

# The Scoutmasters Minutes

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## 1. SAFETY THROUGH SKILL

We've been talking a lot about safety tonight, how to be safe ourselves and make our homes and community safe. I think the lesson is partly exercising our common sense and partly learning the skills of safety.

What do we mean by the skills of safety? Well for one thing, we're talking about learning to find the emergency escape doors and windows in a building like this one. We tried to do that tonight. From now on it will probably be in the back of your mind when you enter an unfamiliar building.

In other words, training your mind to think safety is one lesson. Another is carefulness and common sense. By being careful and using your common sense, you're not likely to get hit by a car while crossing the street. Still, a lot of kids are killed every year because they thought they could beat a car. Others die in accidents around the home that could have been prevented with a little more forethought. Still others get trapped in their burning homes, partly because they hadn't planned escape routes.

Safety is not the most exciting topic in the world, but it's a vital one for all of us to learn and to pass on to our younger brothers and sisters. Boring or not, the skills of safety are important. They may save your life or that of someone you love.

## 2. THE BOY SCOUT NECKERCHIEF

You new Scouts probably learned tonight that our troop neckerchief has other uses besides looking good and showing our troop's colors. You found that it can be used in first aid, too. Over the next few months, you'll find that the neckerchief has other uses, too.

There's one use, though, that you may not think of - and that's to remind you of the Scout Oath. The neckerchief is a triangle, and its' three corners should remind you of something you recently learned - our Scout Oath.

The Oath, you remember, has three corners, too - duty to God and country, duty to others and duty to self. From now on, every time you put on your neckerchief, it should remind you of the things you pledge each time you repeat the Scout Oath.

## 3. A SCOUT IS LOYAL

Scouts, what's the second point of the Scout Law? That's right, "A Scout is loyal. " Our Scout handbook explains that a Scout is loyal to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school and nation.

I'm going to add one more thing to that list - a Scout is loyal to his team. The team might be his patrol or sports team.

Your patrol or soccer team can't be as good as it should be if you goof off a lot or constantly complain about your teammates or your patrol leader or coach. A winning patrol and a winning team, must have a winning attitude. That means that every member must be willing to do his part and not spend time griping because the patrol's plans or the game are not going his way.

That doesn't mean that you have to be close friends with everybody in your patrol or team or even like all of them. But it means that when you join, you commit yourself to the success of the patrol or the team and pledge to give it your best effort.

In Scouting and sports, it's teamwork that makes winners. So whenever you're with your patrol or sports team, remember, "A Scout is loyal".

#### **4. SPORTSMANSHIP**

Probably some of you will earn the Sports merit badge this month. If so, the first thing you'll have to do, is understand what sportsmanship is, because it's the first requirement. I'd like to read you a little story from the Sports merit badge pamphlet which sums up sportsmanship very well. Here's the story.

"In 1940, an underdog Dartmouth football team played powerful Cornell, which needed only one more victory for a perfect season and a number-one ranking in the country. Trailing 3-0 Cornell scored a controversial touchdown that the Dartmouth players insisted was made on an extra "fifth down". However the referee counted the touchdown, and Cornell won 7-3.

But after the game, Cornell officials watched the game on film and saw that, indeed their team had been allowed an extra play. They immediately sent a telegram to Dartmouth stating that they could not accept the victory. It went into the record book as a 3-0 victory for Dartmouth. "

That little story tells us what sportsmanship really is. It is the desire to play hard and to win - but to win fairly - and if you lose, to accept defeat with good grace. Let's remember that during our Sports Tourney and throughout our lives. Also remember, that to be a good sport you have to lose to prove it.

#### **5. TWO LITTLE WORDS**

Scouts, here's a little quiz for you: What's the most welcome two-word sentence in the English language? Some of you might say, it's "We won!" Others would vote for, "Here's money!" But I think the most welcome two-word sentence is "Thank you. "

It isn't used as often as it should be. How often do you use it? And how often do you say thank you to the persons who are closest to you, your mother and father? How often do you say it to your friends or even strangers when they do something for you?

It's so easy to forget, especially if the Good Turn is done by somebody in your family. Too often we take for granted the many things our parents and other family members do for us. Next week we're going to have a family night for members of our families. Here's a challenge for you. Between now and then, see if you can find some reason to say thank you every day to some member of your family. You may be surprised how they will react.

A simple thank you costs nothing, but it means so much to those who matter most to you. And remember, manners maketh man and can be the difference between you being just another Scout and one who earns himself respect from those around him.

#### **6. THANKSGIVING**

As Americans, we have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. We live in freedom, most of us have an abundance of food and clothing, and we all have adequate shelter. We are as blessed as any people in the world, but sometimes we forget that and gripe that we don't have even more. Let's remember that a lot of the worlds population goes to bed hungry in homes hat few Americans would want to live in.

So it's good to remind ourselves occasionally that we are lucky and thank God for our blessings. That's what Thanksgiving really is, a time to give thanks. The Pilgrims started it more than 100 years ago when they gathered to thank God for a bountiful harvest.

Today Thanksgiving is a time for family gatherings around a groaning table followed by watching football games. There's nothing wrong with that. But it's important that we don't forget the real meaning of Thanksgiving. So when you sit down with your family for Thanksgiving dinner, take time to count your blessings and thank God for them.

## **7. HANDICAPPED AWARENESS**

Most of you probably know somebody who has a physical or mental handicap. Chances are that he or she functions pretty well in spite of it. A little limp isn't going to keep anyone from living a full life, and a person who is a bit hard of hearing probably will get along quite well with that handicap.

But some people have severe handicaps. They might be legally blind, or completely deaf, or have to use a wheelchair to get around. But we should understand that they are people just like us, with the same needs, the same desires, and - except for the handicap - the same capabilities we have. In other words, handicapped people are more like you than different.

(If your troop will do a Good Turn for handicapped people:) Remember that when we do our Good Turn this month. When you meet a handicapped person, treat him or her exactly as you would want to be treated. The person might need a little help from you, but don't fuss over him. Do the minimum that's necessary to help then back off and treat him as you would your other friends.

Those of us who are able-bodied have a lot to be thankful for. But that doesn't make us any better or worse than people with severe handicaps. We are all children of God.

## **8. HOLIDAY SPIRIT**

Christmas and Hanukkah are, for the most people, the most joyful holidays of the year. The holiday parties, the exchange of gifts, and the brilliant lights of the Christmas trees make a guy glad to be alive at this season.

Sometimes we forget that these holidays are really religious festivals. It's well to remember that the real holiday spirit is cast by the Star of Bethlehem and the Hanukkah candles, reminding us of the miracles in times past.

In the 12th point of the Scout Law we say that a Scout is reverent. That doesn't mean that he has to go around all the time with a long face or with hands folded in prayer. It means that he does his duty to God, which includes doing things for God's other creatures. We'll be doing that later this month with our troop Good Turn.

Now remembering that a Scout is reverent, let's close with the Scout benediction.

## **9. NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION**

Well, Scouts, did you make any New Year's resolutions? I hope some of you resolved to bring up your grades in school and be more helpful around the house. I'm sure your parents would be delighted with those resolutions.

In Scouting, we make a resolution almost every time we meet. Each time we repeat the Scout Oath or Law, we're resolving to do our best to do our duty and to make ourselves the best citizens we can be. I'm inclined to think that resolving to follow the Scout Oath and Law are the most important resolutions you can make - now and in the time to come. The Oath and Law cover almost everything that makes a good man and a good citizen. So, I think, as we start the New Year, we ought to repeat the Oath and Law and think about what we're saying. (Lead Oath and Law)

## **10. SPELL IT HONESTY**

Tonight we've spent a lot of time talking about ethics - about honesty and fairness and respect for others. Now I'll tell you a true story about a Scout who showed what those things mean.

His name is Andrew J. Flosdorf, and in 1983 he was a 1st Class Scout in Troop 42 of Fonda NY Andy was in the National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC, competing for the championship and a chance for a scholarship.

During a break in the competition, Andy went to the judges and told them that although they thought he had spelled "echolalia" correctly, he had mistakenly substituted an "e" for the first "a" in the word, which means a speech disorder. He said he discovered his error when he looked it up afterwards.

By admitting the mistake, that the judges hadn't caught, Andy eliminated himself from the competition. The chief judge said, "We want to commend him for his utter honesty," and the crowd gave him an ovation.

But Andy didn't tell them about his error to earn cheers. He wanted to win as much as the other contestants, but he wanted to win fairly. "The first rule of Scouting is honesty," Andy told the judges.

"I didn't want to feel like a slime. "

I don't know what has happened to Andy Flosdorf since then, but I'm sure of two things. He learned one of Scouting's most important lessons, and gave us an example of honesty and fairness that all of us should shoot for.

## **11. SALT OF THE EARTH**

Who can tell me what "salt of the earth" means? That's right, it means a person who has a fine character and is a nice guy to be around. The expression "salt of the earth" probably came from the fact that common salt improves the taste of a lot of foods. As you young Scouts will discover while you are working on your Cooking skill award, salt is used in many recipes - maybe most of them for breakfast and dinner dishes.

Just as the salt improves the flavor of many foods, a person who is the salt of the earth improves the lives of those around him. He lives every day by the Scout Oath and Law, even if he's not a Scout. He does his daily Good Turn and he deals fairly with everyone he meets.

You can be the salt of the earth, too, just by living the Oath and Law. Let's remind ourselves of what it takes by repeating the Law now (Lead Law. )

## **12. SMILIN' IN THE RAIN**

A long time ago, a joker said, "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it. " That isn't really true anymore because scientists can seed clouds with chemicals to make rain fall - if there are clouds , that is.

Next week we're going to be outdoors, possibly in foul weather, for our Foul-Weather Cook-Out (or See'n'do). It may be snowing or raining cats and dogs while we're out there, but we'll be there just the same because this is not a fair weather troop.

It may not be as much fun as being outdoors on a sunny summer day, but it's part of outdoor life, and as Scouts we belong outdoors. As long as you have a poncho, warm clothes and a pair of dry socks and underwear in your pack, you can enjoy bad weather, too.

At least I hope you can. I like to see Scouts smiling in the rain because a real Scout is cheerful even when things aren't 100% perfect.

The weather, and life, aren't always predictable. One of the lessons you should be earning as Scouts is to be prepared for foul weather as well as fair.

So the key words for next weeks outing are "Be Prepared" and "A Scout is cheerful. " If you follow that advice, you'll have a fine time, no matter what the weather is.

**13. PLANTING SEEDS** (Have an apple and a plate with a few apple seeds)

If I gave you a choice, which would you rather have, the apple or the seeds? I guess most of us would choose the apple.

A long time ago there was a guy who would have taken the seeds. He was a nut about apple seeds - so much so that people called him Johnny Appleseed. For many years he walked across hundreds of miles of our country, back when most of it was frontier land, and everywhere he went he planted apple seeds. The trees from those seeds fed many thousands of people in later generations. That's real long range planning!

Many of us are interested mainly in the present. We don't think ahead like Johnny Appleseed.

Maybe you don't want to go around planting apple seeds like he did. But there's another kind of seed you should be planting every day - the seed of good feelings between you and your fellow man.

You can do it by living our slogan, "Do a Good Turn daily. " Every time you do a Good Turn , you are planting a seed of good feeling. That seed may start the growth of a tree of Good Turns in each person you help. So that one Good Turn may lead to many other Good Turns through the years, affecting the lives of hundreds of people.

**14. COAL AND DIAMONDS**

Scouts, I'm sure you've all seen a diamond. It's very hard, very bright and very beautiful. Most of you have probably seen coal, too. It's dull black and it crumbles easily.

Now a little chemistry lesson. Who can tell me how coal and diamonds are alike? That's right - both are made from the element carbon. But a diamond has great value because it is rare. I compare the diamond to a man of sharp mind, hard body and shining bright spirit. The coal might be compared to a man who is not mentally sharp, physically tough or spiritually bright.

Someone once said that a diamond is just a piece of coal that stuck to it. Over many millions of years, its brilliance was caused by the heat and pressure inside our earth.

My hope is that like that diamond you will stick to it by following our Scouting ideals. If you do, you will become an example of what a man should be.

**15. ON THE TRAIL**

Once a long time ago a hound was out with his master trailing a mountain lion. The hound came to a place where a fox had crossed the trail, and the hound decided to follow the fox instead of the lion.

A short time later, a rabbit crossed that of the fox, and again the hound changed direction. Why should he chase a fox when a rabbit might be easier to catch?

When the hunter finally caught up with his hound, the dog was barking at a small hole in the ground. The hound had brought to bay a field mouse instead of a mountain lion.

Well, how about you? Have you set out on a trail to achieve your ambition? Are you able to follow it, or are you sidetracked by easier trails that cross it from time to time?

Don't be like that hound. Find out what it takes to achieve your ambition, and then get started. The best way to achieve anything in life is to set a true course for it and then stick to that trail.

**16. FINDING YOUR WAY** (Show a Scout badge. )

Scouts, where did the design for the Scout badge come from? Did you know that it's from the north point of the mariners' compass? Now why did Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, select that symbol for the first Scout badge? In his book, *Scouting for Boys*, Baden-Powell told us.

He said, "It is the badge of the Scout because it points in the right direction, and upwards. It shows the way in doing your duty and helping others. "

In other words, just as the north point of the compass helps us find our way in the field, so the Scout badge helps us find our way through life.

So the shape of our Scout badge should be a constant reminder to us of the things we pledge when we say the Scout Oath or Law. Let's think about that badge and what it means the next time we're tempted to do something we know is wrong.

**17. TEAMWORK** (Show three or four short pieces of rope)

These pieces of rope are a lot like individual Scouts. You can use these ropes for knot tying practice or for tying a small package, but they're not big enough for really big jobs. (Call up two or three Scouts and asked them to join the ropes together with square knots or sheet bends. ) Now we have a much more useful rope, one we could use for pioneering or other jobs where we need a good length of rope.

Your patrol and the whole troop work the same way. Scouts who work together like these ropes can achieve much bigger things. But remember that this rope is only as strong as its' weakest link. The same idea applies to our patrols and troop. They can't be strong unless everyone pulls together. Teamwork is just as important in Scouting as it is on a football team.

Strive to a strong link in your patrol. Do the best to live by the ideals we talk about in the Scout Oath and Law. Learn your Scouting skills to the best of your ability, and take part in everything the troop and your patrol do. Don't be a weak link.

**18. WINNING ISN'T EVERYTHING**

Some years ago a hard-nosed coach said, "Winning isn't everything, but it sure beats whatever's second. " There's some truth in that. Everyone likes to win. Very few people enjoy losing.

The trouble is that in every type of competition, there must be losers as well as winners. That's true in sports and it's also true in the competitions we will have next week at our camp-out (or camporee).

It's also true in life. You and every other human being find that sometimes you have to be a loser. Perhaps your sports team loses a game on an unlucky break. Or maybe you work hard in school but get low grades. Some people might say you're a loser.

Maybe so. But you don't have to stay a loser. The real difference between winners and losers is that a loss makes some people more determined to do better next time. In the long run they are the winners because they learn to profit by their defeats and mistakes.

No, winning isn't everything. We can learn from losses, too. Let's remember that at the campout and in the years to come.

## **19. A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY**

Probably all of you know some guy who is grouchy all the time. His neighbors try to be nice to him, but he just won't be friendly. Maybe he'll build a great wall around his house to keep people away.

Let me tell you about another kind of neighbor I heard about. There was no wall around his property, and somebody noticed that a strip of grass between his yard and his neighbor's yard was unusually green. How come? He was asked.

"Oh," he laughed, " my neighbor and I are so afraid we'll cheat each other that we always water and fertilize the grass across the line on the other fellows side. That strip of grass down the property line gets twice as much water and fertilizer as the rest of our yards. " Instead of a fence to keep each other away, that man and his neighbor had a vivid green reminder that they were friends.

The point of this story is that if you want to have friends, you can't build walls between yourselves and other people. Instead, cultivate that space between you by being as fair to the other guy as you'd like him to be to you. A Scout is friendly, and the way to have friends - and keep them - is to be friendly yourself.

## **20. THE MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY**

In the year 1805, some plotters tried to set up a new government in some of the southern states. When the plot was discovered, the traitors were tried for conspiracy against the United States government. One of them was Philip Nolan, an Army officer. During his trial, the president of the court asked Nolan whether he wished to say anything to show that he had always been faithful to the United States. Nolan replied, "Damn the United States! I wish I may never hear of the United States again!"

He got his wish. Nolan was put on a Navy ship with instructions that he should never hear the name of his country or get any information about it. Years went by. Nolan became a changed man. In his heart, he had an intense love for the US

Philip Nolan finally died. A note with his last request was found in his Bible. The note said: "Bury me in the sea, it has been my home and I love it But will not someone set up a stone for my memory at Fort Adams or at Orleans, that my disgrace may not be more than I ought to bear? Say on it: 'In memory of Philip Nolan, lieutenant in the Army of the United States. He loved his country as no other man has loved her; but no man deserves less at her hand. ' "

## **21. YOUR FITNESS QUOTIENT**

I'm sure you've all heard of the IQ and know it stands for intelligence quotient. It's supposed to be a measure of intelligence. Probably you've taken IQ tests, although you may not have known it, so that your school would have some idea of how bright you are.

