation? And what creature of all that the Lord has taken the pains to make is not essential to the completeness of that unit – the cosmos? The universe would be incomplete without humans; but it would also be incomplete without the smallest trans-microscopic creature that dwells beyond our conceitful eyes and knowledge. From the dust of the earth, from the common elementary fund, the Creator has made Homo Sapiens. From the same material God has made every other creature, however noxious and insignificant to us. They are earth-born companions and our fellow mortals.

~ John Muir, “The Father of the National Parks”

### “My Heart Soars”

The beauty of the trees,  
The softness of the air,  
The fragrance of the grass,  
Speaks to me.

The summit of the mountain,  
The thunder of the sky  
The rhythm of the sea  
Speaks to me.

The faintness of the stars,

The freshness of the morning,  
The dewdrop of the flower,  
Speaks to me.

The strength of the fire,  
The taste of salmon  
The trail of the sun,  
And the life that never goes away,  
They speak to me,

And my heart soars.

~ Chief Dan George, OC (Geswanouth Slahoot); actor,  
musician, poet, author – Tsleil-Waututh Nation,  
North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

### GROUP PRAYER/EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

*~ To be read together by entire group ~*

Bless us, O Great Spirit, as Scouts gathered together in this setting.  
Grant that no harm may spoil our brotherhood and sisterhood.  
Make us live together in wellness and good fellowship, ever mindful of  
Your example and of our Scout Oath and Law.  
We thank You for old friends and for new friendships.  
We give thanks for the days of our gathering, and we pray that we  
safely return to our homes, with thanks for Your beautiful creation and  
the joy of life.

“Out of His fullness, we have all received grace in place of grace already  
given.”

~John 1:16 – (NIV)

### **~Expressions of Gratitude ~**

*Please take this moment to share any expression of gratitude you  
may have.*

## SONG OF PRAISE

### **Michael, Row the Boat Ashore**

Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah  
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah  
Sister help to trim the sail, Hallelujah  
Sister help to trim the sail, Hallelujah

The river is deep and the river is wide, Hallelujah  
Green pastures on the other side, Hallelujah  
(Milk and honey on the other side, Hallelujah)

Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah  
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah  
Sister help to trim the sail, Hallelujah  
Sister help to trim the sail, Hallelujah

Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah  
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah!

Michael's boat is a music boat, Hallelujah  
Michael's boat is a music boat, Hallelujah  
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah  
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah

The trumpets sound the jubilee, Hallelujah  
The trumpets sound for you and me, Hallelujah

*~ Traditional African-American spiritual - "Michael, Row the Boat" is an old American folk song that hails from the slave era. It was sung through the years and, most notably, became a popular anthem during the Civil Rights movement in the United States. Its existence was first noted in the early 1860s and was first published in 1867 in [Slave Songs of the United States](#), although the song itself is probably much older. The song was passed down orally long before it was ever recorded or written down. Because of this, there are many versions in circulation. Essentially, all variations of the lyrics describe finding God and one's family on the other side of the river in the Promised Land.*

## PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY (In Unison)

Our God and God of our ancestors, we ask your blessings for our country – for its government, for its leaders and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights from your words, that they may administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom, may forever abide in our midst

Creator of all flesh, bless the inhabitants of our country with your spirit. May people of all races and creeds forge a common bond in true harmony, to banish hatred and bigotry, and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions which are the pride and glory of our country.

May this land under your providence be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom – helping them to fulfill the vision of your prophet: “Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they experience war any more.”

And let us say, Amen. (*Siddur Sim Shalom*)

## 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.

## PRAYER/SILENT REFLECTION

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 Bratislava (1772-1811)

We need to find God, and He cannot be found in the noise of restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature – trees, flowers, grass- grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence. We need silence to be able to touch souls.

~ Mother Theresa

*~ Please take a moment of silence for personal reflection/prayer  
in the manner according to your faith ~*

## RESPONSIVE READING

**RESPONSE:** Blessed are the Scouts.

**Leader:** Blessed are the Scouts who are taught to see beauty in all things around them, for their world will be a place of grace and wonder.

**ALL:** Blessed are the Scouts.

**Leader:** Blessed are the Scouts who are led with patience and understanding, for they will learn the strength of endurance and the gift of tolerance.

**ALL:** Blessed are the Scouts.

**Leader:** Blessed are the Scouts who have a home where family members live together in love, for they shall become the peacemakers of the world.

**ALL:** Blessed are the Scouts.

**Leader:** Blessed are the Scouts who are taught the value and power of truth, for they shall use what they learn to help others.

**ALL:** Blessed are the Scouts.

**Leader:** Blessed are the Scouts who are guided by those with faith in a loving God, for they will find God early and will walk with God through life.

