

### VALUES DEVELOPMENT IN SCOUTING

The primary mission of Scouting has always been the development of character upon which these citizenship is anchored. Hence, it is the development of right values in the youth. All other values are secondary. Physical and skills development are necessary but they are only secondary to the development of right values.

However, during the last 50 years, Values Development in Scouting has been taken for-granted if not totally neglected. The development of character, the inculcation of right values as stated in the Scout Oath and Law has been delegated to the background. Consequently, everyone pays lip service instead of doing it. The very core of Scouting has been reduced to nothing more than sheer knowledge.... something to be known, memorized, and recited during ceremonies but never to become the focus of every activity repeatedly done until it becomes habit. In its place of prominence camping, hiking, jamborees, advancement for advancements sake were installed. All these activities are complete with all the pomp and the pageantry that Scouting brings. All forms are without substance, all head, body, hands, and feet and yet....without the most important element of all....the heart.

The question may be asked. Where does Values Development come in Scouting? Is this a joke? Funny, is it not that, this question may be asked? Values Development do not come in Scouting at all. It is already there from the very beginning. It is there in its very definition.....in its very purpose..... in it's principles. Duty to God..... Duty to Others..... Duty to Self. These three duties bring us to the core value of Scouting, the value of selfless service and sacrifice for the good of others.... the value of LOVE. What about Country? Where does Country come in? Selfless service and sacrifice for the good of others necessarily include the readiness to serve and die for one's Country whenever necessary. As the Scout Oath and Law states:

On my honor, I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my Country,  
the Republic of the Philippines,  
And to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally straight.

A Scout is: Trustworthy  
Loyal  
Helpful  
Friendly  
Courteous  
Kind  
Obedient  
Cheerful  
Thrifty  
Brave  
Clean, and  
Reverent

## ***BTC-TLs/S10-HO-Values Development in Scouting/page 2***

This value of selfless service and sacrifice must be inculcated in the hearts and minds of the Scouts...not by teaching or by instruction...but by educating...by drawing out what is intrinsically in the boy..... by encouragement..... by being nourishingly supportive.....by leading him, through role modeling, to repeatedly do what the Promise and Law states until it becomes habit....until it becomes a value that is difficult to break. This must be done in all Scouting activities the boy will undertake in the Troop, in the home, in the institution, and in the community or in the outdoor, aware that the development of values, in the words of B.P., is "very generally the result of environment or surrounding." Further, if values determine the future, whether of the nation or of an individual, right values must be developed in the boy before he starts out, while he is still young and receptive. Value Development is the thing that counts in building character and in making men..... disciplined, responsible, self-reliant, interdependent, concerned, and selfless men of the future.

### **How to Integrate Values Development in Scouting Activities**

#### **1. Awareness of Surrounding and the Beauty of Nature.**

Awareness and appreciation of the beauty of nature will instill in the Boy Scouts values of self-reliance, resourcefulness, and self-worth, not to mention the concrete foundation in religion which is in the realization of GOD, the Creator, through His wondrous works coupled with active performance of His Will in service of others. Scouting teaches the boys, not only to get a living but how to live, that is, in a higher sense, how to enjoy life. B.P. says in his book *Aids to Scoutmastership*, "If you want boys to be happy in life let them appreciate nature while at the same time doing good to others."

#### **2. Fun, Songs, and Games**

Have you ever conducted a game with your Boy Scouts asking them to count the number of people who smiled at them on their way to school, and then asking them to do the same the following day but this time for them to smile at those whom they meet on their way. Compare the two results. There will be more people smiling at them the second time since they have made more people happy. They have done more good turns and its fun.

Songs, when properly sang, can inculcate the value of unity, harmony, concern, of patriotism, of service, and self-sacrifice for the good of others.

Games properly officiated and with rules firmly imposed, can instill discipline, fairness, self-restraint and good temper. As the saying goes, "It is not the winning but the way you play the game that counts". Practice your boys to be the first to cheer and congratulate the winner and the winner to be humble in victory.

#### **3. Awareness of Moral and Spiritual Values**

B.P. says,"moral and spiritual values can never be taught. It can only be caught. "This is where the problem lies. Mostly our moral and spiritual values have become a matter of knowledge and less of a way of life. These values can only be learned if they are lived ... if service and concern for the good of others are done repeatedly, effectively demonstrated ... modeled if you wish... by those whom the Boys consider are their elders.

### ***BTC-TLs/S10-HO-Values Development in Scouting/page 3***

Teach the boys the value of Reverence.....Reverence to GOD.....Reverence to Others as children of GOD... and Reverence to Self as a servant of GOD. On these are anchored the foundation of every form of religion. Teach them to serve. Teach them to do a good turn daily. Show them. Let them be aware that a good turn done to others is a good turn done to GOD.

But this is not all. They must also be encouraged to attend to their religious obligations as required by their respective religions. There must never be any attempt to influence them to convert to another religion nor to attend/participate in sectarian spiritual activity in the guise of Scouting nor to discourage them from attending their own.

#### **4. Group Interaction and Sharing**

Participation in discussions as to the kind of activity the boys enjoy and how they wish the activity to be conducted with the Patrol is one effective way of inculcating in the boys a sense of fairness and the understanding and consideration of the opinion of others. This also instills in them the value of respect for the rights of others. Being allowed to share in the activities of the Troop and the Patrol also awakens in them a sense of self-worth and of self-respect, and of belongingness, which is the value of interdependence.

#### **5. Skills for Creative Expression**

This awakens in the Boy Scouts the value of resourcefulness and self-reliance as well as their creative and innovative talents. These activities inculcate in them the value of self-confidence as to enable him to be proactive in life.... to create his own circumstance and not to simply be reactive to circumstances of other people's making.

#### **6. Achievement through the Badge System**

This inculcates on the Boy Scout the value of self- development and the pursuit of Excellence. It must be made clear to them, however, that the reason why they have to learn more and to become better persons is not to become great and win the accolades and the adulation of people. Rather, that they should strive to achieve more and become better, so that they can give more and serve better. That the only reason they have to learn is so they can teach the ignorant. That the only reason they have to be strong is so they can protect the weak. That the only reason they have to be rich is so they can give to the poor. That the only reason they have to aspire for power is so they can help improve the lot of the oppressed and the powerless. That the only reason they have to aspire for excellence in themselves is so they can serve others with excellence. And the only reason is ...**LOVE.**