The experts aren't all in agreement that IQ tests are all that accurate, but they apparently do provide at least a rough measure of intelligence. In theory, at least, your IQ score won't very much from childhood to adulthood.

Maybe you can't do much about your IQ, but there's another kind of test in which your own efforts will raise your score. I'll call it your "FQ" - your Fitness Quotient. By regular, vigorous exercise, and by having good health habits, you can lift your FQ score many points.

In doing the fitness tests for the Physical Fitness skill award and the Personal Fitness merit badge, you establish your present FQ score. If your scores on those tests are just about average or below, I suggest you make up your mind to raise them much higher. All it takes is

a decision to do it, and then - most important - following through on the exercises and health habits that will do the trick.

If you do that, by the end of the summer your Fitness Quotient will be much higher than it is now.

## **22. SETTING THE EXAMPLE**

In the patrol leaders council, we often talk about the skills of leadership. Patrol leaders who have taken the junior leader training course know even more about them. Of the 11 skills of leadership, I believe the most important is setting the example. There's an old saying that sums it up well. It goes something like this: "What you do speaks so loudly that I can't hear what you say." In other words, don't tell me what is right; show me by your example.

It seems to me that when it comes to setting the example, we are all leaders. Even if you're not a patrol leader, the way you conduct yourself will rub off on your patrolmates. If one patrol member goofs off and is sloppy in his habits, there's a temptation to say, "Well, Brian gets away with it, why shouldn't I?"

That may be human nature, but it's not the nature of a good patrol or a good troop. A good patrol and troop have to work like a team, with every member setting a good example of Scoutlike behavior. Let's keep that in mind always, but especially when we're in summer camp (or on tour). Let's show our pride in our troop and in ourselves as Scouts and young men.

## **23. SAFETY AFLOAT**

Scouts, what do the following merit badges have in common: Canoeing, Motorboating, Rowing, Small-Boat Sailing, and Water Skiing? I'll give you a hint - they all have the same first requirement.

You guessed it. All those badges require that a Scout be classed a "swimmer" before he even gets started on the badge. It's pretty obvious why you must be a swimmer before you can go out into the deep water in a canoe or other craft.

As I think you all know, to be classed as a swimmer you have to be able to swim 100 yards, do the elementary backstroke, and be able to rest in water by floating. To those who swim well, that's a piece of cake. To those who don't it could be a challenge.

You're not going to be able to go canoeing or rafting until you can meet the test. We're going to spend time this month helping the non-swimmers and beginners so that by the time of our Water Rendezvous, most of you - maybe all - will be able to swim the hundred.

Being able to swim well will unlock the door to those other badges. It will also give you a life-long sport, one that you will be able to enjoy for many years after you no longer have the ability to play other sports. That's one of the reasons we go swimming now. The other of course is that it's fun.

## **24. THEY SAVED LIFE**

Every year about 200 Scouts earn medals for saving life. A lot of them performed water rescues. Probably you've read about some of those rescues in the Boys Life feature called "Scouts in Action".

Do you suppose all those Scouts who saved people from drowning were great swimmers? No, not necessarily. Some of them may not have even been very good swimmers because - remember - you try to reach, throw, or row to a drowning person before you jump in and swim. Many medals have gone to guys who didn't swim at all, but who were able to act

when everybody else was panicking, and tossed a rope or reached a pole to the person in trouble.

We've been practicing the reach, throw and row water rescue methods. Those of you who have the Lifesaving merit badge also know the Go method.

So all of us should be prepared to help somebody who is in trouble in the water. If you're not, practice some more. Then you'll be ready when you're needed.

## **25. SOMEONE ELSE**

With great regret we announce the loss of one of the councils most valuable families - Mr. & Mrs. Someone Else have moved away, and the vacancy they have left will be hard to fill. The Elses have been with us for many years; they have done far more than their share of the work about the council. When there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, their name was on everybody's lips: "Let Someone Else do it" Whenever a committee was mentioned, this wonderful family was looked to for inspiration as well as results: "Someone Else will set up the event. " And when there was a trip to take Mr. & Mrs. Someone Else were thought to be the best transportation: "Let Someone Else take them. "

The Someone Elses are wonderful people, but they are only human, they could spread themselves only so thin. Many a night I have sat up and talked with someone and heard him wish aloud for more help in the council. He and his wife did the best they could, but people expected too much from them. We have to face the fact that there were just not enough Someone Elses to go around. And now the Someone Elses are gone and we're wondering what we are going to do without them. They have left us a great example to follow, but who will follow it? Who is going to do the things that someone else did?

## **26. SCOUTINGS DIRECTIONS**

Tonight we've been learning how to find directions on a map and use the compass to stay on course. By now I hope most of you can orient a map and use map and compass to travel in unknown country.

In Scouting we have another kind of "map and compass. " They are the Scout Oath, Law, motto and slogan. They are excellent guides for traveling through life.

Whenever you are wondering what's the right thing to do, consult those "maps and compasses. " They won't always provide an easy answer. Sometimes you will have to think through your decision, but it will be easier if you ask yourself, "What if I act according to the Scout Oath and Law?" Chances are the Law will help to show you the right thing to do.

## **27. THE WILDERNESS PLEDGE**

Next week we'll be outdoors again, and it's good to remind ourselves that Scouts obey the Wilderness Pledge whenever they are hiking, camping, or on other activities away from the meeting place. You should be familiar with the Wilderness Pledge. It says, "Through good camping and hiking practices, I pledge myself to preserve the beauty and splendor of Americas' wilderness, primitive and backcountry areas. I commit myself to:

Set a personal example in following the Outdoor Code.

Train those I lead in the skills and attitudes needed to protect and preserve wilderness for future generations.

Assure that parties of which I am a part observe the camping and hiking standards that will leave no trace of our passing. "

It seems to me that what it boils down to is that in the Wilderness Pledge we commit ourselves as Scouts not only to preserve the environment but to make it better. For example, not only don't we leave litter ourselves, we pick up other peoples litter. And we not only build safe fires, we try to make sure that others do, too. In other words we take responsibility as Scouts to do whatever we can to keep America beautiful.

That may seem like a tall order. Nobody enjoys picking up other peoples litter. It's a lot easier to just say, "Boy, what a mess!" and pass it by. But that's not the Scouting way.

On all our hikes and campouts, let's leave the land better than we found it. That's Scouting's way.

## **28. MOVING ON THE SCOUTING TRAIL**

Scouts, our theme this month is called, "Moving on the Scouting Trail". What do we mean when we talk about the Scouting Trail. That's right, it's the path that leads from Scout rank through First Class up to the Eagle Scout badge. Very few guys make it all the way. The only ones that do are guys who can set a goal and then work hard to achieve it.

One way to get started toward the goal is to set yourself a more modest goal. If you're a Tenderfoot now, make up your mind that you're going to earn Second Class in time for our Court of Honor at the end of the month - or at least by the Court of Honor in February. The Chinese have a saying that is appropriate here. They say, "A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step. "

That's a good thing to remember, not only in Scouting but in life, too. You can't progress if you never get started.

You're going to have plenty of chances to pass advancement requirements in our troop meetings this month - and every month.

Take advantage of those opportunities. We're also going to concentrate on advancement during our camp-out late this month. That's another chance to get moving on the Scouting trail.

It's my hope that by time our February Court of Honor rolls around, every one of you will be a rank higher than you are today.

## **29. BADEN-POWELL ON HONESTY**

You remember that in September I mentioned Robert Baden-Powell, the British general who started Scouting a long time ago. He had a lot of good advice for Scouts, and now I'd like to read what he had to say about honesty.

He said, "Honesty is a form of honor. An honorable man can be trusted with any amount of valuables with the certainty that he will not steal it. Cheating at any time is a sneaking, underhanded thing to do. "

"When you feel inclined to cheat in order to win a game, or feel distressed when a game in which you are playing is going against you, just say to yourself, "After all, it is only a game. It won't kill me if I do lose. One can't always win though I will stick to it in case of a chance coming. "

"If you keep your head in this way, you will very often find that you win after all from not being over anxious or despairing. And don't forget, whenever you do lose a game, if you are a true Scout, you will at once cheer the winning team or shake hands with and congratulate the fellow who has beaten you. "

## **30. SCOUTING'S PLUMB LINE (Show a carpenter's plumb line)**

Does anybody know what this is? That's right it's a plumb line. Carpenters and masons use a plumb line to make sure their work is perfectly straight and vertical.

Supposing you were building a brick wall and you built it just by guesswork. Then I came along with this plumb line and laid it against your wall. Both of us could see the wall was crooked if the plumb line told us so.

You might get mad about it and throw my plumb line as far as you could. But that wouldn't make the wall any straighter, would it?

In Scouting, we have another kind of plumb line, and in a way it shows us how straight we are. Scouting's plumb line is the Scout Oath and Law. They tell us how to build our lives straight and true. When we don't follow the Oath and Law, we know it, don't we? If we've been untrustworthy, disloyal or unfriendly to someone, our plumb line - the Scout Law - is there in the back of our mind to remind us that we are not building our lives in a straight and true way.

The Scout never lived who never once violated the Scout Oath and Law. But those pledges, our plumb line, should always be our guide.

### **31. FREEDOM FOR WHAT?**

We've been talking about the Constitution and the freedom it gives us as citizens.

But how free are we? What does freedom mean? Does it mean we can do anything that we want? I think we will agree that the answer is no. Freedom of speech for example, does mean that we can go into a crowded theater and yell "Fire!" And freedom certainly doesn't mean that we can steal from people or assault them without fear of being arrested, tried, and perhaps thrown into jail. As somebody once said, "Your freedom to swing your fist ends just beyond the tip of my nose. "

So what does freedom mean in the sense of the Constitution? It means, I believe that we are free to live according to the laws of God, free to worship as we choose, to speak and write the truth as we see it, to choose our life's work, and to travel where we want to go - and to grant the same rights to others.

The Constitution does not give us unlimited rights to act without regard to other people. But it does guarantee us the right to live as free men in a society whose citizens are equal in the eyes of the law.

### **32. MAKING A FRESH START**

Well, Scouts, the new year is here and it's time for New Year's resolutions. In other words, as our theme this month says, it's time for a fresh start.

I don't know whether you make New Year's resolutions, but if you do, I hope that one of them is to move up Scouting's advancement ladder. Next month we'll be having a Court of Honor, and I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of you receiving awards then. I'm especially hopeful that those of you who haven't moved up a rank since last spring will get busy this month and do it in time for the Court of Honor.

All it takes is determination and some work, I'm sure your patrolmates will help you, and of course our leaders will, too. But you have to make the effort, no one can do that for you.

So let's have a fresh start from everybody in the troop this month so that every Scout is called forward at our Court of Honor in February.

### **33. VALUE YOUR CONSCIENCE**

It may seem funny to say so, but you're very lucky that it hurts when you hit your finger with a hammer. If it didn't hurt you could be in big trouble.

It's a rarity when a person can't feel pain, but it does happen. Some years ago, for example, there was an eight year old boy in England who couldn't feel pain. For some reason, his nerves, did not signal pain to his brain.

If you think he was lucky, think again. The problem could cost him his life. Once he was seriously burned by a red-hot oven door, but he didn't even know it until he was snatched away.

So it is clear that physical pain can save us from mortal danger. But there is another kind of pain, too, and all of us here can feel it. It's a spiritual or moral pain, and it's called conscience. The conscience is one of our greatest gifts. Without our conscience, we would not know enough to keep from getting burned in even more serious ways than that English boy.

So as the old saying goes, "Let your conscience be your guide." It will help you to know whether you are following the Scout Oath and Law. You have no better friend than your conscience.

#### **34. SCOUTING IS ALIVE**

Our theme this month is called "Scouting is Alive," but I think it ought to be "Scouting is alive and well and living in (your community)."

I guess the theme is supposed to remind us that 78 years after the first troops were started in the United States, Scouting still offers fun and adventure to boys. Certainly that's what we do in this troop.

But maybe this is a good time, as we think about this theme, to ask ourselves, "Are we alive in Scouting?" Do we take part in all patrol and troop activities? Are we advancing on the Scouting trail? Are we trying to live by the Scout Oath and Law? In other words, are we "alive" Scouts? Or are we deadwood?

Late this month we're going to have a court of honor to recognize those Scouts who have earned advancement and shown the Scout Spirit that is required to make this troop alive and well. I hope that each one of you will be on the list to receive a rank advancement, merit badge, or other award.

Let's remind ourselves that every time that we repeat the Scout Oath, we pledge, "On my honor, I will do my best. . . ." That's a good guide for living, not just in Scouting but in everything we do.

#### **35. BEING A BROTHER**

Did you know that you have millions of brothers? Who do you think they might be.

That's right, Scouts all over the world. We often speak of the World Brotherhood of Scouting, and that's exactly what it is - millions of boys and men who are divided by nationality and religious belief, but united in the ideals of Scouting.

Many millions of those brothers of yours in Scouting are very poor. To help them enjoy Scouting, the Boy Scouts of America has a special treasury called the World Friendship Fund. Through that fund, your brothers can get training materials, tents, even uniforms in some cases. It's one way we can show our loyalty to Scouting and our brotherhood with other boys and men.

At our Family Party, we are going to ask you to give a small amount to help our brothers. If you can afford a dollar, give that. If the best you can do is a quarter or a dime, fine. But I hope everyone here will try to contribute something.

We in the United States are amongst the luckiest people on earth. Some of us may be poor, but nearly all of us would be considered wealthy by the standards of some other

countries. Show your appreciation for your good fortune, and your willingness to help other Scouts, by bringing something for the World Friendship Fund to the party.

### **36. ROAD TEST YOURSELF**

Did you know that car manufacturers try out their new models on some of the worst roads in the world? They can't find any ordinary roads that are bad enough for the purpose, so they build special tracks with ruts, bumps, and potholes that are incredibly bad.

Now why do they do that, do you suppose? That's right, they want to give their cars the toughest possible test so that they can learn about the weak spots. The idea is that they will fix the weak spots before the cars go on sale.

Are you like a new car model that never was tested? Are you cheerful when the going is easy but a grumbler and griper when there is trouble? Are you like a shiny new car that falls to pieces when it gets a tough road test?

In a way, Scouting is like a road test. We challenge ourselves with rugged backpacking trips and other adventures to see whether or not we can take it. As Scouts we like to find out what our limits are, and if we find weak spots, we try to correct them.

That way, we'll be ready for life's bumps and potholes. Then people will say of us, "Those guys can take it".

### **37. FIT FOR LIFE**

One of the goals of Scouting is physical fitness, and we've been paying special attention to it this month. It's fun to test yourself against standards to see how fit you are and to compete against other Scouts in fitness games and contests.

But there is a more important reason for all this physical activity. It's to make you fit for life. If you become physically fit now, the chances are you will be physically fit when you reach full manhood.

You should remember though, that physical fitness is not just being strong and athletic. It's also knowing how to take care of your body - what to fit it, how much rest it needs, and what not to put into it. I'm thinking, of course, of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco smoke.

Probably you'll face a lot of pressure in the next few years to try drugs, smoking, and alcohol. No doubt some of you already have.

Some guys you think of as friends will actually tell you that trying drugs is cool. Actually, it's about as cool as sticking your hand in a campfire. Don't learn that the hard way. Stay away from drugs and drinking and stay fit for life.

### **38. THE KNOT THAT TELLS A STORY**

Scouts, if your rank is between Second Class and Life, take a look at your badge of rank. What do all those badges have in common?

That's right, they all have the "Be Prepared" scroll with a knot dangling from it. . Does anyone remember what the knot is supposed to remind us of?

Right again. It's a reminder to do a Good Turn every day. If the knot could talk, it would tell us of billions of Good Turns stretching back over 88 years. Are you adding a chapter to that story each day?

Our troop often does big Good Turns for our chartered organization or the community. But does that mean that you can forget about Good Turns the rest of the time? Of course not. As Scouts you have pledged to do a Good Turn daily. Obviously that doesn't mean you have to spend several hours on some major project.

But it does mean that at home, in school, and when you're with friends you will go out of your way to do a simple kindness - take out the garbage without being asked, help a buddy with his homework, or run an errand for your mother without grumbling.

Those little Good Turns make life more pleasant for other people. They also add another link in that long string of Good Turns going back to Scoutings beginnings.

### **39. SOLID TO THE CORE**

Every once in a while when you're working on a pioneering project, you'll find a spar that looks great but that turns out to be weak and unreliable.

Maybe its' center has been eaten away by insects. Or maybe have natural splits inside that you can't see. You can test a spar for soundness by holding one end and rapping the other end sharply on a rock. If it's sound you'll hear it ring.

Some people are like defective spars. They look great on the outside and they may have appealing personalities, the kind of guys and girls you think you would like to know. But when you do get to know them better, you find that they're like a defective spar, weak inside. They don't have the strength of character to resist things that you know is wrong, and chances are they will want you to do those things, too.