**ALL:** Blessed are the Scouts.

**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.

### INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

#### ***“The Crayon Box” by Shane DeRolf***

While walking into a toy store the day before today  
I overheard a crayon box with many things to say.

“I don’t like Red!” said Yellow.

And Green said, “Nor do I.

And no one here likes Orange, but no one knows just why.”

“We are a box of crayons that do not get along,”

Said Blue to all the others, “and something here is wrong.”

Well, I bought that box of crayons and took it home with me  
And laid out all the colors so the crayons all could see...

They watched me as I colored with Red and Blue and Green

And Black and White and Orange and every color in between.

They watched as Green became the grass

And Blue became the sky,

The Yellow sun was shining bright

As White clouds drifted by.

Colors changing as they touched

Becoming something new.

They watched me as I colored,

They watched ‘til I was through.

And when I finally finished, I began to walk away,

And as I did, the crayon box had something more to say.

“I do like Red!” said Yellow.

And Green said, "So do I!

And Blue, you were terrific so high up in the sky!"

We are a box of crayons, each one of us unique,

But when we get together, the picture is COMPLETE.

We can learn a lot from crayons; some are new, some lovingly used, some are sharpened, some are broken, some are bright, some have strange names – all different colors, all fitting perfectly together in the same crayon box.

### RECOGNITION

Call all Scouts and Scouters who have received a religious emblem or other religious recognition during the past year to the front. Recognize each person for his or her accomplishment.

### RECITATION OF THE SCOUT OATH AND SCOUT LAW

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

### OFFERING (if appropriate)

If no local appeal is considered appropriate, consider the World Friendship Fund, which was developed during the closing days of World War II. At that time, there was a great need to rebuild Scouting in those nations that had been wracked by war and were just emerging from the shadows of totalitarianism.

Over the years, this fund has provided Scouts from around the world with Scouting literature, uniforms, summer camp equipment, computers, and other Scouting-related supplies.

## ACT OF FRIENDSHIP/PEACE:

Lord, make me a channel of Your peace.  
That where there is hatred, I may bring love.  
That where there is wrong, I may bring forgiveness.  
That where there is discord, I may bring harmony.  
That where there is error, I may bring truth.  
That where there is doubt, I may bring faith.  
That where there is despair, I may bring hope.  
That where there are shadows, I may bring light.  
That where there is sadness, I may bring joy.  
Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted,  
to understand rather than to be understood.  
To love, than to be loved.  
Help us to learn that it is by self-forgetting that we find;  
It is by forgiving that we are forgiven;  
It is by dying that we awaken to Eternal Life.  
Amen.

~ St. Francis

Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter; whoever finds one finds a treasure.  
Faithful friends are beyond price, no amount can balance their worth. Faithful  
friends are life-saving medicine; those who fear God will find them. Those  
who fear the Lord enjoy stable friendship, for as they are, so will their  
neighbors be.

~ Ecclesiastes 6:14-17

*~ Take a moment to turn to those around and offer a sign of  
friendship and peace ~*

HYMN/SONG OF PRAISE:

**Let There Be Peace On Earth**

Let there be peace on Earth  
And let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on Earth  
The peace that was meant to be

With God as our Father,  
Brothers all are we  
Let me walk with my brother  
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me  
Let this be the moment now;  
With every step I take  
Let this be my solemn vow –  
To take each moment, and live each moment  
In peace eternally  
Let there be peace on Earth  
And let it begin with ME!

CLOSING PRAYER:

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

**-OR-**

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.

## BENEDICTIONS:

And now in your journey, may the trail rise up to meet your stride,

May the sun shine softly on your backpack,  
May the cool, clean waters carry your canoe safely to your next portage,  
May the wind bring warm blessings to your encampment,  
May your Scouts find in you a fine example of the adult they hope to be.  
Peace be with you this day and forevermore. Amen.

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 forever 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

## SCOUTMASTER'S BENEDICTION

And now may the Great Master of all scouts be with us until we meet again.

## 2. Suggested Islamic Celebration

### Resources to Use when Planning a Scout Jumu'ah Celebration

#### Suggested Scout Jumu'ah program

- Provide a recognition by the Chartered Organization Representative after each Salaat.
- Give a Khutbah discussing the importance of Scouting to Muslim youth.
- Make a presentation of Religious Emblems and Patches.
- Perform a service project such as cleaning up trash around the Masjid or the chartered organization.
- Wear your full uniform.
- Create a Scout display such as a model campsite or photos about the program.

