



National Catholic Committee On Scouting – Region 14

Florida, Georgia, North Carolina & South Carolina

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The Scout Law The following is a continuation of “A Catholic Interpretation of the Scout Oath and Law” started in the last Region 14 newsletter from the Catholic Committee on Scouting 1955 manual “A CATHOLIC MANUAL FOR SCOUTS”.

**“A SCOUT IS
LOYAL**

‘Be thou faithful until death, and I will give thee the crown of life.’ (Apoc. ii:10)

First Commandment *I am the Lord thy God. Thou shall not have strange gods before Me.*

No matter what happens, a Scout will never deny God or his precious Catholic Faith. He is proud of his Catholic heritage, showing by his actions that he wants always, to fulfill his religious duties. With the troop he officially professes this loyalty to his Great Leader, once a month, at the Communion rail. A scout is loyal to all, from the Chief Scout to the least boy in his patrol or troop.

One who is not loyal to his country is called a traitor; one who is not loyal to God and his fellow men is a greater traitor. A Scout who proves to be disloyal to his Scout Promise and Law is likewise a traitor.

To thine own self be true
And it must follow
As the night follows the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man. --- *Shakespeare*

Saint Gregory VII learned from experience that it costs sometimes to be loyal. He lived at a time when the Church suffered from many abuses in her top ranks. The state had become as mixed in the affairs of things spiritual that civil authorities often made their own bishops. Simony, too, was common practice in his century, the eleventh.

These evils found an implacable enemy in Gregory. As advisor to seven popes he did all in his power to have civil rulers give up the custom of giving bishops the ring and crozier, the symbol of spiritual power. When he himself became pope he met with a powerful opponent in the person of Henry IV, the mighty German King. Loyalty to Christian principles caused this efficient ruler of Christ’s kingdom on earth to suffer every insult rather than waiver ever so little in his defense of its rights. Exile was the price he had to pay for living up to what he felt was right.

This loyal knight of Christ served God and Church so well that he could say in all truth, “I have loved justice and hated iniquity; therefore I die in exile.”

The current 1995 edition “*A Scout is Reverent, A Source Book For Scouts of Catholic Faith*” states that “*A Scout is Loyal. Because our first loyalty is to God, a Scout is loyal to all to whom loyalty is due – family, friends, Church, and country.*”

Are you using the Scout Law from “*A Scout is Reverent, A Source Book For Scouts of Catholic Faith*” in your DCCS units? All Scouts and Scouters should have a copy and use it.

What is Happening in Cub Scouting? There are new handbooks for all the Cub Scout ranks and in each rank handbook there are Character Connections and Cub Scouting’s 12 Core Values. Note what is stated in the Tiger Cub Handbook: “Character Connections – Character development is an important part of the scouting program. The development of a person’s character involves three major areas: thinking, feeling, and behavior – in other words, the head, the heart, and the hand. Cub Scouting emphasizes the relationships of the head, the heart, and the hand to 12 Core Values and calls them *Character Connections*. These 12 core values are important throughout Tiger Cubs. Five of them, however – ***responsibility, citizenship, health and fitness, respect, and faith*** – are emphasized in the five achievements that your boys will do during their Tiger Cub Year. The Character Connections will ask the Tiger Cub to consider the following:

What do I think or know? (What do I know about the core value, about the experience, about the context?)

How do I feel? (How do I feel about this value? What makes this difficult to do? How did this experience make me feel?)

What can I do? (How can I practice this value at school, at home, or with my friends? When your Tiger Cub is working on his achievements, take a few moments with him and help him think about and answer the Character Connection questions that follow the achievement activities.”)

Cub Scout’s 12 Core Values are 1. Citizenship, 2. Compassion, 3. Cooperation, 4. Courage, 5. Faith, 6. Health and Fitness, 7. Honesty, 8. Perseverance, 9. Positive Attitude, 10. Resourcefulness, 11. Respect, and 12. Responsibility.