When that happens, do the same thing you do when you have a defective spar - cast it aside and find a sounder one. In other words, choose friends who are solid to the core.

### **40. THE SMALLEST FACTORY (Show a leaf of a tree or plant. )**

Tonight we've been discussing the oxygen and water cycles and how food chains support life on earth. We've learned that this little leaf can work a miracle.

Who can tell me what the miracle is? This leaf is a food factory - it can make food by using the sunlight to turn nutrients from the soil and carbon dioxide into food. And at the same time, it produces the oxygen that we and wildlife must have to live.

Life could not exist without the miracle represented by this leaf and all the other plants that can perform the miracle.

What's the point in this lesson in biology? The point is that because we can't survive without plants, it is in our own interest to make sure that this food factory survives. And that's why we must fight pollution and why we must practice conservation like planting trees and shrubs. The whole idea is to encourage these little food factories to produce food and oxygen for wildlife and ourselves.

### **41. WELCOMING THE WEBELOS**

It won't be long now before we'll be adding several new Scouts to this troop - the Webelos Scouts who will be graduating from Cub Scouting.

It goes without saying that I expect you Scouts to give them a warm welcome. How you treat them during their first couple of meetings and outings with us will determine whether they stay in the troop. If you ignore them, make fun of them, or haze them, some of them are going to drop out in a hurry.

Remember that they are young kids. Some of you will look like giants to them and if they are a little timid, they are going to be a bit afraid of you. So I would like all of you - and especially you older Scouts - to go out of your way to help the new kids. Perhaps each of you could be a buddy to one of the new Scouts to get them started right in Scouting.

If you can remember your days as a Webelos, you'll remember that Webelos means "We'll be loyal Scouts". I'm sure the graduating Webelos Scouts mean to be loyal to our troop. But loyalty is a two-way street. Our troop has to be loyal to them, too. - to make the promises of Scouting fun and adventure come true for them as well as for older Scouts.

Let's all remember that and give a warm welcome when our new Scouts join.

#### **42. FLAG DAY**

Who can tell me what day falls on June 14th? That's right it's Flag Day. Another question, why do we celebrate Flag Day on June 14th.

Because it was on that day in 1777 we got our first official US Flag. The Continental Congress which made the laws in those days, specified that the flag would have 13 stripes, alternating red and white, and 13 white stars on a blue field.

But that was all the description they gave. If you remember your flag history, the result was that a lot of different flags appeared during the Revolutionary War. You can see pictures of some of them in your handbook. It wasn't until 1912, 135 years later, that the flag became standardized.

It's not very important that you know a lot about our flags history. What is important though, is that you are aware that our flag was born very soon after we became an independent nation, and that millions of men have fought for the flag as our symbol of freedom.

That's why I hope that if your family owns a US Flag, you will fly it proudly on Flag Day this year. In that way, we can show our pride as Americans and our determination to live as free men.

#### **43. OUR HOME IN CAMP**

Scouts, when we go to our camporee, and later when we are in summer camp, let's remember that our campsite is our home.

The living room is the area in front of your patrol site. Your patrol's cooking area is the kitchen and the patrol dining table is your dining room. The showers and latrine are your bathroom, and of course your tent is your bedroom.

You wouldn't think of throwing candy wrappers onto your bedroom floor at home, or of leaving garbage in your dining room. And even if you did, your parents would soon get on your case about it.

So whenever we're in camp, let's treat the campsite the way you treat your own home. Cleanliness and neatness are the marks of a good camper. In this troop, they are a standard rule.

As Scouts, we have pledged ourselves to obey the Outdoor Code and our Wilderness Pledge which call for us to "be clean in our outdoor manners". That certainly applies to our life at home in camp, as well as when we're on the trail. Let's make it a habit to keep a clean, neat home in camp.

#### **44. THE NORTH STAR**

Scouts, we've been learning how to find Polaris, the North Star, because we know it will help us find our way in the wilderness. For centuries man has known that the North Star is fixed in the heavens, and it has been used as a navigational aid by sailors ever since the first adventurers sailed away from the sight of land.

The North Star is still used that way by mariners and space explorers. So in learning how to find it, we are joining a very long line of adventurers.

There are some "North Stars" in our everyday lives, too. One of them is our conscience. If we listen to our conscience, we can be sure to steer our lives in the right direction.

And let's not forget our Scout Oath and Law, too. They are North Stars because they give us excellent guidance in how to behave and what we owe to God, country, our fellow human beings, and ourselves.

When you're lost at night, look for the North Star. The rest of the time, steer your life with those other North Stars - your conscience and the Scout Oath and Law.

#### **45. REACH FOR THE STARS**

There used to be a saying that if a man had great ambition, he was "reaching for the stars". The idea was that he was so eager to succeed he was willing to try the impossible, to reach for the stars.

That doesn't seem so impossible anymore. Men have walked on the moon, a feat that was only dreamed of not so many years ago. And by the way, did you know that the first astronauts who walked on the moon were Scouts? One of them, Neil Armstrong, the first man to set foot on the moon, is an Eagle Scout. That tells you something about the kind of man he is.

The scientists and astronauts in our space program brought the impossible dream of reaching for the stars much closer to reality. Men will never really walk on the stars. If they tried, they would get a terribly hot foot. But the stars do not seem so far away as they used to be.

Still the idea expressed in the phrase, "reaching for the stars," is still valid. It tells us that to enjoy life to the fullest, we must stretch our abilities to the limit. A Scout who does his best in everything he tries will become the kind of man who reaches for the stars.

#### **46. SPRING PHENOMS**

I know that some of you read the sports pages and follow the big league pennant races. So probably you have heard of spring phenoms. Who can tell me what a spring phenom is?

He is a player who stars the season like a superstar. In April, May and June he's hitting about .350, stealing a lot of bases, and never missing a ball in the field. Comes July and August and he can't do anything right. That's a spring phenom.

Maybe you've seen some spring phenoms in Scouting, too. They start up the advancement trail like a house afire, making Second Class and First Class as fast as the rules allow. Then when the going gets tougher for Star, Life and Eagle, they sort of fade away like spring phenoms.

Maybe it's the troop's fault. Maybe we just don't challenge them enough. If so, let's change that. I'm challenging all of you now to set your sights on the next rank and make up your mind you're going to make it by Christmas at the latest.

#### **47. OLYMPIC OATH**

I imagine most of us have watched the Olympic Games on the television. It's really great watching the world's greatest athletes competing, isn't it?

Did you know that these athletes take an oath before they begin competition? Let me read the oath:

"We swear that we will take part in the Olympic Games in loyal competition, respecting the regulations that govern them and desirous in participating in them in the true spirit of sportsmanship for the honor of our country and for the glory of sport. "

Did you notice that the oath says nothing about winning? Of course the athletes want to win. After all, they have been training for four years or more to get ready for the games.

But the Olympic ideal is fair competition, not winning at all costs. Let's remember that ideal when we have our Aqua-Olympics and any other competitions.

Play to win. But remember that every athlete must learn to lose gracefully, without alibiing or complaining. That's the Olympic ideal in a nutshell. It's also the ideal in Scouting.

**48. DON'T GET HOOKED** (Stick a fish hook in a piece of cloth and show how difficult it is to back out the way it when in. )

Scouts, it sure was a cinch to put this fishhook into the cloth, but you can see how hard it is to back it out. It's just like a bad habit - awfully easy to start, but awfully hard to stop. Some guys your age have started to smoke. It was easy to start - as easy as it was for me to put the fishhook into the cloth.

Across our land millions and millions of smokers have tried to stop smoking and have failed. They just couldn't get the hook out. If it's so hard to stop and if so many smokers want to quit, then why start - why get the hook in - in the first place? Some people think it's manly to smoke. Take a look around you. Look at who is smoking.

**49. A LITTLE EXTRA EFFORT** (You will need two poles and rope to secure them with a square lashing. Tie a square lashing. )

As you watch me tie these poles together, think about how this lashing might be compared to success in life. The wrapping turns hold the two poles closely together. But notice that they are not real tight, and with a little movement of the poles, the ropes loosen to allow slipping.

Now I add the frapping turns. I might have been satisfied without these turns, but notice what happens when I make the extra effort to add them. The frapping turns took up all the slack in the first turns and tightened the entire lashing the poles are now securely bound together in place. Repeated movement won't loosen the ties that bind them together.

These frapping turns that finished the job took a little extra effort, but what a difference they made in the job! In life, you will constantly be given chances to put forth a little extra effort. When you have the chance, don't let these opportunities pass. Remember the frapping turns.

If you put extra effort into things you undertake you will find success in life, real lasting friendships, and the inner knowledge that, come what may, you have done your best.

**50. MINNOWS AND WHOPPERS**

Everybody here likes to hear fish stories, the wilder the better. I expect we'll have a lot of them after our Fishing Camp-Out this month. We enjoy them because they're funny, and nobody is fooled into thinking they really happened.

But some people tell fish stories all the time. They're not usually funny stories. In fact, they're really lies. I call them minnows and whoppers.

Minnows are little lies that just shade the truth. For instance, maybe a guy is playing Skish and says he hit a target 55 feet away when it was really only 40 feet. No serious damage is done, except to the guy's own character, from a minnow like that.

The trouble is, if you get used to telling minnows, it becomes easier to tell whoppers - the big lies that may hurt somebody.

The best thing is to stick to the truth. Minnows have a way of growing into whoppers.

**51. OUR NATURAL RESOURCES** (Hold up two glasses, one filled with dirty water, one sparkling clean water. )

Scouts, which would you prefer to drink? The answer is pretty obvious, isn't it?

We can do our part to ensure that we always have plenty of good clean water. We can't do it all by ourselves because water may be polluted by erosion of the soil, sewage, industrial wastes, and other causes. Those types of pollution can only be cleaned up by action of our state and federal governments. I'm glad to say that our government conservation departments are working hard to conserve our water resources.

But every Scout, and every other citizen, has a responsibility, too. For one thing, we can make sure we don't pollute the water when we're out fishing, swimming, or camping along a water source. We have to make sure that we never throw litter or garbage into a stream or lake. We don't dig latrines near a stream or lake. We use soap instead of a detergent for dishwashing in camp. We do that, because nature can't break down a detergent as it does soap. So if our old soapy dishwasher filters into the stream, it won't be a pollutant for very long.

Let's try to remember that on our Fishing Camp-Out. We can all help to make a contribution to clean water for ourselves and for future Americans.

**52. GIGO**

Like any other profession, the computer field has a lot of special words, like pixel, RAM, ROM, crash, bits, bytes and nibbles. All these terms have precise meanings for computer specialists. My favorite is a made-up word. It's GIGO, spelt G-I-G-O. Does anyone know what it means? It stands for "Garbage In, Garbage Out. "

That's the computer experts way of saying that if you put the wrong information into a computer you will get a false result. The computer is a marvelous machine, but it can only work with the data you feed it. If that data is wrong then the computer's answer will be wrong, too.

"Garbage In, Garbage Out" is true of the human mind, too. Your mind is the most powerful computer ever created, but like this home computer we have here, it depends on what you put into it. For example, if you always hang around with guys that use terrible language, it will be imprinted in your brain's circuits, and it probably won't be long before garbage is coming out of your mouth, too. Same thing with actions. If your friends are always trying to rip things off or hurt other people in some way, you can almost be sure that you'll pick up their habits.

So when you're choosing friends, remember GIGO - Garbage In, Garbage Out.

**53. COMPUTER WORLD**

This month we've had a chance to learn a little about computers. You've seen that they're good for a lot more than playing games, and maybe you've gotten a glimpse of what the future will be like in the Computer Age before you. By the time you are adults, your homes will probably be controlled by computers. Computers will control the temperature by turning on the furnace or air conditioner, wake you in the morning with soothing music, turn on the lawn sprinkler when sensors say the ground is dry, and control a robot that does the house cleaning. At work, no matter what your job is, there will be some kind of computer there to

help you. Thousands of uses for computers that we can't even imagine now will be everyday stuff by the time you are men.

Sounds great, doesn't it? It will be. Computers are surely going to change the way we live. But they won't change what we are - human beings with a need to love and be loved, to be useful, and to get along with other human beings. That's why I think the Scout Law will be just as important 50 years from now as it is today. And that's why it's important now, while you are young, you begin to learn to live by the Scout Law. Let's remind ourselves of what that means by thinking about each point of the Law as we repeat it. (Lead Law)

#### **54. GOOD TURNABOUT**

The name of our program this month is "Sharing the Good Life. " At times you may think your life isn't all that great, especially when you have a lot of homework or your parents are bearing down on you.

But if you think about it for a moment, you'll realize that you do have a good life. You have three good meals a day, a home to go to, a chance to go to school, plenty of friends, and maybe a little spending money. You also have parents who love you, and that's a big blessing; I'm sure they do lots of Good Turns for you that you hardly ever think about.

This month we're going to do a Good Turn for two reasons. One is that our Scout Oath pledges us to help other people. The other is that we owe something to those around us - our parents, our community, and our troops chartered organization. You might call this Good Turn a Good Turnabout because in part it's a way to show our appreciation.

(Mention your troops planned Good Turn. )

I expect to see all of you out on our Good Turn day, not because you have to be but because you want to. As the old saying goes. "Turnabout is fair play," and with this Good Turn we'll be saying thanks to those who have helped us. (or our community or our nation, depending on who will benefit from the Good Turn)

#### **55. FAMILY NIGHT**

Next week we'll have our big family night and court of honor, and I'm hoping that all your families will be her and have a great time. We only have a family activity once every three or four months, so it's a big deal for us when our parents, brothers and sisters join us at a court of honor or other event. But you know, every night should be family night for you.

Sound strange? Well I don't mean that the troop should meet every night and invite our families. What I do mean is that you should share some part of everyday with your families. Maybe just during the dinner hour or even 15 minutes over your homework. The point is that your family is the center of your life and will remain so until you're grown up and are leaving home, perhaps to start a new family.

If you have a chemistry set at home with a little vial of mercury in it, try this experiment. Put a glob of mercury on a piece of paper. Then take a knife and cut it up into three or four smaller globs. When you tilt the paper towards the center, the little globs will run together into a big glob again. A family is like that - two or three or four or more individuals who come together at times into one big whole. Make it a point to share some time with your family every day.

#### **56. LIVING YOUR LAW**

Nations, states communities and even families have laws. These are simple rules by which people must live in order to have harmony. If we didn't have rules or laws to govern ourselves, society would be impossible.

If a person breaks the law of the land, he is penalized in some way. He might be fined or sent to prison. If you break one of your family's laws or rules, you get penalized, too. Maybe your time to watch television is cut back, or maybe you get grounded.

Each of us needs his own set of laws to govern himself, too. These are your personal standards, the laws by which you live. In Scouting, we call those standards the Scout Law.

What's the penalty for breaking the Scout Law? Maybe you think the penalty would not be so bad, but let's consider it for a moment. If you're not trustworthy, people will never depend on you. If you're not friendly, you won't have many friends. If you're not obedient to your teachers, parents and others in authority, you can't expect that other people will obey you when you're in authority.

There's a good reason for every kind of law - our nation's, our town's, our family's and our own. They show how we can live in harmony with others and with ourselves. Let's think about that as we repeat the Scout Law. (Lead Law).

## **57. BE PREPARED**

Next week we're going on our Winter Campout. For you new Scouts especially, it's going to be a test of what you've learned about camping and being comfortable outdoors.

Camping is easy and fun in the spring, summer and fall because while you may get wet occasionally, it's not much trouble to get dry and warm again. Camping in winter is fun, too, but it's not so easy to stay comfortable when the temperature is around the freezing mark and cold rain or snow is falling.

That's why it's so important that we're all prepared for winter camping. Tonight we've checked our camping equipment and each patrol has planned some nutritious meals for camp. We've also practiced some of the things we'll need to do to stay warm and dry and have fun in camp.

I suggest that each patrol go over their preparations once more before camp. Remember that Mother Nature is easy on us through most of the year, but in winter she can be unforgiving for Scouts who are not prepared.

**58. MENTALLY AWAKE** (Have a junior assistant Scoutmaster enter the room apparently in the throes of choking. He's gasping for breath, grabbing his throat, turning red. See what the response is. )

Well Scouts, that was scary, wasn't it? How many of you knew what was apparently happening to him? How many of you knew the proper first aid?

Jim was just acting, of course, to make a point. The point is you have to be mentally awake to be prepared to give first aid. It's one thing to practice slapping backs and doing the manual thrusts. It's another to recognize trouble when it comes and know what to do without panicking. Sure you may be a little scared the first time you have to make real rescue or give first aid to someone who really needs it. But that's the test of the first aider.

Be alert to recognize trouble. When it comes, stay cool. Then act. Your training in first aid in our troop probably will make you better prepared to help than anyone else on the scene.

## **59. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

So far this month, we've spent most of our time learning first aid. We've been trying to prepare ourselves to help other people when they're sick or injured.

But there's more to being prepared than knowing first aid. Real preparedness is many things - knowledge, confidence, and having the necessary equipment on hand when it's needed. We want to be ready for any emergency.