### Scout Jumu'ah Observance by the International Union of Muslim Scouts

~ [North America Chair, Mr. Badr Zahzouhi](#)

This is a suggested format for your unit's Scout Jumu'ah observance:

#### Opening Prayer:

All thanks and praise is due to Allah. We seek His help and forgiveness, and we seek refuge in Allah from the evil within ourselves and the consequences of our evil deeds. Whoever Allah guides will never be led astray, and whoever Allah leads astray will never find guidance. I bear witness there is no God but Allah, alone without any partners, and I bear witness that Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) is His servant and His Messenger.

Allah Almighty said, "O you who have faith, fear Allah as it is His right to be feared and do not die except as Muslims" (3:102)

And Allah Almighty said, "O people, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. Fear Allah, through whom you ask one another and maintain family ties. Verily, Allah is ever watching over you." (4:1)

And Allah Almighty said, “O you who have faith, fear Allah and speak upright words. He will correct your deeds and forgive your sins. Whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger has won a tremendous victory.” (33:70-71)

Verily, the most truthful speech is the Book of Allah, the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), and the worst of affairs are newly invented matters. Every newly invented matter is a religious innovation, and every religious innovation is misguidance, and every misguidance is in the Hellfire.

We are gathered here today as brothers and sisters in Scouting as the as Children of Abraham and as brothers and sisters in Humanity.

Allah in Arabic is a very special word, that can't be Feminine nor plural.

It clearly does not have any children nor was created by somebody else,

All Muslim believers are brothers and sisters, and Allah advises the principle of Brotherhood,

[Humanity and cooperation.](#)

According to Prophet Mohamed, May peace be upon him, the believers must show mercy for one and another as well as sympathy and kindness to one and another just like in the human body

If one organ fails it has a repercussion on the whole human body.

O Muslims: Islam wants brotherly relations to remain strong, because the deepening of such relations between people makes the society strong and cohesive.

Humanity thrives in the desire of happiness, when everyone is safe and secure, but if the society is dominated by antagonism, discord and conflict, it becomes weak and fragile, it is hardly a solved Case each one of us is asked to control his passion and desires and if we do not the society fails miserably, and the words of God in believing in it is a good proof.

Islam is a religion that carries the message of Peace, mercy and forgiveness, connecting people and allowing equal rights for all.

This sermon in English will be based on the Scout Laws and the Holy book of the Koran.

### **The Scout Law and the Koran:**

#### **A Scout is Trustworthy**

O ye who believe! Fear Allah and be with the truthful.

Surat Attuba (Repentance) 9:119

“Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due and when you judge between people to judge with justice. Excellent is that which Allah instructs you. Indeed, Allah is ever Hearing and Seeing.” (Qur’an 4:58)

Surat Annissaa Qur’an 4:58)

#### **A Scout is Loyal**

Abu Musa reported Allah's Messenger (Peace be upon him) as saying: A believer is like a brick for another believer, the one supporting the other. (Hadith Saheeh Muslim #6257)

#### **A Scout is Helpful**

As to those who believe and work righteousness, Allah will pay them (in full) their reward; but Allah loveth not those who do wrong. (Surat Al Imran, Qur’an 3:57)

On those who believe and work deeds of righteousness, will (Allah) Most Gracious bestow love. (Surat Mariam, Ch 19. Qur’an 19:96)

### A Scout is Friendly

And make between yourselves affection and mercy.

Surat (21 Rum 30:21)

And when you are greeted with a greeting, greet [in return] with one better than it or [at least] return it [in a like manner]. Indeed, Allah is ever, over all things, an Accountant. (Surat Annisaa, Qur'an 4:86)

### A Scout is Courteous

And if you [must] turn away from the needy awaiting mercy from your Lord which you expect, then speak to them a gentle word. (Surat Al Isra, Qur'an 17:20)

### A Scout is Kind

Kind words and forgiveness are better than charity followed by injury. (Surat Al Bakara, Qur'an 2:263)

And We have enjoined upon man goodness to parents. But if they endeavor to make you associate with Me that of which you have no knowledge, do not obey them. To Me is your return, and I will inform you about what you used to do. (Qur'an 29:8)

A good word is an act of kindness. (Bukhari)

### A Scout is Obedient

O ye who believe! Obey Allah and obey the messenger and those who command you. (Surat Anissaa : 4:59)

And cause not corruption upon the earth after its reformation. And invoke Him in fear and aspiration. Indeed, the mercy of Allah is near to the doers of good. (Surat Al Aaraf ,Qur'an 7:56)

And your Lord has decreed that you not worship except Him, and to parents, good treatment. Whether one or both of them reach old age [while] with you, say not to them [so much as], "uff," and do not repel them but speak to them a noble word. (Surat Al Israa, Qur'an 17:23)

### A Scout is Cheerful

Abu Dharr reported: Allah's Apostle (Peace be upon him) said to me: Don't consider anything insignificant out of good things even if it is that you meet your brother with a cheerful countenance. (Hadith Saheeh Muslim #6359)

