

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF KAB SCOUTS

INTRODUCTION

“A movement of this nature would fail in its object unless it leads its members to a knowledge of religion.” – B.P.

As a boy gains in age and experience through the KAB Scouting program, so should his knowledge and experience of his duty to God be broadened and strengthened. So, too, should the leader be more convinced and his conviction strengthened by this phase of his training.

As duty to God is specifically placed before us as the first part of the Promise, this session will cover a wider area of experience in the interpretation and practice of the KAB Scout Promise and Law.

A. Rationale Behind Spiritual Development of the Scouts

1. FOR GOD'S SAKE – “If we are created by God, if we belong to Him and are his own sons, then our first duty is to God, since we owe everything to Him. The first and greatest commandment is to love God; therefore, we must seek first the kingdom of God.”
2. FOR OUR OWN SAKE – “A Scouter who believes in God will be a better Scouter, for God will enhance our vision and increase our sense of adventure in life.”
3. FOR THE BOY'S SAKE – “We can truly help the boy when we help him grow spiritually. He can't be left alone to discover and enjoy life by himself.”

B. Importance of Spiritual Development

Provides some adventure in the outdoors – far away from the noise of town and city. These eventful outings, there will come into the boy a certain feeling which will make him take off his hat and lift his eyes toward heaven in reverence, resolving for a while to do good in token of gratitude to Him who gives us everything we have on earth. In campfire, programs and in meetings, the first words the Campfire Chief utter are in dedication to the Great Spirit who rules over us, over all Scouts, over the entire universe.

The policy of the movement on religion provides that it is binding on every member to be an active member of his own particular denomination and attend its services regularly. The Kawan Leader's responsibility lies in two aspects: to see that this policy is implemented; and secondly, to set the example herself.

Her special job makes observance of “Duty to God” alive and effective. Her KAB Scouts progressively gain a better insight into understanding the love of God, not in leaps and bounds, but in steady flow of words and actions.

Implementation of the religious policy of the movement includes four suggested ways:

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1. Going to one's own church and attending religious instruction regularly;
2. Enjoying and making the best use of all the gifts God has given each one;
3. Helping other people by sharing their God-given gifts;
4. Remembering to thank God for all His gifts.

C. Opportunities for Spiritual Development

To make "Duty to God" a continuing activity in the Kawan, here are a few suggestions:

- **Story-telling.** Tell stories of the holy men/women and encourage the KAB Scouts to tell their favorite stories, too.
- **Play-Acting.** Discuss favorite bible or Koran or other religious stories to bring out the key points and then let them act these out.
- **Arts and Crafts.** Occasions like decorating the meeting room for the religious holiday and preparing goodwill gifts for the poor and the sick remind the KAB Scouts of their duty to love God and their fellowmen.
- **Nature Study.** Outings, expeditions, and visits to scenic and historic spots or shrines are opportunities for appreciating the creations of God.
- **Prayers.** Ecumenical prayers can be an integral part of Kawan activities if said at different times when the need comes in natural situations, like at the start of an activity, at the roll call for a member who is sick or bereaved, etc.

These opportunities for making duty to God a continuing and integral part of Kawan activities are a challenge to the Kawan Leader, for religion is caught rather than fulfilled on its own. It is impossible to instill a faith into others unless the Kawan Leader has a faith to instill.