In Tiger Cubs an example of Character Connection is in Achievement 5F -- Let’s Go Outside: Go Outside and Watch the Weather. After talking with his parent about the weather the Character Connection: Faith asks the Cub Scout “*How do you think the world and the universe around us came to be? Talk to your adult partner about his or her faith in God. How does it make you feel that God made this wonderful world for you to live in? Talk about something you could do to show respect for the earth God gave us.* Tiger Cubs are 6 years old and normally partnered with a parent.

No matter where a youth enters Cub Scouting he has to earn the Bobcat Rank. If he comes over from Tigers at 7, he earns Bobcat and then goes on to Wolf rank. The Cub Scout is now working with a Den Leader who is an adult volunteer Scouter. If someone comes in at 9 years he still must earn Bobcat before earning the rank appropriate for his age. While earning Bobcat he is made aware of Character Connections and the Core Values. The Cub Scout answers Character Connection questions relating to Know, Commit, and Practice concerning Honesty.

While working on his Wolf rank (7 years old), in achievement 11, Duty to God a Cub Scout is asked – A Cub Scout promises to do his duty to God. What is your duty to God? How do you do it? Your family can help you learn about God. He has to complete the Character Connection for Faith. In this he answers questions in Know, Commit, and Practice. In Know he is asked “*What is faith? With your family, discuss some people who have shown their faith – who have shown an inner strength based on their trust in a higher power or cause. Discuss the good qualities of these people.*” In Commit he is to “*Discuss these questions with your family: What problems did these faithful people overcome to follow or practice their faith? What challenges might you face in doing your duty to God? Who can help you with these challenges?*” In Practice the Cub Scout has to “*Practice your faith while doing the requirements for ‘Duty to God’.*” There are three requirements: “*1. Talk with your family about what they believe is their duty to God, 2. Give two ideas on how you can practice or demonstrate your religious beliefs, and 3. Choose one and do it.*”

The Cub Scout has now gone on to earning the Bear Rank (about 8 years old), in achievement 1, Ways We Worship where it states “The people who wrote and signed our Constitution were very wise. They understood the need of Americans to worship God as they choose. A member of your family will be able to talk with you about your duty to God. Remember this achievement is part of your Cub Scout Promise. I, _____, promise to do my best to do my duty to God and my country....”

The Cub Scout has to complete two requirements. The Character Connection for Know asks the Cub Scout “Name some people in history who have shown great faith. Discuss with an adult how faith has been important at a particular point in his or her life.” For Commit a Cub Scout is told to “Discuss with an adult how having faith and hope will help you in your life, and also discuss some ways that you can strengthen your faith.” Practice tells the Cub Scout to “Practice your faith as you are taught in your home, church, synagogue, mosque, or religious fellowship.”

“Many people throughout history have shown great faith while they worked to make our world a better world.

* It was Rabbi Menachen M. Schneersohn’s (the Rebbe’s) faith that saved thousands of his people, their culture, and their religion in Europe in the 1900s.

* The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. relied on his faith as he led the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s.

* Mother Teresa’s faith led her to help the poorest people and inspired people around the world to do what they could to help others, too.

* His Holiness the Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of the Tibetan people since 1950, has always worked for world-wide peace.”

“Make a list of things you can do this week to practice your religion as you are taught in your home, church, synagogue, mosque, or other religious community. Check them off your list as you complete them.

I worship God in song, in prayer, in study and by kind and thoughtful acts towards others.”

When the Cub Scout is in the 4th grade or 9 years old he goes into first year Webelos. There are some minor changes to the first seven requirements to earn the Webelos rank. Requirement 8 has been changed and incorporates the Character Connections and the Core Values. The first seven requirements are about the same with the eight requirements now titled Faith. The following reviews the entire Faith requirements.

8. Faith

After completing the rest of requirement 8, do these (a, b, and c):

a. **Know:** Tell what you have learned about faith.

b. **Commit:** Tell how these faith experiences help you live your duty to God. Name one faith practice that you will continue to do in the future.

c. **Practice:** After doing these requirements, tell what you have learned about your beliefs.

And do one of these (d **OR** e):

d. Earn the religious emblem of your faith.*

e. Do two of these:

- Attend the mosque, church, synagogue, temple, or other religious organization of your choice; talk with your religious leader about your beliefs. Tell your family and your Webelos den leader what you learned.