The good word is an act of kindness. (Hadith Bukhari)

### A Scout is Thrifty

O children of Adam, take your adornment at every masjid, and eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess. (Surat Al Araf , Qur'an 4:141)

And [they are] those who, when they spend, do so not excessively or sparingly but are ever, between that, [justly] moderate. (Surat Al Furqan Qur'an 25:67)

### A Scout is Brave

And those who are patient, seeking the countenance of their Lord, and establish prayer and spend from what We have provided for them secretly and publicly and prevent evil with good - those will have the good consequence of [this] home. (Surat Araad Qur'an 13:22)

### A Scout is Clean

O you who have believed, when you rise to [perform] prayer, wash your faces and your forearms to the elbows and wipe over your heads and wash your feet to the ankles. And if you are in a state of janabah, then purify yourselves. (Surat Almaidah, Qur'an 5:6)

And who is better in speech than one who invites to Allah and does righteousness and says, "Indeed, I am of the Muslims." (Surat : Fucilat 41- 33)

### A Scout is Reverent

"Say, I commanded that I worship God, and be faithful to him. I ordered to be the first Muslim." (Surat Azzumar 12)

### 3. Suggested Jewish Celebration

#### Resources to Use when Planning a Scout Shabbat Celebration

##### Friday night service:

Use excerpts from *Time to Pray* – the Friday night prayer book available through the NJCOS website, [www.Jewishscouting.org](http://www.Jewishscouting.org), in the Scout Store or use your regular Friday night prayer book.

- Have Scouts lead the service.
- Have a Scout or the rabbi give a D'var Torah demonstrating that Judaism and Scouting have the same values.
- Presentation of Religious Emblems and Patches or recognize the Scouts present and those who have earned religious emblems
- Create (in advance) a Scout display such as a model campsite or photos about the program.
- Wear your full uniform.

##### Saturday morning service:

- Use your regular Shabbat morning prayer book.
- Have Scouts lead all or part of the service.
- Have a Scout or the rabbi give a sermon demonstrating that Judaism and Scouting have the same values.
- Recognize the Scouts present and those who have earned religious emblems
- Wear your full uniform.
- Create (in advance) a Scout display such as a model campsite or photos about the program.

## Scout Shabbat Observance

The observance can be held on a Friday night or a Saturday morning. The service itself will be the regular service held at a synagogue, temple or Chabad House with these modifications:

- Scouts should be encouraged to conduct those parts of the service that they are familiar with.
- The “sermon” will be a short discussion of Scouting and its benefits.
- A recitation of the Scout Oath and Scout Law with Jewish citations will be added. This will be most effective if it is done responsively between the service leader and the Scouts standing in front of the congregation.
- A presentation of religious emblems earned during the year or a recognition of them will be made.
- In large communities there can be more than one Scout Shabbat observance at different religious institutions.

### Planning:

- Contact the spiritual leader of a synagogue, temple or Chabad House in your community immediately after Sukkot to propose a Scout Shabbat observance at the house of worship. It does not have to be on the BSA date if scheduling is an issue. Most spiritual leaders will be willing to host a Scout Shabbat even if you can't get them to start a new unit.
- Recruiting:
  - You may want to invite the Girl Scouts to participate in the service. If there are Jewish units in the council, they can be recruited to participate. It may be possible to establish a rotating schedule of units to take charge of the service.
- Publicity:
  - Use the synagogue bulletin to advertise the event.
  - Use Roundtables or other council resources to reach out to all Scouts.
- Set-up:
  - Bring Scout flags to put up if the synagogue has an American flag and an Israeli flag.

- If the synagogue normally has an *oneg* or reception following the service, help prepare it. If there can be cookies, can they reflect a Scout theme?

## Scout Shabbat Observance Suggested Formats

### **Suggested Scout Shabbat Friday Night Service (outline):**

Procession with American flag, Israeli flag and unit flag (or place them before the service)

Shalom Aleichem

Welcoming Reading

Kabbalat Shabbat (Choose from Psalms 96, 97, 98, 29, 92)

L'kha Dodi

Call to Worship (Barchu)

Blessings before Shema

K'riat Shema

Blessings following Shema

Hatzi Kaddish

Amidah

Scouting Talk

Recognition of Religious Emblem Recipients

Kaddish Shalem

Kiddush

Alenu

Mourner's Kaddish

Adon Olam

**Suggested Scout Shabbat Saturday Service (outline):**

Procession with American flag, Israeli flag and unit flag (or place them before the service)

Preliminary Service

Shacharit

Torah Service

Scouting Talk

Recognition of Religious Emblem Recipients

Musaf

Concluding Prayers

**Havdalah Service:** (Go to [www.JewishScouting.org](http://www.JewishScouting.org) – Jewish Activities, Shabbat/Havdalah)

Begin with procession with American flag, Israeli flag and unit flag (or place them before the service)

## Recognizing Jewish Values in Scouting

### The Scout Law and Judaism



A Scout is Trustworthy.