Next week we'll be testing ourselves on our readiness for emergency action. Our tests will not only require skill in first aid, but the ability to communicate well, to think through a problem, and to work together as a patrol.

Those are the kinds of skills that are useful in a disaster. If our town was hit by a tornado, we might be called out to help rescuers, but maybe we wouldn't be asked to do any first aid. We could be asked to serve as messengers, direct traffic, or cook and serve food.

That's why it's important that we prepare ourselves by learning more about our community and by practicing all sorts of Scout skills. And that's why it's important that you take full advantage of what Scouting has to offer by taking part in all our activities and doing your best to move up in rank. By the time you're a First Class scout, you'll be prepared for many kinds of service.

## **60. THAT FIRST STEP**

The Chinese have a saying, "The journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step." There's a lesson for us in that saying.

I'm thinking of advancement. If you come to troop meetings without ever looking in your Official Boy Scout Handbook all week long and if you never ask how to pass a test or who to see about a merit badge, you'll never advance

very far in Scouting. In Scouting, and in life, the rewards don't come to those who sit back and wait for something to be handed to them on a silver platter.

I would like to see every one of you set the Eagle Scout badge as your goal in Scouting. As a step toward that goal, I hope that most of you will receive some award at our court of honor at the end of this month.

Whatever the goal you set for yourself, remember that only you can take that first step toward it. No one can do it for you. Once you've taken that first step the next step becomes easier. And the ones after that will be easier still because you're on the way along the Scouting trail.

## **61. HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

We're calling our campout next week a Happy Birthday Campout because February is the anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. We're going to observe the birthday by showing the public in our community what good Scouting is all about.

So in some ways this is an extra special campout. We want to look and act like Scouts, which means that we'll ask you to wear your uniforms and be on your best behavior.

This doesn't mean you can't have fun. In fact I think we'll have a lot of fun, but we'll do it in ways that will bring credit to our troop and to Scouting.

We're also having a court of honor this month as part of our birthday celebration. During the court program, we will ask you and your parents to contribute to Scouting's World Friendship Fund. This is a special fund of the Boy Scouts of America to help Scouting associations in poor countries. The fund provides money for equipment, uniforms, and training for leaders. It's one of the ways that all of us can help promote the idea of Scouting as a world brotherhood.

I suggest that each of you consider giving a quarter to the fund. If that's too much, give what you can. Whatever you give, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped a brother Scout in another country.

## **62. YOUR DIRECTION (Take a bearing with a compass)**

One day a Scout named Bill was sighting with his compass, as I'm doing now. "Top of that hill is 045 degrees," said Bill, "I'm going to follow that bearing and end up on top. "

Bill started off checking his compass now and then to make sure he was heading right. Finally he set foot on top of the hill.

He had done three things - set his objective, figured out the direction he'd have to go to get there, and then moved full steam ahead.

Like all of you, Bill set a lot of courses towards many goals in his lifetime. Maybe he said to himself, "I'm going to be an engineer. " Then he would find out what it takes to become an engineer, and steer his course in that direction.

By the end of this month, all of you should be able to set a compass course. Probably all of you have set a course toward a career. There's another kind of course that's more important than your career. I'm talking about the character course. . Your character is being formed right now by what you do and don't do.

We have a "compass" for the character course, too. It's the Scout Oath and Law. Set your character course using the Oath and Law and you'll have the best kind of character. You'll be the kind of man that others can trust, rely upon and admire. you'll go to the top of the character hill.

## **63. A SCOUT IS KIND**

Scouts, our Law say's "A Scout is kind. A Scout understand that there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not hurt or kill harmless things without reason. " Some of you may already be hunters. No doubt others will hunt as you get older. I have a question for you: Is a hunter following the Scout Law when he shoots wild creatures? (Get answers. )

It seems to me that the key words in this point of the Law are, "without reason," a Scout does not hurt or kill without reason. If you're going hunting for food, or to kill pests that are destroying property, or are hunting animals that are dangerous to man, you're not hunting without reason. So you are not violating the Scout Law.

But never aim at a target you don't intend to hit. And if your target is a living creature, be sure you're not killing it without reason. A Scout is kind, and he does not blast away just for fun. He shoots only for good reason.

## **64. A BALANCED MENU FOR LIFE**

Tonight we've spent a lot of time talking about the four food groups we need to be healthy. And we've looked up some of those recipes, using those four food groups. I hope you'll remember what you've learned when we go on our campout at the end of this month because I'm getting tired of hamburgers and hot-dogs.

But just as a balanced diet of foods is vital for your physical health, so is a balanced diet of activities vital for your mental and spiritual health. You all know by now, that if you ate nothing but potato chips, candy and soda, you wouldn't stay healthy very long. The same idea applies to your activities.

If you did nothing but play sports all the time, and neglected your schoolwork, your religious duties, your Scouting, and other activities with friends, you would be a pretty sad case before long. Oh, you might be a good ball player, but that's all. You would not make any progress mentally, spiritually or as a person who is a pleasure to be around.

Well, you might say, I love sports. Fine - play them - and play for all your worth. But remember that life has many satisfactions besides sports. Don't cut yourself from them by spending all your time in one activity.

Join a school club. Become active in your churches youth group. Come to every troop meeting and activity. Take full advantage of school; don't do just enough work to get by. And play sports.

You can do it all, and if you do I think you'll enjoy life even more than you do now.

**65. A SCOUT IS CLEAN** (Hold up two cooking pots, one shiny bright on the inside but sooty outside, the other shiny outside and dirty inside. )

Scouts, which of these pots would you rather have your food cooked in? Did I hear someone say "Neither one. " That's not a bad answer. We wouldn't have much confidence in a patrol cook who didn't have his pots shiny both inside and out. But if we had to make a choice, we would tell the cook to use the pot that's clean on the inside. The same applies to people.

Most people keep themselves clean on the outside. But how about the inside? Do we try to keep our minds and our language clean? I think that's more important than keeping the outside clean.

A Scout of course, should be clean inside and out. Water, soap, and a toothbrush takes care of the outside.

Only your determination will keep the inside clean. You can do it by following the Scout Law and the example of the people you respect - your parents, your teacher, your clergyman, or a good buddy who is trying to do the same thing.

**66. THE TWO KNAPSACKS**

Perhaps you've heard some people say that life is a hike between the cradle and the grave. For some, it's a long trip of many moons. For others it's a short trip that ends unexpectedly.

But all of us are equipped for life's trip with two knapsacks - one to be carried on the back the other to be carried on the chest.

The average hiker on the trail of life puts the faults of others into the knapsack on his chest so that he can always see them. His own faults he puts in the sack on his back so that he can't see them without special effort. He hikes through life constantly noticing the faults of other people but usually overlooking his own faults.

Scouts, this pack arrangement is bad because no one can have a successful life just finding fault with other people.

It's the man who can see his own faults and strives to correct them who enjoys the hike through life the most and finally enter the Happy Hunting Ground with thanksgiving.

Let's place the knapsack with our own faults upon our chests and put the bag with others' mistakes behind us. That way we'll have a happier hike through life.

**67. BREAKING THEM IN** (Show a pair of well worn hiking boots. )

These old boots have taken me over a lot of miles of trail. They're really comfortable. Whoever coined the expression, "as comfortable as an old shoe," must have been talking about these old boots.

But once, a long time ago, they were brand new and stiff as a board. Oh, I softened them up with some polish and saddle soap, but mostly I broke them in by using them. One step at a time - that's the way good boots become good friends.

Good habits are like that, too. The first time you do something hard that you know is right, you may feel as uncomfortable as a new boot. For instance, maybe a friend suggests that the two of you steal the answers to a quiz from the teacher's desk. Maybe that doesn't seem too bad -

bad you know it's wrong and perhaps you hesitate. But you refuse to do it, even though your friend calls you chicken.

Nobody likes to be called chicken but you'll be secretly glad you refused. And I'm sure you'll find it easier the next time, because, like these boots, good habits become more comfortable each time they're used.

**68. A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY**

What's the fourth point of the Scout Law? That's right - "A Scout is friendly. "

Do you have as many friends as you'd like to have? Real friends, I mean? The kind of guys you're glad to see, and who are glad to see you?

Well maybe not. Lots of us would like to make more friends, but somehow it doesn't seem to happen. Well the secret of making friends is simple - being friendly. If you're a put down artist, or if you're always trying to rip off everybody or get the better of them in some way you're not going to have many friends. Nobody likes to be put down or ripped off.

The Bible gives the key to making friends. It's called the Golden Rule - "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. " That's a great rule to remember in everything you do. And it's a perfect prescription for making friends.

**69. WILDERNESS PLEDGE**

Scouts, next week we're going to practice some of the skills of what is called minimum impact camping, when we're outdoors for our Park Service project. As you've learned this month, the idea of minimum impact camping is to leave no trace that we were ever there when we leave a campsite or hike a trail.

As part of our opening ceremony tonight we heard a reading of the Outdoor Code. You should be familiar with that because we recite it every once in a while and it's in your Scout handbook. Now we're going to read and think about a code that goes a step further. It's called the Wilderness Pledge.

The Wilderness Pledge says: "Through good camping and hiking practices, I pledge myself to preserve the beauty and splendor of America's wilderness, primitive, and backcountry areas. I commit myself to: 'Set a personal example in following the Outdoor Code; train those I lead in the skills and attitudes needed to protect and preserve wilderness for future generations; and assure that parties of which I am a part observe the hiking and camping standards that will

'leave no trace' of our passing. " That pledge is particularly important when you go into really wild areas of our beautiful country. You are promising that you will do everything in your power to preserve its beauty for all who follow you.

Now I would like to join me as we borrow the first phrase of the Scout Oath to commit ourselves to the Wilderness Pledge, Please repeat after me: "On my honor I will do my best," (Scouts' repeat)

## **70. INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Everybody loves the Fourth of July. In many communities it's a time for parades, fireworks, ball games and picnics.

Real fun! But we ought not to forget what the Fourth of July really is - the birthday of our country - because that's when the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776, over 200 years ago. Here's a trick question for you. How many stars were in the US flag on the first Fourth of July? You're probably going to say 13, because there were 13 colonies in America then, but that's wrong.

In fact, there weren't any stars in the flag. The colonists were using the Grand Union Flag, which used the British union symbol and 13 red and white stripes. You can see a picture of it in your Official Boy Scout Handbook.

Stars representing the states first appeared in the US flag 11 years later. Since then, stars have been added each time states have joined the union.

Today we honor this emblem of our country with its 50 stars and 13 stripes because it is the symbol of the nation's unity. We use flag ceremonies so often that it's easy to forget what the flag means and what the Fourth of July means in this country's history.

Now I'm going to ask our honor patrol to retire the colors. As they do it, let's think about the brave men who signed the Declaration of Independence and the love of country they passed on to us.

## **71. SETTING STANDARDS**

As Scouts and as school pupils, you spend a lot of time meeting standards. In school your work may be graded on a scale from A through F. In Scouting, you're asked to meet a set of standards before you can earn a skill award, merit badge or new rank.

These are all pretty clear cut standards. Either you can tie a bowline and perform rescue breathing, or you can't. There's nothing in between. We have other standards in this troop that are harder to measure. I'm talking about our standards of behavior, dress and grooming, and Scout-like conduct.

Soon we're going to go to summer camp (or on tour), and these standards will be particularly important then. I'm not saying that they are not important all the time. But in summer camp (or on tour) you're not just John Smith, you're representing this troop and the whole Boy Scouts of America.

I hope you'll all remember that and do your best to be neat and clean, wear your uniform when it's appropriate, and, above all, to conduct yourselves as Scouts should.

That doesn't mean that you have to be a goody two-shoes. There's a time for horseplay, getting mussed up, and teasing. But in this troop, the standard is that when the horseplay and games are over, we look like Scouts, sound like Scouts, and conduct ourselves like by the Scout Law.

## **72. A SCOUT IS BRAVE BUT NOT FOOLHARDY**

"What's the 10th point of the Scout Law? That's right, a Scout is brave. It means that a Scout is courageous enough to do what needs to be done when someone is in danger or when other guys laugh at him because he won't do something he knows is wrong.

"Everybody admires a brave person, even the guy who might laugh at him for not going along with a rip-off. But you know, there's sometimes a fine line between being brave and being foolhardy or stupid by taking chances that aren't necessary.

"Right now I'm thinking of the danger when we're in the water. Danger you say, what danger? I'm a champion swimmer.

Maybe so, but the water is dangerous all the same. All it would take is a bad cramp or a blow on the head when you're roughhousing in the water, and you could be an Olympic gold-winner for all the good it would do you. The cemeteries are full of strong swimmers who swam alone into deep water. That's why we have the Safe Swim Defense plan and particularly the buddy system when we are in the water. And we will insist on using the buddy system every time - no matter whether you can't swim a stroke or are the best swimmer in town. "Yes, it's great to be brave - and I hope you all are - but around water, we'll be cautious, too. "

### **73. A KEY TO SCOUTING** (Hold up a car key)

I have here in my hand a key - a small item as you can see. Yet it will open the door to my car, and when properly placed and turned it will start the engine. With this little key I can visit faraway places, see wonderful sights, and do so many things that were impossible a generation ago. Is it any wonder that I always carry this key with me?

(Hold up a copy of The Official Boy Scout Handbook)

Your Boy Scout Handbook is a lot like my car key. It is a small item, yet it will open the door to Scouting and will speed you on your way to adventure. Sure, you probably could get by without using your handbook. I could get by without my car key, too, but I'd have to walk and it would be slow.

I certainly wouldn't get to see all those places I can reach by car.

Let's not leave our key behind as we enjoy Scouting.

Use your handbook regularly. Take it with you to meetings and on hikes and camping trips. Let your handbook open the door for you.

### **74. BIG ENOUGH**

Scouts, for hiking you have to use a map scale to measure distance between points.

Tonight I'm thinking of another kind of measuring. I get the feeling that we don't realize how often we measure ourselves, day after day.

When you look at a heavy package and say, "That's too heavy for me to lift," what are you measuring? The size of the package - perhaps. But even more you're measuring yourself. You are not big enough to handle this package - or perhaps you just think you aren't.

It may be your homework. We say, "It's too much," when we really mean, "I'm not enthusiastic enough about that much work".

You see, in cases like that we're talking about ourselves, really, rather than the amount of our homework.

Our big idea - all over America - is "Be of service. " Some may say, "Oh, it's too much bother," but others will prove that they are big enough to measure up to this idea.

When we look at a job we take our own measure.

**75. OUR FLAG AND OUR OATH** (Have 3 candle in a holder before you - one red, one white and one blue)

Have you noticed the strong bond between our flag and our Scout Oath? Let me show you. (Light the white center candle. ) One of the colors in our flag is white. It is the symbol of purity, of perfection. It is like the first point of our Scout Oath, our duty to God.

(Light the red candle. ) The color red in our flag denotes sacrifice and courage, the qualities of the founders of our country. . Red is the symbol of the second part of the Scout Oath, too. Our duty to other people requires courage to help anyone in trouble and the self-sacrifice of putting others first.

(Light the blue candle. ) Blue is the color of faith. It represents the faith of our founding fathers and reminds us of the third part of the Scout Oath. Our duty to ourselves requires us to be true blue, to be strong in character and principle, to live a life of faith in the importance of being good.

Scouts, rise! Let's have lights out, please. Now, Scout sign. Let us dedicate ourselves with our Scout Oath.

**76. MAGNETIC INFLUENCE** (Demonstrate how a magnet destroys the validity of a compass by causing the needle to veer from North)

Scouts, you have learned to rely on your compass. You know that the needle points North and will guide you in the wilderness, but you have also seen what happens when a magnet is brought near the compass. The magnet is an outside influence on the character of the compass.

Each Scout has an aim in life. He wants to grow up to be physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

The points of the Scout Law make up the magnetic field that directs the compass needle we follow.

Just like the magnet, there are influences trying to change our aim. There are temptations difficult to overcome - temptations to get by without working, to lie, to cheat, to follow the coaxing of friends, and the jeers or threats of enemies.

If you are going to grow up to be physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight, you must not succumb to the attraction of the evil magnets in your life, but must be steadfast in your purpose of living up to the ideals of Scouting.

**77. HOW TO CATCH A MONKEY**

Anybody here want to know how to catch a monkey? Well, I can tell you how they do it in India. They take a gourd, cut a small hole in it, and then put some rice inside. Then they tie the gourds down securely and wait for the monkey.

Monkeys are greedy and selfish. I guess you could say anybody who is greedy and selfish is a monkey. Anyway, monkeys are so greedy and selfish that they fall for the gourd trick every time.

The monkey sticks his paw into the gourd to get the rice. He grabs a handful - but then he can't get his hand out of the gourd. His fist won't go through the small hole. And he's so greedy and selfish that he won't let go of the handful of rice. He just waits there with his greedy fist wrapped around the rice until the men come and take him.

Well, you've got the moral to this story: Don't be greedy and selfish or you may make a "monkey" of yourself.

## **78. NIGHT IS FOR SLEEPING**

You can always spot the greenhorn - the first year camper - as soon as "Taps" sounds on the first night in camp. He's the guy who just can't quiet down when the time comes for sleeping.

