

*Year Round
Duty to God Patch Requirements,
Interfaith Devotions Booklet, and Interfaith Service
For Weekend Campouts and Summer Camps
For Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers,
Leaders and Parents*



Eligibility:

Scouts, Leaders and Parents are eligible to earn the Duty to God Patch.

Program Requirements:

1. Participants must complete:
 - *a. Attend an Interfaith Service or a Service of your Faith.
 - *b. With your Den, Patrol, Troop, Crew or appropriate group (such as Staff), participate in at least one daily devotion per weekend for three campouts or outdoor events; or three daily devotions at the week for Summer Camp or Day Camp.
 - *c. Leader/Adult in the Pack, Troop or Crew must promise to obtain

and review the “Duty to God” religious emblems brochure [No. 512-879] and make a presentation at a regular Unit Meeting.

For more information go to: <http://www.praypub.org/recognitions/boyscout.htm> and <http://www.scouting.org/awards/religiousawards>

*And complete *one* of the four requirements below:

- a. Assist the Chaplain or Chaplain Aide with the Interfaith Service.
 - b. Lead a grace before a meal. Two or more Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA or Venturers may lead a grace together.
 - c. Say grace before meals.
 - d. Introduce yourself to the Camp Chaplain.
2. Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers, Leaders and Parents can purchase a Duty to God patch at Cricket Holler from the Camp Chaplain or Trading Post or at the Day Camp Trading Post or from the Miami Valley Council Scout Office, 7285 Poe Avenue, Dayton, Ohio. Patches are also available from the Miami Valley Council Religious Relations Committee by contacting Irene Crawford at 937-669-0048 or text 937-620-4077.

Duty to God Religious Emblems Brochure

To encourage members to grow stronger in their faith, religious groups have developed the following religious emblems programs. The Boy Scouts of America has approved of these programs and allows the emblems to be worn on the official uniform. The various religious groups administer the programs. Check with your local council service center or contact the religious organization directly to obtain the curriculum booklets.

For more information about Religious Emblems Programs, go to <http://www.praypub.org/recognitions/boyscout.htm>

<http://www.scouting.org/awards/religiousawards>

Also, visit www.praypub.org for information on the religious emblems programs. You can find sample scripts and other resources to help you make a presentation on religious emblems.

Religious Emblem Square Knots

Cloth, silver knot on purple may be worn by youth or adult members who earned the knot as a youth, above the left pocket. Cloth, purple on silver may be worn by adult members presented with the recognition. Adults may wear both knots if they satisfy qualifying criteria.



Five Devotions to Read and Discuss with Unit, Patrols or Dens

The Value of Time

Imagine there is a bank which credits your account each morning with \$86,400, carries over no balance from day to day, allows you to keep no cash balance, and every evening cancels whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day.

What would you do?

Draw out every cent, of course!

Well, everyone has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance.

It allows no overdraft.

Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the records of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.

There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow." You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success!

The clock is running. Make the most of today.

To realize the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who has failed his exam.

To realize the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE DAY, ask a daily wage laborer who has ten kids to feed.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who has missed the train.

To realize the value of ONE SECOND, ask a person who has survived an accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLI-SECOND, ask the person who has won a silver medal in Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have!

“We Learned It All in Kindergarten”-Robert Fulgham

Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandbox. These are the things I learned:

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don't hit people.

Put things back where you found them.

Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that aren't yours.

Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.

Wash your hands before you eat.

Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some, and draw and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap in the afternoon.

When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands and stick together.

Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up, and nobody really knows why, but we are all like that. Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup-they all die. So do we.

And then remember the book about Dick and Jane and the first word you ever learned, the biggest word of all: LOOK.

Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The golden rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and sane living. Think of what a better life it would be if we all had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations always to put things back where we found them and cleaned up our own messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

The Big Rocks

One day, an expert on time management was speaking to a group of business students and, to drive home a point, used an illustration those students will never forget.

As this man stood in front of the group of high-powered overachievers he said, "Okay, time for a quiz."

Then he pulled out a one-gallon, wide-mouthed Mason jar and set it on a table in front of him. Then he produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar. When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is this jar full?"

Everyone in the class said, "Yes." Then he said, "Really?" He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. Then he dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks.