*“He who deals deceitfully shall not live in My house; he who speaks untruth shall not stand before My eyes.” (Psalms 101:7)*

A Scout is Loyal.

*“But Ruth replied: “Do not urge me to leave you, to turn back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge. (Ruth 1:16)*

A Scout is Helpful.

*“Love your fellow as yourself.” (Leviticus XIX:18)*

A Scout is Friendly.

*“Can two walk together unless they agree?” (Amos III:3)*

A Scout is Courteous.

*“Honor your father and your mother.” (Exodus XX:12)*

A Scout is Kind.

*“Do not withhold good from one who deserves it, when you have the power to do it.” (Proverbs III:27)*

A Scout is Obedient.

*“Apply your mind to discipline and your ears to wise sayings.”  
(Proverbs XXIII:12)*

A Scout is Cheerful.

*“A joyful heart makes for good health.” (Proverbs XVII: 22)*

A Scout is Thrifty.

*“Precious treasure and oil are in the house of the wise man, and a fool of a man will run through them.” (Proverbs XXI: 20)*

A Scout is Brave.

*“Be strong and of good courage.” (I Chronicles XXVIII:20)*

A Scout is Clean.

*“Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? – He who has clean hands and a pure heart.” (Psalms XXIV: 3-4)*

A Scout is Reverent.

*“He has told you O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk modestly with your God.” (Michah VI: 8)*

## 4. Suggested Christian Celebration

### Resources to Use when Planning a Scout Sunday Celebration

#### General Suggestions:

- Wear your full uniform.
- Create a Scout display such as a model campsite or photos about the program.

#### Suggested Scout Sunday Service of Worship (outline)

- Call to Worship
- Processional with US flag, Christian flag and unit flag
- Invocation prepared and delivered by a Scout
- Responsive Reading
  - The Scout Law
  - On My Honor
  - Hear Our Prayer
  
- Presentation of Religious Emblems (and embroidered patches if used)
- Pastoral Prayer
- Offertory Prayer
- Scripture Reading
- Prayer of Dedication or Offertory
- Meditations
- Benedictions
- Closing Hymn

## Scout Sunday Observance

This is a suggested format for your unit's Scout Sunday observance:

Suggested Scout Sunday Service of Worship (outline):

- Call to Worship
- Responsive Reading
  - The Scout Law
  - On My Honor
  - Hear Our Prayer
- Pastoral Prayer
- Offertory Prayer
- Scripture Reading
- Prayer of Dedication or Offertory
- Meditations
- Recognition of Scout Religious Emblem Earners
- Benedictions
- Closing Hymn

[This is a prayer recommended for Eastern Orthodox churches on Scout Sunday:](#)

FOR THE BESTOWING OF SCOUTING AWARDS

PRIEST: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Chant the Apolytikion of:

The Exaltation of the Cross (Chi Rho)

Saint George (Medal of Saint George)

Pentecost (Alpha Omega)

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Again, we pray for all devout and Orthodox Christians.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Again we pray for our Archbishop (N.), and all our brotherhood in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Again we pray for our country, the President, our armed forces, and all who are in civic authority.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, safekeeping, protection, pardon and remission of sins of the servant (handmaid) of God \_\_\_\_\_ as he (she) completes his (her) study and is awarded the (St. George, Chi Rho, Alpha Omega) Award medal.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: For You are a merciful and loving God, and to You we offer glory: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord have mercy.

PRIEST: Christ our God, we seek your blessing this day upon your servant (handmaid) \_\_\_\_\_ who has completed the requirements of the Eastern Orthodox Commission on Scouting and is found worthy to wear the \_\_\_\_\_ Medal. Becoming more aware of God's presence in his (her) daily life, especially through things done both in the Church and in the home, the emblem he (she) will wear symbolizes the name of Christ. Furthermore, it bears witness that \_\_\_\_\_, a distinguished member of the Boy Scouts of America (Girl Scouts of the USA), is a faithful Orthodox Christian steward.

In presenting this award, we offer our prayers for \_\_\_\_\_ through the intercessions of our matron, Saint Anna, and Saint \_\_\_\_\_ who is commemorated today.

For to you is due all glory, honor and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Worthy! (after pinning the medal on the uniform)

PEOPLE: Worthy!

PRIEST: Through the prayers of our holy Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

PEOPLE: Amen.