The experienced camper, comfortable and warm in his bed, knows that night is for sleeping - knows that he'll have more fun and be in better shape for all activities next day, if he gets a good night's sleep.

The greenhorn is the fellow who makes an uncomfortable bed with either poor insulation or inadequate covers and wakes up in the wee small hours, cold and uncomfortable and unable to get back to sleep. The greenhorn can't stand to be cold and uncomfortable alone, so he wakes up a few other soundly sleeping fellow Scouts to share his discomfort. This, naturally, makes him an unpopular guy, not only with the fellows that he intentionally woke up, but with all the other campers who are roused by the noise created by the greenhorn out chopping wood to keep warm.

Don't be a camp greenhorn. Night is for sleeping. Be quiet after "Taps" until you get to sleep, and if you wake up early in the morning, don't give away your inexperience by getting up. Stay in bed until "Reveille. "

## **79. A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL**

Two brothers once decided to leave their hometown and move to the city. Outside the city the first brother met an old man. "How are the people here?" asked the first brother. "Well, how were the people in your hometown?" asked the old man in return.

"Aw, they were always grumpy and dissatisfied," answered the first brother. "There wasn't a single one among them worth bothering about. "

"And," the old man said, "you'll find that the people here are exactly the same!"

Later the other brother came along. "How are the people in this city?" he asked. "How were the people in your hometown?" the old man asked as before.

"Fine!" said the other brother. "Always cheerful, always kind and understanding!"

"You will find that the people her are exactly the same!" said the old man again, for he was a wise old man who knew that the attitude of the people you meet depends upon your own state of mind. If you are cheerful and frank and good-humored, you'll find others the same.

## **80. STICK TO IT (Hold up an envelope that has been delivered by mail)**

Scouts, the postage stamp you see on this envelope was given the job of making sure that this important piece of mail was delivered to me. The stamp is pretty small but, in spite of its size, it did the job.

In your patrols, each of you has the responsibility of "delivering the mail" in order that your patrol becomes a success. Like the postage stamp, it isn't your size that determined how well you do the job, rather, how well you stick to it.

We can't all be good at all things. Some are better at physical skill, some at mental tasks.

Remember the stamp. It did the job in spite of its size by sticking to the job. Make up your mind that you can do the same thing. Just determine to do your best - and stick to it until the job is done.

81. **RESPECT FOR THE FLAG** Have one red, one white and one blue piece of cloth and a US flag.

What is our flag? You might say it's a piece of cloth. Would that be right? Well, it's true that these pieces of cloth could make a US flag, but then we would have more than a piece of cloth, wouldn't we? What is our flag then? It's a symbol of our country, of the principle for which we stand. It's a guarantee of protection and security for us. And isn't it a thrill to see our flag flying at the top of a tall staff?

The blue in our flag is a symbol of faith and loyalty - the faith and loyalty of our country's founders. The red in our flag denotes sacrifice, the sacrifices made to establish our nation. The white of her stars and alternate stripes stands for purity of heart and mind. Yes the colors stand for bravery, loyalty and purity.

Is there anything in these pieces of cloth by themselves that demands our respect? No. They could be made into an apron just as easily as a flag. We could mop the floor with them or wipe our shoes with them. But the flag these pieces of cloth could make represents our great nation and everything the United States stands for. That's why, Scouts, we give our flag the respect and loyalty that we owe the United States of America.

82. **EVERYONE CAN WIN**

In a competitive rally we have winners and losers in the various events, yet it is possible for everyone to win something. A losing patrol can win in spirit and morale, if the fellows work as a team and gain a better understanding of one another. It can win respect in the eyes of all Scouts, if patrol members show good sportsmanship. A patrol that loses in competition can still win, if in the process of losing the Scouts in the patrol gain in the knowledge of Scouting skills so they will be more proficient in future meets of this type.

Sure it's nice to win, but with the right attitude, losers frequently benefit more in the long run than do the winners. Nobody enters a competitive rally planning to lose, but if this should be your lot, make the best of it - take advantage of the things learned in losing and determine to build your patrol teamwork and skill so that the next time someone else will be the loser.

83. **LIGHT YOUR LAW** (Light an ordinary match, hold it up until it has burned for a few seconds, and then blow it out, break it and then throw it away)

Scouts, you're all familiar with a common match, and know that with it you can start a fire - a fire that will keep you warm, cook your food, and add cheer after dark. After using a match to light your fire, you break it to be sure it is out, and discard it.

The Scout Law is somewhat like this match. We use it to light the good things inside us, but unlike the match we threw away, we should keep the Scout Law to use over and over - in our Scout activities, in our daily living at home, in school, in our work and play, and in the future as we grow into manhood. We don't discard the Scout Law after the troop meeting or even in later years when we are no longer Boy Scouts. The things it represents are as true and meaningful to adults as they are to Scouts.

If you follow the Scout Law everyday, the points of the Law will become so much a part of your life that when you grow up and enter the world of adults, you will be able to stand erect and look everyone squarely in the face and say, "I am a man. "

Let's all stand, give the Scout sign, and repeat the Scout Law.

#### **84. BE "IN UNIFORM"**

Scouts, what would you think of a policeman in full uniform except for trousers which were of bright plaid material? How about a hospital intern wearing a sport coat over his white uniform while on duty? Or what would you think of a train conductor wearing a fireman's cap or, even more absurd, an airline pilot wearing the silks of a jockey as he boarded the plane?

They'd all be "out of uniform," wouldn't they? With some of the outfits mentioned, you would be sure what they really were.

Scouts, we have a uniform, too. We have a full uniform - not just a neckerchief or just a shirt, but like the people I just mentioned, we have a full uniform. When we don't wear the full uniform, we are just as "out of uniform" as the policeman with the plaid pants.

The Flag Code says that when we are "in uniform" we salute the flag with the Scout salute, but when "out of uniform" we salute by holding our right hand over our heart.

How do you think a Scout should salute the flag if he's wearing blue jeans or chinos or some other non-official dress along with part of the uniform? He's not "in uniform," is he?

#### **85. A SCOUT IS THRIFTY**

Scouts, here I have a handful of sand, and in my other hand I have a piece of topsoil, just sod. Do you see much difference in them?

Yes you're right. There's the difference between poverty and wealth here - the difference between starvation and prosperity for all people. This sand represents a civilization that once flourished and is now dead because of misuse of resources. People took from the soil and put nothing back.

But this sod is different because it contains the miracle power of growth. This sod is topsoil enriched through many years.

Our very existence depends on the narrow margin of about 6" of topsoil that covers much of our planet. Without it, we cannot survive.

If all the topsoil of the world eroded, what would people live on? Food can't be raised on sand or rock.

What things can we do, as Scouts and as citizens, to help people better understand the importance of this (gesturing with the sod) and not just let our land drift to this (sand) - with the topsoil allowed to waste away?

#### **86. WORKING TOGETHER (Equipment - 20 wooden matches held together with a rubber band. See that all the matches are even in the bundle so the package will stand on end. Stand the matches on the floor in front of the Scouts. )**

Scouts, you'll notice the matches in front of you stand easily when they're all bound together with the rubber band.

But, look at what happens when I try to stand them after removing the band.

(Take the rubber band off and attempt to stand them up. Of course they fall in all directions.)

Our troop is like a bunch of matches. As long as we work together as a team, bound together by the ties of Scouting, we will stand together as a strong troop. But if we remove those ideas of Scouting, and each man thinks only of himself, we'll be like that bunch of matches when the rubber band was taken off.

As we all live up to the ideals of the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan, we will be wrapping ourselves with the band that will strengthen our troop and make sure that it stands for the things that make Scouting great.

**87. WHAT MONEY CAN'T BUY** (Hold up some money)

All of you recognize this and know that it will buy certain things. It can purchase a candy bar, a stamp, or a little time on a parking meter. Add more money and you can do bigger things.

However, there are many things that money, no matter how much you have, cannot buy. Some of these include the love of your family, freedom friendships, and the great out-of-doors.

You can't place a value on Scouting, either. We couldn't pay salaries high enough to get all the help we have. Nor could we place a value on the memorable experiences, the camping trips, the hikes and the fun of campfires.

People can't pay us for the Good Turns we do, and isn't that a good thing? Such payment would take away the good feeling that we have when we do things for others.

Remember, this money can buy many things, but not the things that really count in human happiness and dignity.

**88. BADGE, BOOK AND CANDLE** (Place a Scout badge, The official Scout Handbook, and a lighted candle on a table)

Scouts, since 1910 these three things have been significant in the Boy Scouts of America.

The badge is the symbol of Scouting throughout the United States. Similar badges are used by Scouts all over the world. It is the sign of a universal brotherhood of men and boys of the free world.

There are many books that are important to good Scouts; the handbooks to help us with Scoutcraft skills; the merit badge pamphlets with information about special skills; and, most important of all, the Bible to guide our daily lives.

A candle is a symbol of the light of Scouting that penetrates the darkness of hate, prejudice, war, strife, and distrust. It is a light that must be kept burning in the heart of every Scout, now, and as he grows into manhood.

**89. THE GOOD TURN** (Hold up an ordinary mechanical pencil with the lead turned in so that it will not write. Use this pencil as if writing on a sheet of paper and then hold up the paper to show that there is no writing on it. )

Scouts, this pencil won't write. It doesn't leave a mark on this piece of paper. But if we give it a Good Turn (at this point turn the pencil so the lead comes out), it now becomes useful and will leave a mark on a sheet of paper.

The Good Turn we gave the pencil made it useful. The Good Turns we do in our daily lives are the things that make us useful. The Good Turn enables us to be useful in our home,

school, community and nation. The Good Turn raises us above the ordinary. It makes our lives worthwhile.

### **90. THANK YOU, DAD**

Now, Scouts, don't answer this question out loud, but how long has it been since you said, "Thank you, Dad. " I'm afraid that too often we take our fathers for granted.

I suppose it might be awkward to try to say - in words - "Thanks Dad, I appreciate everything you do for me - and with me. " And of course, if we merely said those words and stopped there, they'd be a pretty empty kind of thanks, wouldn't they? I wonder just how a fellow can go about saying thank you to his father and mother. The best way that we can show our appreciation is by making our parents proud of us, happy over the kind of fellows we are and are trying to be.

No matter what else we do as a gesture to show appreciation on Father's Day, certainly we want to do our very best to be the kind of fellows that are dads can be proud of all through the year.

### **91. PICKING ON HIM**

On a hike or in camp we reveal our true selves most. Did you ever know a Scout who thought people were always picking on him?

I recall a boy who pitched his tent carelessly and it blew down on him in the middle of the night. He tried hard to blame it on someone else, but finally had to admit to himself, "Well, I guess it was my own fault. "

Another time he burned a steak. "It was the fire's fault," he insisted, until the other fellows laughed at him and showed him how the same bed of coals could help turn out a well-cooked steak.

Things usually happen to us because we set the stage for them. Actually, people are too busy to spend their time picking on us.

When something goes wrong, the first place to look for the cause is within ourselves.

### **92. YOUR DEVELOPMENT (Show a roll or package of camera film)**

If you looked at this roll of film before development, you cannot tell what kind of picture it will make. Film looks exactly the same after snapping the shutter as it did before.

But after development, the image appears on the film and you can see what the picture will be when it is printed.

As I look at you Scouts, I wonder how your exposure has been. You all look the same on the surface, yet I know there are differences within each of you. Like the film, you have been exposed to good and bad things that will make an impression when you develop.

Unlike the film, you have brains. You know what is inside yourself and can do something to make certain your development is good.

Follow the ideals of Scouting - the Slogan, Motto, Scout Oath and Law. If you live according to those high standards, you can be sure your development will be good as you grow older, and you will be able to enter manhood fully prepared to be a good citizen of our great nation.

### **93. YOUR BASIC SURVIVAL TOOL**

If someone told you that you would be dropped from a plane in the heart of the Canadian wilderness and could pick one tool, implement or instrument to take with you, what would you choose? Would it be a rifle, pistol or similar weapon? How about a tent or sleeping bag? Or would a box of matches be more useful?

An experienced woodsman was asked this question and without hesitation he said, "My Ax. " He said that with his ax he could defend himself, build shelter, cut materials to make snares and fishing equipment to make food. The steel in his ax would strike a spark from the rocks in the area and provide him with fire. He said that in this day of marvelous inventions, only the simple ax could do all these things and guarantee his survival.

If the ax is so important to the experienced woodsman, shouldn't we be a little more respectful of it? Shouldn't we learn how to use it correctly, to care for it, and always to keep it sharp and ready for emergency use?

The woodsman, when he said, "My ax," really meant, "My sharp ax, unruined, with a tight head, ready for hard use. " An ax that doesn't meet these standards is pretty useless. Let's be sure our axes are always ready for use.

#### **94. CAMP IS A CITY**

As we look at local government, perhaps we can gain a better understanding of its duties and responsibilities, if we compare it with our own troop experience in camp.

A camp is a city in many ways. First of all, the camp has certain rules and regulation (laws) developed for the good of all campers. Then of course, someone must enforce these laws, and it is the responsibility of troop leaders (police and courts) to see that camp regulations are followed. Wherever groups of people live there is need for fire protection, and the camp is no exception. We organize a troop fire guard (firemen) while we are in camp to protect our property from the danger of fire.

Sanitation, including proper disposal of refuse and garbage, must be taken care of both in the city and in camp. In our patrol rotation of duties we have kitchen and campsite "cleaner-uppers" (sanitation department).

There are other similarities between camp and city, but the ones I've mentioned are enough to point out the value of participating citizenship. You all know what happens in camp when we have indifferent citizens. Everyone suffers because of the failure of a few. The same thing is true in a government.

#### **95. YOUR MARK - WHICH WILL IT BE? (Hold up a plaster cast of a track. )**

Scouts, here you see permanent evidence that an animal (or bird) has passed along the way. Before we made the cast, the track was pretty temporary - a few hours of wind and rain and all signs of the animal's passing would be erased. By making the cast, we preserved the track for future generations of Scouts to view.

Our lives can make a temporary or permanent mark in the world according to the way we live. Most of us probably never will be great leaders of nations or famous in the arts or sciences, but we can still leave a permanent mark on this earth by the things we do for others.

The daily Good Turn is one way to start making your mark, because as you give of yourself to others in unselfish service, you are making changes in their lives and yours. Those who change the lives of others make a permanent mark in the world, because the good they do lives on long after they have passed along the way.

Has each of you done his Good Turn today? Have you decided to consciously seek out opportunities for service to others and not just wait until you happen to see a need?

Decide now to leave your permanent track as you pass through the years.

**96. HEAT, FUEL AND OXYGEN** (Hold a lighted candle while talking. Room lights may be turned off, if desired. )

Scouts, here you see a plain ordinary candle - a candle such as we use in our Court of Honor ceremonies.

This candle needs three things to keep it burning. These three things are heat, fuel and oxygen. The heat was provided by the match I used to start it burning. The fuel is the melted wax which is absorbed by the wick. The oxygen comes from the air around us.

If we remove any one of these three things, the candle will go out. If there is no heat, the wax will not melt. If the wax is not melted, the wick cannot absorb the fuel, and if the air were cut off, the candle would soon go out.

In the same way, Scouts, you and I need three things to do our tasks in life. These things are related to your body, your mind and your spirit.

In dedication yourselves to the Scout Oath, you pledge that you will do your best to make these three things meaningful in your life. You pledge to keep yourselves physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

We need these three things to do our job, just as the candle needs heat, fuel and oxygen to keep burning.

**97. A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY**

An architect who had just finished college was trying to get his business established and was having a hard time doing it. He still owed money for some of his college expenses and saw his debts piling up. Each day he became more and more worried, until he was looking around desperately for a solution.

Then a wealthy man, who had been a good friend of his father, came to him one day. "I want you to build me a house," he said. "Build it of the finest materials. Spare no expense. Build it as if it were for yourself and you had all the money in the world. Here is an advance on your fee. I will be gone for some months, so take full charge. "

It was like a dream to the young architect. The advance enabled him to wipe out all his debts, and he knew that he could be married soon. For when the house was finished, he could expect other good commissions. Then his reputation would be established solidly. So he set to work with great joy.

As the building progressed, the architect was struck with an idea. The owner would not be back for months. No one was keeping check on the building. He could build the house just as he pleased. So he began to use second-rate materials where they wouldn't show. As he went on this way, he figured he would make an extra ten thousand dollars for himself, because, of course, he would charge the owner for the best materials throughout.

Well, the house finally was finished and the owner came back. The man was pleased. "It's beautiful," he said. "But, unfortunately I will never live in it. While I was traveling, I made some investments in Europe that will keep me there perhaps permanently. And I want you to have this house as a wedding present from me. It's so beautiful! It's a true picture of your own character, true and loyal all the way through!

Imagine how the young architect felt! Yes, the house was a picture of his own character, and would be there to remind him of his cheating for as long as he lived.