Then he asked the group once more, "Is the jar full?"

By this time the class was onto him. "Probably not," one of them answered.

"Good!" he replied. He reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in and it went into all the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the question, "Is this jar full?"

"No!" the class shouted. Once again he said, "Good!" Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then he looked up at the class and asked, "What is the point of this illustration?"

One eager beaver raised his hand and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always fit some more things into it!"

"No," the speaker replied, "that's not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is: If you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all."

What are the "big rocks" in your life? A project that YOU want to accomplish? Time with your family & friends?

Your spiritual life, education, Scouts? A good cause? Remember to put these BIG ROCKS in first or you'll never get them in at all.

So, tonight or in the morning when you are reflecting on this daily devotion, ask yourself this question: What are the "big rocks" in my life? Then, put those in your jar first.

The Twenty Dollar Bill

A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20.00 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this 20 bill?" Hands started going up. He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you, but first, let me do this.

He proceeded to crumple up the \$20 dollar bill. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air. Well, he replied, "What if I do this?"

And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty.

"Now, who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air.

My friends, we have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it, because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20.

Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value.

Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who DO LOVE you-God, your family, your friends. The worth of our lives comes not in what we do or who we know, but by WHO WE ARE.

You are special and unique and one of a kind
Do not EVER forget it!!

When Our Wings Have Trouble

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class was walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, "Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd." I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friend tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on. As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes. My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him and as he crawled around looking for his glasses, I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said, "Those guys are jerks. They really should get lives." He looked at me and said, "Hey thanks!" There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude. I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived.

As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had gone to private school before now. I would have never hung out with a private school kid before. We talked all the way home, and I carried his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play football on Saturday with me and my friends. He said yes. We hung all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him. And my friends thought the same of him. Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, "Good grief, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday!" He just laughed and handed me half the books. Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors, we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown, and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor, and I was going for business on a football scholarship. Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak. On graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than me and all the girls loved him! Boy, sometimes I was jealous. Today was one of those days. I could see that he was nervous about his speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, "Hey, big guy, you'll be great!" He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled. "Thanks," he said.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began. "Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years: your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach...but mostly your friends. I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story." I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. "Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable."

I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his Mom and Dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize its depth.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life. For better or for worse. God puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way. Look for Good in others. "Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly."

A Scout Prayer

O God, I do pray for strength to live my best each day;

Draw near to me, and I shall see the kind of Scout You'd have me be.

In serving others, I know it's true that I am only serving You.

Fill me, dear God, with Your great love, that I maybe a better Scout. Amen.



Hurrah for America!!! Interfaith Service

*Opening Prayer *Prayer For Our Country*

The following prayer was contributed by Stan Krieger of Summit, NJ. It is a slight rewrite of the Prayer for Our Country, as translated in the Siddur Sim Shalom (the prayer book used in many Conservative Jewish congregations). Among the principles of Scouting are Duty to God and Duty to Country. These are expressed in the following reading:

Our God and God of our fathers, we ask Your blessing for our country, for its government, for its leader and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights of Your Law, that they may administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst.

Creator of all flesh, bless all the inhabitants of our country with Your spirit. Then citizens of all races and creeds will forge a common bond in true peoplehood, to banish all hatred and bigotry, and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions which are our country's pride and glory.

May this land under Your Providence be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom. Amen.

*Opening Song: *America the Beautiful*-Katharine Lee Bates, an instructor at Wellesley College, Massachusetts, after an inspiring trip to the top of Pikes Peak, Colorado, in 1893 wrote her poem, *America the Beautiful*. Here is a note from Katharine Lee Bates:

"One day some of the other teachers and I decided to go on a trip to 14,000-foot Pikes Peak. We hired a prairie wagon. Near the top we had to leave the wagon and go the rest of the way on mules. I was very tired. But when I saw the view, I felt great joy. All the wonder of America seemed displayed there, with the sea-like expanse."