**Other suggestions:**

**Processional with U.S. flag, unit flag(s), and Christian flag.**

**Call to worship**

(Cub Scout, Scout BSA, Venturer or Sea Scout)

**Invocation Opening hymn Prayer**

(Composed and delivered by a Cub Scout, Scout BSA, Venturer, Explorer or Sea Scout)

**Hymn Responsive reading Offering**

(Suggest that money collected be used to support the local council camp chaplaincy program.)

**Offertory prayers**

(Cub Scout, Scout BSA, Venturer, Explorer or Sea Scout)

**Hymn Scripture**

(Cub Scout, Scout BSA, Venturer, Explorer or Sea Scout)

**Meditation Lord's Prayer Hymn God and Country program**

(Give a brief explanation; pass out fliers, cards, and envelopes for the pastor. Present awards to youth who have earned them.)

**Benediction**

(Cub Scout, Scout BSA, Venturer, Explorer or Sea Scout)

## Details:

### Call to Worship

(Opening sentences)

1. Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 106:1)
2. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. (Psalm 145:18)
3. But they who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)
4. God calls us together to worship this morning. From our work and play within the world, God gathers us to give thanks for creation's goodness, for the strength to labor, for the wisdom to relax.

From amidst our friends and family, God brings us here to participate in a community of faith, Christ's people, a new family. From everyday conversations, talks, and chatter, God invites us to engage one another in dialogue, to speak in truth from the depths of heart and mind, to pray freely. Let us heed God's call and rejoice in what God enables. Let us pray together.

### The Scout Law

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

- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)

**Scouts:** A Scout is trustworthy.

**Leader:**

- He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. (Luke 16:10)

**Scouts:** A Scout is loyal.

**Leader:**

- You shall not take vengeance or bear any grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. ... (Leviticus 19:18)
- For the poor will never cease out of the land; therefore, I command you, You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to thy needy and to the poor, in the land. (Deuteronomy 15:11)

**Scouts:** A Scout is helpful.

**Leader:**

- Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. (Romans 12:10)
- Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! (Psalm 133)

**Scouts:** A Scout is friendly.

**Leader:**

- Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear. (Ephesians 4:29)

**Scouts:** A Scout is courteous.

**Leader:**

- A righteous man has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel. (Proverbs 12:10)

**Scouts:** A Scout is kind.

**Leader:**

- Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor thy first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth. (Ephesians 6:1-3)

**Scouts:** A Scout is obedient.

**Leader:**

- A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken. The mind of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly. All the days of the afflicted are evil, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast. (Proverbs 15:13-15)

**Scouts:** A Scout is cheerful.

**Leader:**

- Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer or ruler, she prepares her food in summer, and gathers her sustenance in harvest. (Proverbs 6:6-8)

**Scouts:** A Scout is thrifty.

**Leader:**

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear or be in dread of them: for it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

**Scouts:** A Scout is brave.

**Leader:**

- Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of his salvation. (Psalm 24:3-5)

**Scouts:** A Scout is clean.

**Leader:**

- And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. (Mark 12:30)

**Scouts:** A Scout is reverent,

A Scout is reverent toward God. A Scout is faithful in his or her religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion.

## On My Honor

**Leader:** All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. (Psalm 25:10)

**Scouts:** On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country.

**Leader:**

- Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord the people whom he has chosen as his heritage. (Psalm 33:12)
- My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare will they give you. (Proverbs 3:1-2)

**Scouts:** On my honor I will do my best to obey the Scout Law—and the Law is this: A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

**Leader:**

- And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37-39)
- Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

**Scouts:** On my honor I will do my best to help other people at other times.

**Leader:**

- Remember also the Golden Text: And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. (Luke 6:31)
- Do you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are. (I Corinthians 3:16-17)

**Scouts:** On my honor, I will do my best to keep myself mentally awake.

**Leader:**

- Wisdom is the principal thing: Do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Get wisdom; get insight. (Proverbs 4:5)
- How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to thy word. (Psalm 119:9)

**Scouts:** On my honor, I will do my best to keep myself morally straight.

**Leader:** Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55:7)

[Hear Our Prayer](#)

**Leader:** Let us pray for Scouts, for Scouters, and for all people. Lord, in your mercy,

**Scouts:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Because we have failed in the trust others placed in us, we pray for forgiveness and for renewal to be trustworthy. Lord, in your mercy,

**Scouts:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** For strength to be loyal to our calling in baptism as His disciples in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**Scouts:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** For forgiveness when we saw the need to help and passed that need by, when we failed to ask if we could be helpful to a friend or a stranger. Lord, in your mercy,

**Scouts:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** For the spirit to be friendly to all people and even to those who are unfriendly to us. Lord, in your mercy,