- 98. THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWLEDGE** (Have an assistant leader enter the room with a bloody wound on his head. Use catsup or food coloring mixed with cold cream to make blood)

Scouts, we have a bad bleeding case here. I'd better fix him up. (Use neckerchief to make an arm sling on the assistant, ignoring the head wound. )

Well, I fixed him up pretty good, right? No? What's wrong? That's a pretty stupid mistake, isn't it? What should I have done? (Get answers).

The point we're making here is, that bad first aid is worse than no first aid at all. In first aid, you have to know what you're are doing. You don't have to be a doctor to do it right, but you do have to understand what the problem is and then take the proper action. That's what we're learning this month.

All of you know that the First Aid skill award is required for Second Class and the merit badge is required for First Class. So the subject is important for your advancement. But knowing first aid is important for its own sake, not just for advancement. That's why I hope every Scout in this troop become proficient in first aid this month.

- 99. KEEP YOUR COOL**

Scouts, I have a sort of trick question for you. Think before you answer. What's the most important thing for a first aider to do?

Call for help? No, that's often very important, but it's not the first. Check for breathing? No - again, that's obviously vital, but it's not the fist thing.

The most important thing for a first aider to do is this: Stay cool. Don't act in a panic. Think first!

Often you must act fast when a person needs first aid. But think first! That's not always easy to do in a real-life accident or serious illness, but it is essential. It's easy to be calm and cool when we're practicing first aid here in the troop room. It's not so easy when an accident victim is not breathing or when blood is spurting out of a severed artery. In those situations you must act fast.

But begin training yourself now to stay cool and think before you take action. Then if you're ever in a real crisis situation, you will remember the first aider's first rule - stay cool and think.

- 100. GOOD TURN HUNT**

Our program theme this month is called "Good Turn Hunt. " Makes it sound like Good Turns are really hard to find, doesn't it?

They're not really. If you always remember that a Scout is kind and a Scout is courteous, you'll find yourself doing Good Turns all the time without thinking about it - helping another student pick up his dropped books, for instance, or taking out the garbage at home without being asked.

This month we're learning skills that some day might be much more important. . With first aid skills, you may save a life. So our Good Turn Hunt is partly a hunt for those skills. Later this month, we're going start a hunt for a big Good Turn we'll do it in February for our chartered organization. That's part of this program theme, too.

But always - every day - you should be conducting your own Good Turn Hunt by remembering that a Scout is kind and courteous.

## **101. THE GOOD SAMARITAN**

This month we've been talking a lot about the Good Turn. The Good Turn idea has been a tradition of the Boy Scouts of America for almost 75 years now, but it's been around a lot longer than that.

Let me tell you about a man who practiced the Good Turn hundreds of years ago. A man was traveling down a road when he was ambushed by thieves. They robbed him and almost beat him to death.

As he lay there bleeding, several people passed by him. They didn't want to get involved. Then a man who believed in Good Turns happened along.

Using his own clothing, he improvised bandages and poured wine on the man's wounds as an antiseptic.

Can you guess who the rescuer was? I'll give you a hint: the story is in the Bible. Yes, the rescuer was the Good Samaritan. He has been famous down through the ages because he cared enough to help a suffering person, and because he knew enough first aid to help.

In Scouting, you are learning to be a Good Samaritan, too - to care enough to help a person who needs it, and also to know what to do.

Let's all aim to be Good Samaritans as we go through life. That, after all, is part of what Scouting means - to help other people at all times. We can say the same thing in another way by again going to the Bible. It says, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. "

## **102. YOU'VE GOT TO GET IT OVER**

You've probably seen a baseball pitcher who can throw a ball through a brick wall, but he can't throw strikes. In baseball, if you don't have control, you don't win.

That's true for all of us, not just pitchers. Self-control and self discipline are vital to any man. A man must be able to control his tongue, his appetite and his body and brain if he's going to get anywhere.

A long time ago, a sportswriter named Grantland Rice wrote a little poem that expresses the idea very well. The poem is called "Over the Plate" and it goes like this:

It counts not what you have, my friend,  
When the story is told at the game's far end;  
The greatest brawn and the greatest brain,  
The world has known may be yours in vain;  
The man with control is the one who counts,  
And it's how you use what you've got that counts;  
Have you got that bead? Are you aiming straight?  
How much of your effort goes over the plate?

### 103. SET OF THE SAILS

"If you have ever been sailing, or at least watched sailboats, you may have noticed that two sailboats can sail in different directions in the same breeze. The trick is in knowing how to set your sails. That's true of Scouts' progress, too. Let me read a very short play to explain what I mean. "

"Act 1: Curtain. Two boys enter to join a Scout troop. Curtain closes. Time passes. The curtain parts again. "

"Act 2: Same scene two or three years later. Where are the Scouts who joined the troop in act 1? There's one! He's an Eagle now. And there's the other! But he's only wearing the Second Class badge. Why? They both had the same chance. One of them sailed ahead, taking advantage of all opportunities. The other just limped along. It must be the set of their sails.

"Poet Ella Wheeler Wilcox said it this way:

One ship drives east and an other drives west,  
With the selfsame winds that blow,  
'Tis the set of the sails and not the gales,  
Which tells us the way to go. "

### 104. A WARPED WHEEL

Scouts, if you loosen five or six adjoining spokes on a bicycle wheel, it will warp out of shape so that it no longer makes a true circle. Pretty soon you're going to have a bumpy ride.

Your character is something like a bike wheel. The spokes are a series of rules that in Scouting we call the Scout Law. The points of our Scout Law are guides to help you stay straight and true. If you get loose and sloppy on any point of the Scout Law, the result will be the same as loosening the spokes on a bike wheel. Your personality will be warped and out of shape.

One way to stay true to yourself is to see that your observance of the Scout Law is always foremost in your mind.

When doubts creep in and you might consider violating one of the points of the Law, think about the warped, out of shape bike wheel and resolve to live up to the ideals of Scouting.

### 105. HEY KIDS

Just before you go to sleep tonight, check this list:

Did you get up on time? Did you make your bed?

Did you eat a good breakfast? Did you read something interesting?

Did you learn something? Were you polite,

Did you help a friend? Did you do some work around the house?

Did you try to earn some money to help pay for your clothes?

Did you think about your future? Did you read a newspaper or watch a newscast?

Did you brush your teeth? Twice?

Did you tell your parents how much you love them?

Imagine how good you'll feel about yourself, if you can say "Yes" to these questions, today, and every day.

## 106. WHERE ARE YOU?

Your third grade teacher said you had a problem with math. You gave up on math, and you eliminated two-thirds of the jobs available in the world. Somebody decided the Navy needed a cook. After your hitch, you opened a restaurant. Mother was a nurse. Now you are. Why are you where you are? Because you want to be there? Think about it. Maybe you ought to be somewhere else. Maybe it's not too late to figure out where, and how to get there.

## 107. LITTLE THINGS

Most of us miss out on life's big prizes. The Pulitzer, The Nobel, Oscars, Tonys, Emmys. But we're all eligible for life's small pleasures. A pat on the back, a kiss behind the ear, a four pound bass, a full moon, an empty parking space, a crackling fire, a great meal, a glorious sunset, hot soup, cold beer. Don't fret about copping life's grand awards.

Enjoy its tiny delights. There's plenty for all of us.

## 108. LEISURE

Scouts, I wonder how many of us are really mentally awake, keep our eyes open and are really aware of what goes on around us. I mean in this fast paced world in which we live in, how many of us ever stop to think and take a look around us at all the beautiful things that God has given us that we simply take for granted. What if they were suddenly all gone one day, maybe tomorrow. The reality of this is only too close sometimes, isn't it? A poet William H Davies in his poem LEISURE sums up very well the unfortunate truth of reality today. It goes like this:

What is this life if full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.  
No time to stand beneath the boughs,  
And stare as long as sheep and cows.  
No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,  
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.  
No time to turn at beauty's glance,  
And watch her feet, how they can dance.  
No time to wait till her mouth can,  
Enrich the smile her eyes began.

No time to see, in broad daylight,  
A poor life this if, full of care.  
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.  
We have no time to stand and stare.

**Are you mentally awake, Scouts?**

## **109. WHATEVER HAPPENED TO "YES PLEASE"**

It went the way of

"Thank you,"

"Excuse me,"

"Yes, sir. "

Do you know who just about killed all those phrases?

All of us.

We did not use them enough.

We now get,

"Huh?"

"What?"

"Gimme more. "

Mannerly responses are learned at home.

Rude, barbaric responses are also learned at home.

William of Wykeham, who was born in 1324 said,

"Manners maketh man. "

If we're so smart in the 20th century,

How come we're not as civilized as William was in the 14th century?

To the person who says, "Huh?", pass this message along.

## **110. YOUR LABEL**

Smart shoppers read the labels when they go to the supermarket. Product labels tell them a number of things:

Whether the can or package contains beans, corn, flour, or pork chops; what ingredients it contains; what it costs; the weight of the product. The label also carries the trademark of the packer or manufacturer. You may learn a lot by reading labels.

In Scouting, we carry around our own labels. The uniform itself is a kind of label. It tells people that we are Scouts and that we are trying to live by the Scout Oath and Law.

If they know anything about Scouting, the badges we wear are labels, too. The badges describe some of the ingredients that make up your package - how far you have progressed and whether you're now a leader in the troop.

How well does your label describe the contents of your package? Can it be said of you: "The enclosed package lives up to the Oath and Law? He is prepared to help in emergencies and does a good turn daily?"

And is it true that the badge of rank you wear honestly reflects your Scouting skills? I'm quite sure it does because

we don't give badges in this troop to Scouts who haven't earned them.

Wear your label, your uniform and its badges, proudly. And remember that it tells a lot about you and about your pledge to the Scout Oath and Law.

## **111. ON PATRIOTISM**

True patriotism is more than getting a lump in your throat when the flag passes by. It involves determination on your part to see that America remains free. It involves your willingness to put the best interest of the nation ahead of your own self-interest. Single interests may be important. But the art of democracy is the ability to recognize the common good. The ability to give and not just to take. 231 million people can pull our nation apart or pull it together. Which way did you pull today?

## **112. HE'S NO ORDINARY BOY**

When a Scout becomes an Eagle Scout he's still a boy. Only a little more than a million Scouts have ever advanced to Scouting's highest rank. Some 1.5% of the more than 40 million Scouts who have started out on the Eagle trail since the beginning of Scouting in America 79 years ago completed the trip. The Eagle has tramped a long, rugged and rewarding trail. No two Eagle Scouts are exactly alike, yet all are fundamentally alike. By noting some of these fundamentals, an insight might be glimpsed of what an Eagle Scout is.

The final result is the uses the boy makes of them as he grows into manhood.

He has learned that reverence to God comes before all other things. He knows that respect for the rights and convictions of others is part of his duty to God and his fellow man. He demonstrates the true meaning of loyalty, although he may not be able to define it. He has learned discipline and teamwork and how to apply them in his daily living. He has developed his own code of honor based on the ideals of Scouting. He has learned that physical bravery may require less courage than standing up for one's convictions. He has perseverance and determination: He must have if he is to attain Eagle rank. He has the knowledge that nature gives to those who seek it. He has Scouting skills that will be invaluable to him all his life. He presents a cheerful outlook on life even in the face of hardships and disappointments. He has more than a vague idea of what duty to his country is: he knows it starts with duty to God, his family and himself. He eagerly seeks the underlying peace offered by God through his wilderness and wildlife. He's a qualified junior leader. He realizes his obligation to the movement that gives him the opportunity to gain and develop those attributes of character.

## **113. THE MOST ELUSIVE GIFT OF ALL**

If you asked most sane and temperate men and women throughout the world what they wanted most for the holidays, their first choice wouldn't come in a magnificent box with a fancy ribbon. They couldn't find it on a colorful page of a fat Christmas catalog. They wouldn't see it glistening out at them from a window of a smart boutique. Because it's the most precious and elusive gift of all. . . peace on earth.

## **114. PASS IT ON**

What magic there is in togetherness alone. Unshared. Undivided. Far away in your soft green world of solitude of things to fill the dreams of childhood. The music of wind in the pines. Firelight. Night sounds. Only for a while will you stand the tallest tree in the forest. Capture those fleeting moments. While the child is learning Scouting, Scouting will teach the child. And the child will need the green world someone else gave you. Pass it on.

## **115. LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR CAREER**

How many of you think you know what career you will choose when you become men? Most of you have plenty of time to make up your mind, and probably you'll change your ideas before you really get serious about a career.

The reason I asked the question is that this month you have a chance to do some career exploration as we sample a few merit badges. You know there are more than 100 merit badges and probably half of them are related to careers. So your years in Scouting are a great opportunity to take close look at the world of work.

Don't miss the chance. It's a chance not only to find out which careers interest you, but it's also a chance to find out which careers you don't like. That's a good thing to find out now, if you can, so you don't spend a lot of time thinking about a career that's not for you.

If you're on the trail to Eagle - and I hope everybody here is - you have to worry about getting the required merit badges - First Aid, Safety, Camping, the three Citizenship badges, and so on. But for the other merit badges you'll need, don't just pick the ones that look easiest. Use the opportunity offered by merit badges to explore working careers and meet people in those careers. When it's time for you to decide on a career you'll be glad you did.

## 116. **FIRST CLASS**

In our everyday speech, "first class" means the best. When we say that a man is traveling first class, or that's a first class restaurant, everyone understands what we mean.

In Scouting, "First Class" has another meaning. As we all know, it's the fourth of our seven ranks. In some ways it's the most important because it's the hump you have to climb over to reach Star, Life and Eagle. A First Class Scout has mastered the basics of Scouting and is ready for the advanced course.

You fellows who joined the troop last fall ought to be setting your sights on First Class badge by now. Most of you have made Second Class by this time and you'll soon have been in Scouting long enough to be eligible to earn First Class rank. Why not make it a goal to make First Class by the time we go on our "Great Outdoor Quest" this summer?

In this troop, we try to be first class in everything we do - camping, hiking, camporees, Scout shows, trips. To achieve that, we need lots of First Class Scouts - those who have earned the First Class badge.

## 117. **CARING FOR TOOLS** (Show various hand tools)

Tools like these are essential in making repairs around the house and in doing the kind of community Good Turn we're planning this month. You couldn't do the job without them.

But they must be in good condition. If your hammer head is loose, the hammer becomes a dangerous weapon. If your saw blade is dull, it makes the work harder and you also run the risk of cutting yourself if the blade jumps out of the groove. And if your screwdriver's blade is all beat up, you're going to ruin a lot of screws.

Your character is like a set of tools. Think of your character as a set of attributes we talk about in the Scout Law - trustworthy, loyal, helpful and so on. If you're not trustworthy, that part of your character is like a hammer with a loose head. You could be dangerous to others because no-one could depend on you to do what had to be done in an emergency. If you're not loyal, you're like a dull saw blade - not reliable when the chips are down.

A good craftsman keeps his tools in excellent shape because they are his livelihood. A good Scout keeps his character in excellent shape because he knows that the attributes that make up his character are his most precious possession. Let's remind ourselves of that by joining in the Scout Law.

## 118. **BE PROUD**

You can't watch TV or read a newspaper today without hearing the word "community." There's talk about the black community, the Hispanic community, the business community and the scientific community. Wherever there are people with the same interests, they're a community.

You're part of a community, too. It's our neighborhood (or town). As a resident of this community, you have some common interests with everybody else that lives there. you want it to be clean and safe with pleasant streets, good schools and friendly people - a place you can be proud of.

Well, there's something you can do about that. In fact we're going to do something about it next week with our Good Turn. But you can do more. you can avoid littering, for example, and it won't hurt you to pick up other people's litter either. You can be a good citizen in school and thus make your school better.

Be proud of you community. And let's all do our part to make it a place we all can be proud of.

### **119. YOU'RE THE FINEST**

In just two hundred years, your country, through freedom and hard work, has changed the world. In agriculture, industry, education, medicine, law, transportation, and on and on. no country can match America's record in religious freedom, civil freedom, human rights, and the importance and dignity of the individual. We do have our differences. but when we join together in times of crisis, our strength is awesome. Among all the world's nations, America still stands out in front. You're an American. You're the finest ever - and don't you ever, ever forget it.

### **120. WHAT ARE WE DOING TO OURSELVES?**

Many books offer answers on how to live our lives. But, there's one book that raises questions about what kind of lives we lead. It's the phone book. It has hotlines for Alcohol Problems, Battered Women, Child Abuse Drugs, Elderly Abuse, Gamblers Anonymous, Rape Crisis, Runaways, VD Information, and more. Why so much misery? What went wrong? Don't we know what we're doing to ourselves?

### **121. AIM SO HIGH YOU'LL NEVER BE BORED**

The greatest waste of our natural resources is the number of people who never achieve their potential. Get out of that slow lane. Shift into that fast lane. If you think you can't, you won't. If you think you can, there's a good chance you will. Even making the effort will make you feel like a new person. reputations are made by searching for the things that can't be done and doing them. Aim low boring. Aim high soaring.

### **122. THE SNAKE THAT POISONS EVERYBODY**

It topples governments, wrecks marriages, ruins careers, busts reputations, causes heartaches, nightmares, indigestion, spawns suspicion, generates grief, dispatches innocent people to cry in their pillows. Even its name hisses. it's called gossip. Office gossip, shop gossip, party gossip. It makes headlines and headaches. Before you repeat a story, ask yourself: Is it true? Is it fair? is it necessary? If not, shut up.