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain;
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

*Prayer *Thanks for Our Beautiful America*-Lowell Baker

Eternal God, we thank you for this beautiful America. Grant to us, your stewards, the will and the strength to keep its mountains majestic with its covering of trees; its plains continue to bear fruit; its rivers, lakes, and seas free of pollution. We thank you for this gathering of youth of good will. Let your blessing be upon everyone here and guide us always. For this we pray Amen

*Responsive Reading: *What Does It Mean To Be an American?*

Chaplain: I asked myself a question today. "What does it mean to be an American?" There were several answers, and they were all good. Being an American means I have a multitude of freedoms.

Scout 1: Freedom to think and to say what I think.

Scout 2: Freedom to worship as I please.

Scout 3: Freedom to move ahead.

Scout 4: Freedom to try, and freedom to fail.

Scout 5: Freedom to stand up straight and to look the world in the eye.

Scout 6: Freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

Chaplain: These freedoms were not of my doing. They were here long before I was born. Our forefathers fought to win them. I have four guarantees that will remain. The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, my fellow Americans and me. No man or woman could ask for more!

*Sermonette: *The Echo*

Recently I heard a story of a family on vacation. They were traveling by car on a grand tour across the country. At one point, they stopped at a scenic overlook, which stood at the edge of a steep-walled canyon. Some people at the overlook were having fun, yelling into the canyon and listening for the many echoes coming back.

The youngest member of the family had never encountered an echo like that before, where more than one reply came back. He kept shouting all different kinds of words to the canyon and laughing at the response. Finally, he turned to his father and exclaimed. "Whatever I put in, comes out even more!"

Scouting is like that. You will get back out of it, what you put in. Sometimes it will come back to you many times over. We are all on a wonderful adventure together in Scouting

Help us, O God, to believe in ourselves as much as You do. May we use the talent you gave us to do positive things for ourselves and others today. Amen.

Prayer** ***Help Us As Americans

Help us as Americans to be worthy of the flag we bear.

Then help us as true Scouts to be proud of the uniform we wear.

Help us keep our Oath, God, in thought and word and deed,

And help us all to live the Law that is the Scouts' creed.

Teach us to love our neighbors, God, and then to serve them, too,

Help our actions count, dear God, in everything we do.

Give us strength to carry on and do our part each day,

Make a place in this world for us and help us fill it, we pray.

Make us what we ought to be and in Thy footsteps fall,

Help us to live for others, O Great Cubmaster of us all.



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Honor Prayer

Almighty God, help me to keep my honor bright, and teach me that integrity of character is my most priceless possession. Grant that I may do my best today and strive to do even better tomorrow. Teach me that duty is a friend and not an enemy, and help me face even the most disagreeable task cheerfully. Give me the faith to understand my purpose and life; open my mind to the truth and fill my heart with love. I am thankful for all the blessings You have bestowed upon my country. Help me to know that a good nation must be made from good people, and to do my duty to keep it free. Help me to remember my obligation to obey the Scout Law and give me understanding, so that it is more than mere words. May I never tire of the joy of helping other people or never look the other way when someone is in need.

You have given me the gift of a body; make me wise enough to keep it healthy that I might serve better. You are the source of all wisdom; help me to have an alert mind, teach me to think, and help me to learn discipline. In all that I do and in every challenge I face help me to know the difference between right and wrong, and lead me in obedience on a straight path to a worthy goal. Amen.

**Responsive Prayer for World Peace*

All: Oh, may the dove of peace ascend to Earth today.

Scout 1: And may the dove of peace drive cruel war away

Scout 2: From hearts of people may love drive out all bitter strife.

Scout 3: May nations everywhere all lead a peaceful life.

Scout 4: Oh, may all battle din be stilled forevermore,

Scout 5: Oh, may the dove of peace soon banish cruel war.

Scout 6: May nations everywhere together dwell in peace.

Scout 7: Oh, quickly come the day when cruel war shall cease.

Scout 8: Oh, may the dove of peace ascend to Earth today.

All: And may the dove of peace drive cruel war away.



**Sign of Peace*

Let us show each other a sign of peace with the Scout Handshake.

**Closing Song God Bless America-Irving Berlin*

God Bless America, land that I love. Stand beside her, and guide her through the night with a light from above.

From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans, white with foam,

God bless America, My home sweet home. (Repeat)

**The Cub/Scoutmaster's/Advisor's Benediction* May the great Cubmaster of all true Scouts be with us until we meet again.