**Scouts:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** For the gift of courtesy to all people but especially to the elderly, the disabled, and little children. Lord in your mercy,

**Scouts:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** For a heart that rejoices in being kind to people, to animals, and to earth on which we live. Lord, in your mercy,

**Scouts:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** For the will to discipline ourselves to be obedient to the will of our God, and not to our selfish desires. Lord, in your mercy,

**Scouts:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** For a cheerful spirit to see us through disappointing events in our lives, for a faith that believes God will bring some good even from events that cause us pain and sadness. Lord, in your mercy,

**Scouts:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** For an appreciation that all that we have is the gift of our gracious God, for a mind and a heart that will be thrifty in managing the resources God has entrusted to our care. Lord, in your mercy,

**Scouts:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** For the courage not to be afraid of doing what is right and to be brave in working for justice. Lord, in your mercy,

**Scouts:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** For the will to work to keep clean our minds, our hearts, and our land. Lord, in your mercy,

**Scouts:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** For the gift of reverence for God who values all that He has created; for reverence for people, for animal life, for the earth and all its resources—all precious in God's sight. Lord, in your mercy,

**Scouts:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all the people and all the needs we bring before you in our prayers, trusting in your mercy, through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Scouts:** Amen.

### Pastoral Prayer

Almighty God, creator of us all; grant us the patience to wait and listen to your voice. Help us not to seek the answers in the silence of prayer, but rather let your thoughts, God, travel to us and through us as we dare to ascend your mountain of law, your holy hill of truth. O God, how thankful we are that you have come into our lives through the Holy Spirit. You know, Lord, that we're not perfect, that we want to improve. Show us where we can. We pray today for God's children—all the children of the world. May they find peace and love in their families and schools and learn the love of Jesus Christ for each and every one of them through our lives as we interact with them on a daily basis. We also pray for our young people, who

are seeking a cause which is worthy of their life's commitment and a leader who is deserving of their devotion. We know that our youth must deal with a host of options. So, we pray that they may choose Jesus Christ. We pray you will be with our Scouts as they continue to follow the Scout law and work toward being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

### Offertory Prayer

1. Bless us O God, and these gifts which we bring. Use them to further the Scouting ministry. Amen.
2. May these gifts which we bring be merely an extension of our daily duty to you, O God. Amen.
3. May the gifts that we now offer up to God be a sign of our trust in God's promise of a new tomorrow, a better day, a sign that love and forgiveness have indeed found a way.

### Scripture Reading

1. The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) The Salt of the Earth. The Light of the World. (Matthew 5:13-16)
2. Parable of the Sower. (Matthew 13:1-9)
3. The Good Samaritan. (Luke 10:25-37)
4. The True Glory of Jesus. (Mark 9:2-9)
5. Moab Rebels Against Israel. (II Kings 2:1-12a)

### Prayer of Dedication or Offertory

Your importance in our lives, O God, is reflected in our gifts. We return to you, through the ministry and outreach of this church, a portion of all that you have entrusted to us. We promise that these offerings will not be the end of our giving. We will also invest our time and abilities in your work of healing, comforting, teaching, guiding, and proclaiming good news. Bless each gift, whatever its size, and multiply the good to be done through our talents and treasure. Amen.

## Benedictions

1. Now to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of His glory with rejoicing to the only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time, now and forever. Amen.
2. Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways.
3. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.
4. May the Great Scoutmaster of all Scouts be with you until we meet again. Amen.
5. May the Lord bless you and take care of you; may the Lord be kind and gracious to you; may the Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

## Suggested Worship Aids for Scout Sunday Service

### Hymns:

- "For the Beauty of the Earth"
- "Lift Every Voice and Sing"
- "God Bless Our Native Land"
- "God, Who Touchest Earth with Beauty"
- "Am I a Soldier of the Cross?"
- "Standing On the Promises"
- "All Glory, Laud and Honor"
- "All Creatures of Our God and King"
- "All Beautiful the March of Days"
- "All Things Bright and Beautiful"
- "In the Stars His Handiwork I See"
- "Shepherd of Eager Youth"
- "I'll Be a Sunbeam"
- "Praise Him, All Ye Little Children"
- "Jesus Loves Me"
- "Father, Let Me Dedicate"
- "Make Me a Blessing"
- "Arise All Youth of God"

## Scouter Prayer

Dear Lord, from your judgment seat on high. Look down on a Scoutmaster such as I. Search me through and find me whole. Then help me, Lord, to reach my goal. Help me, Lord, to work for Thee, guard my homeland—keep it free. Help me to work with others and be kind, Helpful with my hands and mind. Keep me, Lord, both well and strong, to help growing youth along. Control my thoughts, keep them right, Sound, clean weapons for life's fight. Protect my morals, keep them high, Grant this to a Scouter such as I.