### **123. THE REAL WAY TO HAPPINESS**

Who can tell me what the Scout slogan is? That's right, "Do a Good Turn daily". The handbook tells us that a Good Turn is an extra act of kindness. It might be a big thing like

saving somebody's life with courage and skill. Or could be some small act like picking up trash on the street or helping a child get his kite out of a tree.

There are two good reasons for doing Good Turns. one of them, obviously, is that it makes other people happy. But you will find, if you do a Good Turn daily, that it makes you feel good, too. Baden Powell, the man who started Scouting in England almost 80 years ago, said this about a Good Turn: "The real way to get happiness is by giving it to other people. "

Everyone of us should be doing our Good Turn daily. Are you? If you don't think about it very often, it's a good idea to start now. We'll be reminding ourselves later this month when we do a troop Good Turn for \_\_\_\_\_. But if you have the Scouting Spirit, you will do your best to follow the Scout slogan in your daily life with some small service to your family, your teacher, your friends, or a perfect stranger.

## **124. THANKSGIVING**

Thanksgiving is almost here, and that means a school holiday, probably some football games to watch, and surely a big meal of turkey with all the trimmings.

It's a great time for everybody. But before the holiday passes, take a few minutes to think about what it really means. Thanksgiving started out to be a time for giving thanks to God for his blessings. We should make sure to keep that thought in our celebration today.

That doesn't mean we have to spend the whole holiday time in prayer. By all means we should enjoy the feast and the football. But we should also remember that a Scout is reverent, and part of that point of the Scout Law is praying and giving thanks at appropriate times. So when you sit down to your big Thanksgiving dinner, don't forget to offer your thanks to God, not only for the food but for all your other blessings.

## **125. SCOUTING PATHFINDER - BADEN-POWELL**

Three months from now, we're going to be celebrating the \_\_\_th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. But Scouting is even older than that. It really began \_\_\_\_ years ago on a little island in England. British general named Robert Baden-Powell took 21 boys camping on this island and tested his ideas of Scouting for boys.

From that first camp, the idea grew into a worldwide movement. Baden-Powell was a remarkable man. You can read a little about him on page 475 of your handbook. Baden-Powell wrote the first Scout Oath and Law and motto, "Be Prepared. " He developed the idea for patrols within a troop, and he taught many of the outdoor skills we learn today. Now let us honor Baden-Powell by repeating the Scout Oath. (Lead Oath)

## **126. SCOUTING PATHFINDER - ERNEST THOMPSON SETON**

Last week I talked about Baden-Powell, the English general who founded Boy Scouting. While Baden-Powell was working out his ideas for Scouting, in this country a man named Ernest Thompson Seton was doing something quite similar. Seton was an author and an artist, and even before Baden-Powell organized the first Scouts, Seton had started a boy's organization called the Woodcraft Indians.

His Woodcraft Indians hiked and camped and studied nature, just as Scouts do. When Baden-Powell's Boy Scouting idea spread to America, Seton joined in . He became the first Chief Scout of the Boy Scouts of America, and he did much to spread the idea of Scouting here.

Seton stressed Indian lore, and many of his ideas still live in the Order of the Arrow. In honor of Ernest Thompson Seton let us repeat the Scout Law. (Lead Law)

## 127. SCOUTING PATHFINDER - DANIEL CARTER BEARD

I told you last week about Ernest Thompson Seton, who was one of the earliest leaders of the Boy Scouts of America. Another important leader of the BSA in those days was Daniel Carter Beard. He was an illustrator and writer of boys' book. In 1902, \_\_\_\_ years ago he started an organization for boys called the Sons of Daniel Boone.

It was a pretty informal organization. Mostly he promoted it by writing magazine articles and letters to boys. But the Sons of Daniel Boone were forerunners of Boy Scouts, and Beard became one of the main leaders of Scouting. Let's honor Dan Beard with our patrol calls. (Each patrol gives call)

## 128. MEASURE YOURSELF BY THE GOLDEN RULE (Show an ordinary ruler)

What do I have here? Right, it's a ruler. Some people call it a rule. This one isn't golden but it does remind me of the Golden Rule. Do you know what the Golden Rule is?

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." That's a great guide for living, Scouts. If we always followed that rule, we would always be kind to others because no-one wants unkindness done to him.

The trouble is, we aren't saints. And so we don't always follow the Scout Law - "A Scout is kind" - or the Golden Rule. Some of us follow the Golden Rule for about three inches. Others make it eight inches. A few of us might make it all the way to eleven inches.

How far do you go on the Golden Rule? Probably not as far as you could. So the next time you're tempted to do something unkind, or say something that will hurt someone, stop and think. What will it do to your place on the Golden Rule?

## 129. DON'T BE A LITTERBUG (Hold up a paper carton or other piece of litter)

This month we've been talking a lot about conservation of natural resources, and next week on our camp-out we're going to tackle some conservation work in the woods.

But one thing we all do everyday to help is to avoid throwing litter around. (Toss litter in waste basket.) I'm not saying that if we avoid littering, a tree will grow better or a wild creature will benefit. But **we** will, because a clean environment looks a lot better, and it will encourage us to do some real conservation work.

An awful lot of people are litterbugs. They think nothing of tossing cans, bottles, cartons and other junk on to the ground wherever they go. It's a disgusting habit, and one I hope none of you does or will ever start.

As Scouts, we should live by the Outdoor Code and be clean in our outdoor manners. That means we **never** throw litter on the trail and we **always** leave our campsites better than we found them. Let's try to remember that all the time, not only when we're outdoors with the troop.

## 130. BE PREPARED FOR ANY OLD THING

What's the Scout motto? That's right, "Be Prepared." Can anyone tell me where it came from? Well, it was started by a man who founded the Scouting movement almost 80 years ago. His name was Robert Baden-Powell. He was an English general who took the first Scouts camping back in 1907. He was a most interesting man. If you're curious about him, you can learn a little by reading page 475 of your handbook.

Baden-Powell was once asked what the motto meant. What is a Scout supposed to be prepared for?

"Why any old thing," Baden-Powell replied.

That's a tall order. Life holds a lot of surprises and we can't be prepared for all of them. But in Scouting you're learning how to handle many surprises and crises. You learn how to give first aid, how to live comfortably outdoors, give service to your community and nation, clean up your environment, do good Turns for people and a host of other things. Later this month we're going to talk about being prepared to make choices between right and wrong, too.

Preparing you for life is what Scouting is all about. We're going to do our best to make you prepared for any old thing.

### **131. TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF FREEDOM**

Can anybody tell me what holiday falls on September 17. It's Citizenship Day or Constitution Day. Probably you've been talking about the reason for that holiday in school. If you don't already know it, on September 17, 200 years ago, the founders of this country agreed upon the US Constitution.

It is by far the oldest written constitution of any country in the world, and it is the main reason that we enjoy freedom today. The Constitution established our form of government, and perhaps more important, it guarantees the rights of citizenship that we all enjoy.

Most of us take those rights for granted. We can't imagine living in a country where people cannot speak freely, worship God as they wish, or join associations that criticize the government and blast the President. But there are billions of people in the world without any of those rights.

Remember that as you grow older and begin to vote, pay taxes, and perhaps become a leader in government or civic affairs. The Constitution is the foundation stone of this country, which is why the President and many other officials take an oath "to protect and defend the Constitution." Each of us should take the same oath because it is the basis of our liberty.

### **132. CAN EIGHT WORDS MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Doctrines, credos, manifestos, laws, declarations, codes of ethics. Ever since people have been able to communicate they have compiled words to live by. But the world is still troubled. Take these words: Honesty, Workmanship, Ambition, Faith, Education, Charity, Responsibility, Courage. Chances are that four and half billion people won't agree to live their lives by them. But think how much better your life would be if just one person does. You.

### **133. THE WINNING SPIRIT**

Scouts, what is a winning spirit? In some sports, people say that a guy who has the winning spirit really comes to play. That kind of guy is sometimes called a "gamer".

In Scouting we have gamers, too. Know who they are? They're the guys who are active in their patrols and in our troop. They're always trying to learn something new and to advance from one rank to another.

That kind of guy has his own motto. His motto is, "Be First Class". From the day he joins the troop he's shooting for First Class - in rank and in everything he does. You new Scouts should remember that. Be First Class!

### **134. PATROL SPIRIT**

I'm sure all of you Scouts have played team sports, so you know what teamwork means. Most football fans see a touchdown run and say, "Wow! Isn't that guy a great runner?" Maybe he is, but if you have played football you that what really made the great run was the blockers on the line and in the secondary. teamwork made the touchdown. not just one guy's talents.

Patrols are the same way. If you win one of our inter-patrol contests, or if you have the best campsite at a camporee, it's not just because one guy is such a great Scout. It's patrol teamwork.

The secret of patrol teamwork is have every member do his job, whatever it is. If one Scout goofs off, the patrol suffers. If every Scout does his part, the patrol is bound to be a winner.

The winning attitude is what we call patrol spirit. Is your patrol a winner? I'm not asking whether you win every contest. I'm asking: Is your patrol doing the very best that it can and is every member contributing? If your answer is no, then ask yourself: "Am I doing my very best? Do I have real patrol spirit?"

### **135. LAWS AND MEN**

Why do we have laws? What's the purpose of laws? That's right, we need laws to govern society. To protect life and property and to make rules for the way our society works. If we had no laws, there would be nothing to stop a man from injuring someone weaker than himself or stealing from others. Laws are essential for any civilized society.

But you know, there are laws and laws. For instance, we speak of the laws of nature. Is that some kind of written rule that everything in nature must follow? Not really. It's more like a description of the way the natural world works. The law of nature tells us that predator animals like lions will kill and eat prey animals like wildebeests and antelopes - not because they are vicious but that is nature's way of sustaining her creatures.

Then there's the Scout Law. Are the 12 points of the Scout Law something that must be obeyed or you'll go to jail? Of course not. The Scout Law is a different kind of law. It's a prescription for a good character. but in it's way, the Scout law is just as important as the laws Congress passes because the man who follows the Scout Law will be the best kind of citizen. that kind of citizen tries his best to obey not only the Scout Law but also the laws of his community, state, and nation. Let's now stand and renew our pledge to the Scout Law.

### **136. MEASURING UP**

This month we're learning how to measure heights and distances by estimation. It's fun, and it can be a useful skill in the outdoors - in planning pioneering bridges, for example.

We measure by estimation in lots of everyday things, too. in the morning you estimate how much orange juice you want for breakfast by pouring it into a glass. It's not a precise amount, just approximate. And you measure by estimation when you cross a street well before a car comes or when you pass a football to a running teammate.

One thing most of us don't measure often enough, though, is ourselves. How often do we stop and say, "Am I doing the right thing? Is it what a Scout should do? How am I measuring up to the Scout Oath and Law?" I suggest that you set aside five minutes a week to pause and ask yourself, "How am I measuring up?"

### **137. HIBERNATION**

Does everybody know what the word "hibernation" means? That's right, it means to sleep through the winter. Woodchucks do it. So do some chipmunks, ground squirrels, bats, and some mice. Bears do a lot of sleeping in the winter, too, but they're not true hibernators because they sometimes get up and yawn and look around a little on a warmish winter day.

Did you know that some Scouts are hibernators, too? They're what we call warm-weather Scouts. When the air gets cold and there is snow on the ground they'd rather stay at home than go outdoors as Scouts do.

I hope we don't have any hibernators in this troop. Leave hibernation to the animals who really need to do it because it's part of their life cycle. The most important part of the word "Scouting" is "outing" and in this troop we like to get outdoors rather than try to find our adventures in front of a TV set. Part of the fun of Scouting is learning to live comfortably outdoors all year round. You will find that there is a lot of satisfaction in knowing that you can take care of yourself in any weather. That doesn't mean that we're nuts, though; if we get caught in a blizzard with sub-zero temperatures, we'll come home. But we know how to take care of ourselves in ordinary winter weather.

So you newer Scouts can tell your folks that you'll get along just fine with the troop when we go out later this month. In this troop, Scouting really is outing.

### **138. YOUR WILD ANIMAL**

Scouts, did you know that everybody, including you, has a wild animal behind bars? The wild animal is your tongue, and the bars are your teeth.

If your tongue is not trained it can cause a lot of trouble, not only for yourself but for those around you. Keep those bars of teeth closed until your tongue is so well trained that you know it won't harm anybody.

Your wild animal can make trouble by bad-mouthing other people, by gossip and slander, and by wisecracks at the wrong time. Train your tongue so that it knows the right time to speak and the time to be quiet. Until you have it fully trained, keep that wild animal behind bars.

### **139. YOUR COOK KIT**

Scouts, have you ever heard of people who claim to be able to read your character by the lines in your hand, the shape of your head, or your handwriting. Well, I know a better way. (Hold up a cooking kit. ) All you have to do is look at a Scout's cooking kit.

First you ask, "Is it clean?" Then you ask, "Who cleans it?" Every self-respecting Scout cleans his own kit. He doesn't expect his mother to do it for him.

The next thing to ask is, "Has it been used a lot?" We all know that some mess kits don't get used very often. They're owned by Scouts that some people call "sandwich - wrapped-in-a-pink-napkin" outdoorsmen. I see some of you smiling. Of course, I'm not referring to anyone here.

Then there is the Scout who really uses his cook kit - keeps it clean, too. He can cook with a stick, and he can cook with aluminum foil. In fact he can cook just about any way he wants to and have fun doing it. He's our kind of Scout. You can tell by looking at his cook kit.

## **140. JUNK FOOD**

You all know what junk food is - stuff like potato chips, soda pop and candy. Probably you've heard people say it's not good for you.

I don't think that's really true. Even junk food has some food value. But it is true that a steady diet of junk food is not good because you don't get a balanced diet of vitamins, minerals and protein that you need to grow.

We have what you might call junk food in troop meetings. They're the games we play just for fun - not learn any special skill but just because we enjoy them. There's not a thing wrong with "junk food" games, and I hope you enjoy them as much as most of you do real junk food.

But they're not all of Scouting. In our troop activities we try to give you a balanced diet of Scouting, with some instruction skills and plenty of chances to advance in rank and to learn useful things.

Take advantage of those chances. Don't just enjoy the junk food and leave the rest of the meal.

## **141. A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT**

What's the seventh point of the Scout Law? That's right, "A Scout is obedient." Our handbook explains it this way: "A Scout follows the rules of his family, school and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.

That tells us that some rules and laws may be unfair, doesn't it? perhaps some are, but there must be some reason for them. Think about the reason before you try to change them or ignore them.

This month we're using some rules for water safety. the rules are called the Safe Swim Defense, and there is a good reason for all of them. It's to protect your life.

You may think you should be in a different swimming ability group. Well, if you can prove it, you'll be put in a higher group. But until then, stay with your buddy and your group. Obey our swimming supervisors.

Our rules have only one purpose, to protect you. remember that when you're in the water.

## **142. SCOUTS IN ACTION (Show Boys' Life cartoon feature "A True Story of Scouts in Action")**

Did you see this cartoon in this month's Boys Life? it's a story of how a Scout saved a life. I read it every month and I hope you do, too.

In just about every story, the Scout hero showed a lot of guts in making the rescue. But have you noticed that he usually demonstrated some skill, too?

More often than not, in water rescue cases, the Scout here used one of the methods we teach in this troop. Same thing with rescue breathing cases.

The point is, it takes more than guts to save a life. It takes skill - the kind of skill that only comes from practice, practice and more practice.

Maybe you get a little tired sometimes of practicing rescue breathing, or life saving carries, or some other skill over and over again. But remember, each time you should be improving your technique a little bit - and that little bit of extra skill could mean the difference between life and death if you are called upon to use it some day.

### **143. A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY**

Tonight I'm going to tell you a little story that didn't really happen - at least, I don't think it did. It's about a boy named Brian who had just moved into town and hadn't any friends.

One night Brian happened to come by our meeting place and heard us playing. He hung around a while, listening and looking, but he couldn't get up the nerve to come in. I guess he was a little bit timid.

Anyway the next week he was back, hanging around the door. he still couldn't get up his courage to come in and join us.

Brian was just waiting around the door when he saw a Scout coming down the street, heading for our troop meeting. That Scout was you.

That's all the story I'm going to tell. you have to finish it. What happened? Did you brush by him or did you invite him to come in?

### **144. WORLD FRIENDSHIP** (Read from page 34, The Official Boy Scout Handbook. Refer also to the World friendship Fund kit)

"A Scout is friendly. A Scout is a friend to all. he is a brother to other Scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs other than his own. "

That's what the handbook tells us about the fourth point of the Scout Law. What does it mean? For one thing it reminds us that we have a lot of brothers. Did you know that there are some 12 million Scouts in some 115 countries around the world? Scouting is a lot bigger than our troop, our local council, or even the Boy Scouts of America. It's a worldwide movement of brothers.

Some of those brothers are in poor countries. to help them the Boy Scouts of America has the World friendship Fund, which collects money from American Scouts to buy uniform materials, supplies and equipment, and to train their adult leaders.