- Discuss with your family and your Webelos den leader how your religious beliefs fit in with the Scout Oath and Scout Law and what character-building traits your religious beliefs have in common with the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

- With your religious leader, discuss and make a plan to do two things you think will help you draw nearer to God. Do these things for a month.

(1) _____

(2) _____

- For at least a month, pray or mediate reverently each day as taught by your family and by your church, synagogue, or religious group.

- Under the direction of your religious leader, do an act of service for someone else. Talk about your service with your family and your Webelos den leader. Tell them how it made you feel.

- List at least two ways you believe you have lived according to your religious beliefs.

* If you earned your faith's religious emblem earlier in Cub Scouting and your faith does not have a Webelos religious emblem, you must complete requirement 8e.

Completion of requirement 8e does not qualify a youth to receive the religious emblem of his faith.

Where does a Catholic Scout Leader go from here? Various questions are asked of the Cub Scout and he is to talk with his family and Webelos den leader concerning the subject matter. The Cub Scout books have no one best answer or any suggested answers. It is not the best idea to "wing it" but it would do good to confer with the other den leaders, in your unit and the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting (DCCS). The DCCS Training Committee should review all the Catholic sponsored units and determine if there are training needs. A Cub Scout may be in his unit a few years and a parent may ask the leaders why Scouting is now asking their son about his faith and how he practices it.

Isn't this part of having a [Membership Initiative](#) program? Who would you rather help develop a Cub Scout's ideas of "What is faith?", "What is your duty to God?" These questions are now part of Cub Scout Handbooks. There is an old Scout saying: "Scouting is Caught not Taught". While a youth is in Cub Scouts doing a wide variety of enjoyable activities and accepting them as items about core values, including faith, which to them will be part of the overall program. Cub Scouts spend hundreds of hours in cub scouting activities each year for five years before going on to Boy Scouts. During the five years Faith will just be part of the overall program. It will be interesting to see how future editions of these handbooks will develop the Cub Scout Core Values.

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) "mission is the constructive use of the program of the Boy Scouts of America as a viable form of youth ministry with the Catholic youth of our nation". Scouting Mission is "It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values to young people and, in other ways, prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Law."

The [Membership Initiative](#) that is presently underway goes to the heart of our mission in reaching Catholic youth of our nation and instilling values to young people. Three studies by Harris have clearly shown that the Boy Scouts of America is fulfilling its mission.

The first two studies show that "*Findings from 'The Values of Men and Boys in America (1995)' reveal that men and boys with strong Scouting experience often demonstrate higher ethical and moral standards than non-scouts. A follow-up study, 'A Year in the Life of a Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venturer (1998)', shows that through weekly unit meetings and outdoor activities Scouts gain strong personal values and a positive sense in self-worth, build caring and nurturing relationships with adults and peers*"

The third study was recently published for the Boy Scouts by Harris entitled *Volunteer*. In total, 16,124 volunteer Scouters from 84 Councils completed the survey. The study clearly indicates that the primary reason volunteers get involved with Scouting is their desire to share their skills and values with young people. Volunteers agree that Scouting encourages them to become involved in other organizations and two-thirds (66 percent) also volunteer in other youth organizations. The largest of these other Organizations is Religious.

Membership Initiative In about a month BSA Relationship Division should be sending out the latest Catholic sponsored unit and membership numbers. I am sure the overall figures will continue to gain and that you are reaching more and more youth. Keep providing the great program that you are doing in youth ministry.

NCCS Vocation Committee Request In the rush of the holiday season the request from Homer A. Radford, Chairman, NCCS Vocation Committee, for each Diocese to send him the name and contact information of your Diocesan Vocation Committee member to hradford@comcast.net may have been overlooked. If this has not happened, please answer his request.

Scoutmaster's Minute 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 an 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 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 conscious 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 conscious."

A New Year

A new year is unfolding
Like a blossom with petals curled tightly
Concealing the beauty within.
Let this year be filled
With the things that are truly good;
With warm in our relationships
With strength to help those who need our help
With humility and openness
To accept help from others.

Thought: Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned (Peter Marshall).

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