—Author Unknown

## Program Covers

Check with your local council Scout shop or [visit www.ScoutShop.org](http://www.ScoutShop.org) and type in **“Scout Sunday” for Scout Sunday supplies.**

## Bringing Youth to Christ Through a Scouting Ministry

*Adapt for your congregation's newsletter or bulletin.* The Scouting program at (name of congregation) is more than just an activity for our youth to learn about the outdoors. Scouting provides fun, fellowship, and training to our youth as well as youth in our community. It emphasizes honesty, self-reliance, and respect. Through a year-round program, it affects character, citizenship, and personal fitness. But the success of our Scouting depends on our volunteers, who serve in a variety of leadership roles so that our young people may benefit from our Scouting ministry. As the Boy Scouts of America celebrates its anniversary, we salute the splendid volunteers who serve as Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, and Exploring, Venturing and Sea Scout Advisors, and in other positions of leadership.

*I think the Gospel is a very powerful, yet a very simple message. It is a message of love, respect, and responsibility. Scouting is all of that.* —Pastor Peter Paine, Waukegan, Illinois

*(The God and Country program) really made me think about my relationship with God and made me evaluate it.* —Scout Robert Lalley, Princeton, New Jersey

*When you look at the Scout Law and the principles which Scouting teaches young people, all those things are basically biblical principles. —Pastor Robert Cushman, Princeton, New Jersey*

*I've seen him study the Bible more in preparation to do devotions, that all the [youth] participate in . ... —Elinor Dalene, Parent, Wyckoff, New Jersey*

*It is our troop, we can really build it the way we want, we can determine those factors that are important to us to build into the program, just as God would have us to do. —Pastor Don James, Wyckoff, New Jersey*

Many volunteers give their time so Scouting's members will be involved in a quality program. Merit badge counselors help Scouts learn more about vocations and hobbies. Volunteers see that the Scout camps of the (name) Council have the necessary physical facilities and that all camp activities meet the high health and safety standards of the national organization. Volunteers serve behind the scenes on committees so that community organizations using the Scouting program can find the best leadership possible for the youth related to their organizations. Volunteers, too, provide training for these leaders and offer a continuing service to every Cub Scout pack, Scouts BSA troop, Venturing crew, Explorer post and Sea Scout ship. Many men and women offer their services to Scouting, but more volunteers are always needed to serve as leaders or share their special skills with young people and other adults. All these people experience a special sense of achievement through their work in Scouting. We congratulate all the volunteers who are active in Scouting throughout (insert name of community) and want to offer a special prayer and word of the thanks to the leaders of (insert Pack, Troop, or Crew number) chartered to (name of congregation).

### [A Psalm for Scouts and Scouters](#)

The Lord God is our Great Scoutmaster who provides all our needs.

He lets us camp in forests tall and meadows green.

He leads us on trails besides waters deep and still, brooks babbling, streams rushing, and rivers raging.

He restores our bodies, minds and souls, even as we observe the eagle soaring to greater heights above.

He encourages the Eagle Scout in his upward climb.

He teaches Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers, Explorers and Sea Scouts to live the Scout Oath and Law.

Even though the trails may lead through dark valleys with towering mountains, we are courageous because he leads us onward.

He continually blesses us with food for mind and body.

Even when our enemies dislike or distrust us, he blesses us with the gifts of love and forgiveness.

Surely, his goodness and mercy will sustain us all the days of our lives.

And, when we climb the final trail through the awesome pass that leads to the Great Councilfire, we shall join those who traveled the trail before us and joyfully live with him forever!

## Meditations

**Be Prepared** (Read Matthew 25: 1-13) Though the winter air was crisp, an early sun warmed our faces as we prepared to start a twenty-mile hike. We were properly dressed for the weather. We had our boots laced tightly to protect our feet from the cold water in the streams we knew we would have to ford. Our packs held our lunch, rain gear, dry socks, and first-aid supplies. We were prepared. However, the sun soon faded from view as unexpected storm clouds covered the sky.

Soon it was raining, and our pace was slowed. The water in the streams was now too deep to ford, so we lost time finding better crossings. The rain changed to driving snow, and our footing became treacherous. We were losing time, and the day was slipping away. The storm passed, but now it was getting dark and we still had several miles to go. It was at this point that we realized we were not prepared—we had no flashlights in our packs, not one. We stumbled along in the dark and finally, with great difficulty, finished the hike.

Some of the best training we receive comes as a result of our own mistakes, failures, omission—not being prepared. If this is true, why must mankind persist in

making the same mistakes over and over? Prayer: Dear God, help us learn from our mistakes. Help us be prepared to serve others as Christ has served us.

Amen.

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