Next week, our troop will be making a collection for the World Friendship Fund. You don't have to give a lot. Just contribute one of the quarters you'd use for candy or a video game at the arcade. it will help. Your contribution doesn't have to be a bug sacrifice for you to show your friendship for Scouts around the world. Remember a Scout is friendly

### **145. EVEN A PARROT**

Once a Scoutmaster was visiting in a new Scout's home. He was there to test the boy for his Scout badge. Now it happened that this Scout's family owned a parrot.

Well, one of the requirements for the Scout badge is knowing the motto. The new Scout knew it, of course, and shouted it out: "Be Prepared!"

The next morning the Scout's family was awakened by the parrot screeching, "Be Prepared! Be Prepared!" And for the next few days, until the bird brain had forgotten it, that household resounded with the Scout motto.

Sometimes, we may be like that parrot. If we're asked, "What's the Scout motto?" we're quick with the correct answer. it's easy to remember and say.

But do we ever stop to think of what it means? Perhaps we would be better Scouts if we asked ourselves every day, "Am I prepared?" "Am I growing in the knowledge and skills that will make me a better Scout and a better man?"

Don't be a parrot. Whenever you say the Scout motto - or the Oath, Law, or slogan - think about what they really mean. then try to give them meaning in the way you live your life.

## **146. OUR OATH AND LAW**

Last week for the Scoutmasters Minute, I talked a little about what Scouting was like a half century ago. You may remember that I said it wasn't very different, at least not in the basics. The Scouts of the Twenties came into Scouting for the same reason you did - to enjoy the outdoors, learn some new skills and to have some fun.

There's something else that is not different: Our Scout Oath and Scout Law. ever since 1910, more than 75 years ago, boy Scouts have been gathering at troop meetings and repeating the exact same Scout Oath and Law.

I think that's amazing. The world has changed in many ways over 75 years. when Scouting was new, a boy's life was very different. There was no television, no radio, movies were brand new, most people traveled by horse and carriage or train, adults worked long hours six days a week - and so did some kids. it was just a different world.

But the first Boy Scouts in 1910 pledged themselves to the same Scout Oath and Law. And they tried to live by it, just as I hope you do today. Let's think about that as we repeat the Scout Oath and Law. (Lead Oath and Law. )

## **147. STRENGTHENING OUR TROOP** (Hold up two ropes of different sizes)

Which one of these ropes do you think is stronger? You're right. Common sense tells us that the thicker rope must be stronger.

But how much stronger? Is a half inch rope twice as strong as a quarter inch rope? Sound as if it should be, doesn't it? It's not though. In fact, a half inch rope is four times stronger than a quarter inch rope of the same material.

Why is that? It's because there are more strands in the bigger rope, and each strand helps to make the others stronger. When the strand are laid together in a rope there strength is much, much greater that when they are separate.

Our troop works the same way. If the members of your patrol help each other, then your patrol will be much stronger than if each patrol member does his own thing. And if all the patrols work together when they're doing things as a troop, the whole troop becomes much stronger than if each patrol goes its own way.

So let's share our skills and knowledge as we share the fun of Scouting. everybody - you, your patrol, and our whole troop - will benefit if we pull together.

## **148. WORLD FRIENDSHIP**

During the coming months we'll be doing some things that remind us of Scouting's past. We'll also try to show you that Scouting is big - worldwide in fact.

More than 100 other countries have Scouting for their boys, too. A lot of those countries in the Scouting brotherhood are very poor.

To help the Scouts of other countries, the Boy Scouts of America has the World Friendship Fund. It supplies them with uniforms and equipment and helps their leaders get training.

Next week at our open house for parents, we will take up a collection for the World Friendship Fund. Of course you don't have to contribute if you don't want to, but if you can spare a quarter it will help a brother Scout in another country.

Remember, that in the Scout Law we say "A Scout is friendly. . . He is a brother to other Scouts. "

## **149. THE SCOUT TRAIL**

When we go hiking we spend most of our time on trails. Sometimes the going is easy because the ground is flat and smooth. Other times it's all uphill - steep and rocky.

The Scout advancement trail is like that, too. Some of the requirements for the skill awards and merit badges are easy for you. Some are tough like an uphill climb with a 40 pound pack.

This month we're going to concentrate on helping each other up those steep, rocky hills to earn skill awards and badges. Why bother? Because by mastering more skills we grow to be a better person, more independent, better able to take our place as a responsible citizen.

Some of us may be slower to advance than others. That's OK. The important thing is that we're all doing our best to make progress. Because if you're not progressing, you're really moving backwards - you're getting behind the rest.

Let's all make up our minds to take a step forward on the advancement trail this month by earning at least one skill award or merit badge. If you're near First Class now, make a special effort to reach it in time for the court of honor.

And let's help at least one other guy over the tough spots on the Scout trail.

## **150. IT ALL DEPENDS**

A lot of you Scouts have been working on the Communications skill award and merit badge, and I hope you've learned the importance of communicating clearly.

(Show walkie talkie. ) With this little device I can throw my voice a half-mile, maybe more. But what good is it if I don't communicate clearly?

Suppose I radioed you on this walkie-talkie and said "Go, man! Trapped in cave. In trouble at Spencer's Mountain. "

Sounds like I'm trapped in a cave at Spencer's Mountain, right? But what if I used exactly the same words but said them like this: "Go! Man trapped in cave-in. Trouble at Spencer's Mountain. "

Quite a different story, isn't it? No doubt you'd rush to Spencer's Mountain if you heard it either way. But would you bring a flashlight and rope to fish me out of the cave? Or would you bring a shovel to dig the other guy out of the cave-in.

As you can see, sometimes a breakdown in communication can be a matter of life and death.

## **151. MANY GOOD TURNS**

Back when Scouting was young, one of our national leaders was Ernest Thompson Seton. He was called the Chief Scout and he often visited troops and asked Scouts about the Good Turns they had done.

He wrote a story about one of his visits in Boys' Life in 1912. To understand the story you have to know that in those days there were no automatic washing machines. Clothes were scrubbed in washtubs and wrung out by a machine called a mangle which you operated by turning a crank.

Seton asked a Scout about any Good Turns he had done, and the Scout said, "I guess I did a good many Good Turns. " He explained, "My mother, she takes in washing, and I turned the mangle, and I guess I gave it a good many good turns. "

The other Scouts laughed, of course, but Seton asked him, "Was it your regular job to turn the mangle, and did you get paid for it?" "No," the Scout said.

Seton replied, "Well, then, you did your good turn all right enough, and one of the very best kind. "

As you can see from this story, the Good Turn has been around for a long time. And it's the same thing it was then - an act of kindness for which you don't get paid.

## **152. THANKS TO BSA**

Last week I told you a little story about a Good Turn and an early leader of the Boy Scouts of America named Ernest Thompson Seton.

There was another well-known leader of Scouting in those days named Daniel Carter Beard. If your grandfather was a Scout, ask him about Dan Beard because he'll remember him. Dan Beard was a legend in Scouting until his death in 1941.

Anyway he often wrote for Boys' Life in those days. I want to read you just a part of his Thanksgiving message to Boy Scouts in 1913.

Dan Beard wrote: "Fellow Scouts: You have more opportunities today, you have more people devoted to your cause, a better chance to become noble, distinguished, brave citizens than ever before in the world's history. A great ancestry, a great history, a great country and the finest boys' organization ever invented. So give three cheers for the Boy Scouts of America, for the Scout Law, and for Old Glory, our flag!"

That was true then and it's true now. Let's give three "Hows and an Ugh!" for the Boy Scouts of America. (Lead cheer)

## **153. THE SCOUT HANDSHAKE**

Our Scout salute and handshake are ancient signs of bravery and respect. During the colonial period of our country, many men carried weapons for protection. Sometimes when they met one another, there was an uneasy moment as each man watched the others right hand. If it went to his sword or his gun, there might be a fight. but if it went to his hat, it was a salute of friendship and respect.

The left handshake comes to us from the Ashanti warriors whom Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, knew almost 100 years ago in West Africa. He saluted them with his right hand, but the Ashanti chiefs offered their left hands and said, "In our land only the bravest of the brave shake hands with the left hand, because to do so we must drop our shields and our protection. "

The Ashantis knew of Baden-Powell's bravery because they had fought against him and with him, and they were proud to offer the left hand of bravery.

When you use the Scout salute and handshake, remember that they are signs of respect and courage.

## **154. RECIPE FOR LIFE**

This month you young Scouts are learning something about food and cooking and how to use recipes to whip up a tasty meal. I hope you're learning that following a recipe is vital to good cooking, unless you're satisfied with hot-dogs and hamburgers all the time in camp.

You've probably found out that a pinch of salt, a dash of cinnamon, or a teaspoon of sugar makes all the difference. In fact, everything in the recipe has a reason for being there.

Scouting is like a recipe for living. We call the ingredients our ideals - our Oath and Law, our motto, our slogan. you might say that Scouting's recipe for living calls for a cup of each of the 12 points of the Scout Law, a tablespoon of Good Turns, a heaping cup of duty to

God and country, and a couple of dashes of duty to self - that is, physical, mental and moral fitness. Add a quart or two of fun. Mix well and you have good Scouting.

But if we ignore one of the ingredients, the Scouting dish doesn't taste as good as it should. Let's remember that for good Scouting, and a full satisfying life, each of Scouting's ingredients are important.

### **155. PARENTS**

Scouts, if you're like most boys, you don't think of your parents very often. Oh, they're around all the time, of course, and sometimes they make you do things you don't want to do.

but how often do you think of what your parents want from you? Probably not very often. Maybe you give them gifts at Christmas and their birthdays. but most of us don't go out of our way to help our parents as much as we might.

I have a suggestion. Do you know what is the best gift you can give them? I'll tell you.

Parents want most of all, and have a right to expect, that you will do your best to make them proud of you. I don't mean by becoming rich or famous, or even by getting all A's in school - although I hope you do your best at your studies.

The best gift you can give them is to become the best man you can be. there is no better way to do that than by living up to the Scout Oath and Law. That is a gift you can give them right now and all the time, and it is a gift they will cherish above all others.

### **156. OUTDOOR HOUSEKEEPING**

Some of you are working on the Environment skill award or Environmental Science merit badge. You're learning how everything in nature is connected in some way to everything else. some scientists call it the web of nature. Every strand has connections with other strands. Even rocks, for example, are part of that web because as they slowly disintegrate over hundreds of years they help to form the soil we depend on for food.

You're also finding out that if we pollute or destroy some strand in the web of life, it has effects on other strands. that's why it's so important that we understand what we are doing to nature and why as Scouts we sometimes do conservation projects to help our environment.

What I'm leading up to is a reminder that, especially when we are camping or hiking, we follow Scouting's Outdoor Code in all we do. If we obey that Code, we are not going to damage any strands in the web of life.

Please join me in the Outdoor Code. (Lead Outdoor Code, page 54, Official Boy Scout Handbook, by repeat after me method)

### **157. JAMBOREE SPIRIT**

Thousands of lucky Scouts will be at Fort A. P. Hill in Virginia for the 1989 National Scout Jamboree. We'll have our own troop jamboree next week, but I'm not going to kid you that it will be as spectacular as the national jamboree.

Still we can have plenty of fun ourselves, And we can certainly share in the jamboree spirit.

What's that? Well, the jamboree spirit is the spirit of Scouting and the idea that Scouts everywhere are brothers. . To me at least it's a marvelous feeling to know that all over the country - and in 115 other countries around the world - Scouts like us pledge themselves to the same ideals and purposes that we do. It's a mighty brotherhood and one I'm proud to belong to.

Next week, as we gather for our own jamboree, let's take a moment to think about jamboree spirit and the brotherhood of Scouting. And let's give thanks for our opportunity to be members of that brotherhood and share in the fun, adventure, and service that Scouting offers us.

#### **158. THE BUDDY PLAN** (Hold up buddy tags)

What do I have here, Scouts? That's right, they're buddy tags. We use them whenever we go in the water, so that every Scout is responsible for the safety of another Scout and so the leader knows who is in the water. It's an important way to make sure that no swimmer gets into trouble because no-one is paying attention to him.

The buddy plan is really part of everything we do in Scouting. Remember that in the Scout Oath we say that we will help other people at all times. In other words, we are our brother's keeper, and we pledge to act as a buddy would even to a total stranger.

Maybe I'm stretching the point a little bit, because you're never going to be a real buddy to some lady you might give directions to on the street or to some little kid whose ball you find for him.

Still, the idea of the Good Turn and the buddy plan are the same in a way. Both call for you to help another person - to become your brother's keeper. The buddy plan is absolutely essential when we're in the water and the idea behind it is important in everything we do.

#### **159. CAMPING IN THE TWENTIES**

Five months from now - in February - we'll be joining in celebrating the 75th birthday of Scouting in America. Actually, we're going to start celebrating this month.

We'll start by playing some of the games and learning some skills used by Scouts 60 years ago - and even further back. On our campout we'll hike into camp the way they did, and maybe we'll use some of the homemade equipment they did - pots, pans, and dishes from home, for example. Some of you may want to leave your sleeping bags at home, because Scouts didn't have them in those days.

But you know, Scouting's historians tell us that Scouting wasn't all that different from what it is today. The big attractions were in the outdoors, hiking and camping, just as they are today.

So your grandfathers enjoyed the same kind of Scouting that you do. Oh, there are changes, of course. The early Boy Scouts hiked a lot more than we do, but that was mainly because they didn't have access to cars. There were cars on the roads, but not very many.

At home, they didn't find television or video games, and radio was brand new then. In many respects, it was a different world. But Scouting wasn't so different. We are following in their footsteps. Let's see what it was like to be a Scout 60 -odd years ago. It must have been fun, just as it is today.

#### **160. A SCOUT IS BRAVE**

In the Scout Law we say, "A Scout is brave." What does that mean to you? (Get answers.)

Usually we think of bravery as overcoming fear to take some action that saves a life or helps someone in some way. Most of the time we're talking about overcoming fear of physical harm to ourselves.

But there's another kind of bravery. It's bravery to overcome the fear of ridicule from our friends. It's the courage that's required to do what you know is right, even if your friends

make fun of you. It may even be tougher than being brave in a crisis because you usually have more time to think about it.

I know it's sometimes hard to act right when everybody is urging you to do something you know is wrong. It takes a courageous Scout - or man - to withstand the pressure from friends.

It's not easy - but it's the mark of a good Scout. Let's try to do our best to be brave in every situation - the emergency and the pressure from friends.

## **161. COMMUNICATION**

Scouts, have you ever considered how important it is to speak clearly and concisely about something so that the other person is in no doubt about what you mean. Sometimes we may have described something accurately but have said it in such a confusing manner that the meaning is totally unclear. Let me explain what I mean with this little and very accurate definition of the game Cricket.

CRICKET - As explained to a foreign visitor.

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in.

Each man that's in the side that's in, goes out and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out. When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out.

Sometimes you get men still in and not out.

When both sides have been in and out including the not outs.

THAT'S THE END OF THE GAME.

For any of you that know how to play cricket will know that this is a very accurate description. But it gives the other person no idea at all of what the game is about and how to play it. Think before you explain something to be sure you convey your thoughts clearly before you make a fool of yourself and get stumped!

## **162. A WINNER**

A Winner respects those who are superior to him and tries to learn something from them.

A Loser resents those who are superior and rationalizes their achievements.

A Winner explains.

A Loser explains away.

A Winner says, "Let's find a way".

A Loser says, "There is no way".

A Winner goes through a problem,

A Loser tries to go around it.

A Winner says, "There should be a better way to do it".

A Loser says, "That's the way it's always been done here".

A Winner shows he's sorry by making up for it.

A Loser says, "I'm sorry," but does the same thing next time.

A Winner knows what to fight for and what to compromise on.

A Loser compromises on what he shouldn't, and fights for what isn't worth fighting about.

A Winner works harder than a loser and has more time

A Loser is always too busy to do what is necessary.

A Winner is not afraid of losing,

A Loser is secretly afraid of winning.  
A Winner makes commitments,  
A Loser makes promises.

### **163. CARRYING SCOUTINGS FLAME**

At this moment, somewhere in our country, a Boy Scout is carrying a flame for Scouting. It's called the Heritage Flame, and it will be used to light the opening campfire at the national jamboree next month.

The flame started in Hawaii several months ago, and ever since relays of Scouts have been carrying it eastward toward Washington and Fort A. P. Hill in Virginia where the jamboree will be held. The idea is to draw attention to Scouting on the 75th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America and to show that Scouting's spirit still burns brightly in this country.

This month we'll have our own Flame Relay, only we call it a Run for Scouting. But you know that each of us carries the flame for Scouting in everything we do. As Scouts we represent the Scouting movement all the time. If we live by the Scout Oath and Law and Scouting's other ideals our flame burns brightly and reflects credit on Scouting, our families and ourselves. When we fail to follow Scouting's ideals - and all of us fail sometimes - our flame flickers low and may die out. It's all up to each of us to carry the flame for Scouting proudly by living up to the principles for which Scouting stands.