



Taking the Mystery out of Scouts Own

As the Spring camping season approaches, the Program Help line frequently receives calls for help with planning and holding a Scouts Own. Leaders know they are supposed to include it — just sometimes they don't know how to structure or design it. One of Scouting's Principles, Duty to God, is defined as "ad-

Sample Outline for a Scouts Own

A very brief outline is such:

- ☞ Keep it short, 15 – 20 minutes is enough.
- ☞ Relate the content to the age level of the youth.
- ☞ Involve the youth in preparing for Scouts Own. Supply resources and help them select the readings or verses. During the ceremony, ask different youth to read them out loud.
- ☞ Provide opportunities to move, by sitting, standing, clapping, or doing actions to a song.
- ☞ If you have a theme to your camp, involve the theme in the Scouts Own too.
- ☞ Try to hold it outdoors.
- ☞ If there are different faiths present, focus on common threads such as love, friendship, helping others, etc.
- ☞ Mix it up. Start with a reading or short fable, sing a song, another verse, two songs and finish with a prayer or repeat the section Promise.



Photograph: Fred Bekkin

*There's a miracle called
friendship!*

herence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the religion that expresses them and acceptance of the duties resulting therefrom." Holding a Scouts Own is one way we can work on achieving this principle. Scouts Own can be at any time, any place and acceptable to all faiths. It is not a religious ceremony; it is a spiritual celebration.

The following Scouts Owns were submitted to the *Leader Magazine*. Perhaps you'll find one "ready-made" for your next camp. Of course, you can add and subtract songs, readings, or stories to make them special to your group. Provide the words to the songs if they are not known to the youth.

THEME: FRIENDSHIP

OPENING:

God our Father, bless us as we gather here today
Help us all to understand our Promise better
Teach us to love you more
To love all your people
And to serve our country faithfully.

PRAYER:

A Beaver (Cub, Scout, etc.) Thank You

Thank you for Beavers (Cubs, Scouts, etc.)
We learn how to share
Thank you for leaders who show us how to care;
Help us to learn to have fun at our play,
And how to work hard for our family each day;
The world would be much better, we know,
For the love and the friendship we learn how to show.

SONG:

Love is Something

Love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away
Love is something if you give it away,
It will come right back to you.

A smile is something if you give it away...

Friendship is something if you give it away...

STORY:

The Friendship Stick

When God created this wonderful earth, he made it a place filled with brilliant colours, the flowers, the trees, the birds, and animals. "But," said God, "my world is not complete. I need to create a higher being, one who can think and who will take care of the earth. I will call him man. He will have a wife and children and I will call this a family."

God thought, "I have many colours in my world. I must have colour in my people as well. I will create people who are yellow — the colour of the glowing sun which gives warmth and light. I will make people who are black — the colour of the deep starry night which gives quiet and peace. Some of my people will be brown — the colour of the warm earth where seeds grow to feed my people. Lastly, I will make some of my people white like the cool, crisp snow of winter."

"All of my people must have eyes to see the beauty around them." God thought. "Some eyes will be brown like the many small birds that sing in the trees, and some eyes I will make blue, the colour of the beautiful sky."

On each Friendship Stick there are six circles. The two at the top represent eyes — one brown and one blue.

Below are four circles. The top is yellow, which represents the yellow-skinned people. There are more yellow skins in the world than any other. The next circle is black. The second greatest number of people in the world have black skin. The third circle is brown for the brown skins of the world. The last circle is white. This is the colour of the fewest people in the world.

When your stick is complete, you must not keep it. But instead, give it to someone else as a sign of friendship.

SONG:

If I Had a Hammer (Scouts Canada's *Song Book*)

CLOSING THOUGHT:

There's a miracle called friendship,
that dwells within our heart;
And you don't know how it happens
or when it gets its start.
But the happiness it brings to you always gives a special lift;
And you realize that friendship is God's most precious gift!

CLOSING SONG:

Kum Ba Yah (Scouts Canada's *Song Book*)

THEME: CHILDREN

OPENING:

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn;
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight;
If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy;
If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient;
If a child lives with praise; he learns to appreciate;
If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice;
If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith;
If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself;
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,
he learns to find love in the world.

SONG:

The More We Get Together (Scouts Canada's *Song Book*)

READING: (Give each line to different children in your group to read aloud.)

The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child

- The right to a name and nationality.
- The right to affection, love and understanding and to material security.
- The right to adequate nutrition, housing and medical services.



Photograph: Gary Siegle

*When I'm in a canoe,
I'm connected to nature.*

- The right to special care if handicapped, be it physically, mentally or socially.
- The right to be among the first to receive protection and relief in all circumstances.
- The right to be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation.
- The right to full opportunity for play and recreation and equal opportunity to free and compulsory education, to enable the child to develop his individual abilities and to become a useful member of society.
- The right to develop his full potential in conditions of freedom and dignity.
- The right to be brought up in a spirit of understanding, tolerance, friendship among peoples, peace and universal brotherhood.
- The right to enjoy these rights regardless of race, colour, sex, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, and property, birth, or other status.

SONG:

Magic Penny (*Singing Fun and Games*, by Jack Pearse)

CLOSING: (Give each line to different children to read aloud.)

- From the very beginning of his education, the child should experience the joy of discovery.
- There is only one beautiful child in the world, and every mother has it.
- Our greatest natural resource is the minds of our children.
- Children are like sponges, they absorb all your strength and leave you limp. But give them a squeeze and you get it all back.
- Children don't care how much we know until they know how much we care.

THEME: CANOE CAMP

OPENING:

Come what may,
Time and hours run through the roughest day,
Let fun and laughter now our hearts beguile,
And let's forget our troubles for awhile.

STORY:**Everybody's Canoe**

A young Indian brave was busy at work carving a canoe out of a log. As he worked, members of the tribe passed by. Everybody had a piece of advice to offer the young man.

"I think you are making your canoe too wide," one of them said. The young brave, wishing to show respect for the advice of an elder, narrowed down the canoe.

A little while later, another warrior stopped by. "I'm afraid you are cutting the stern too full," he said. Again, the young brave listened to his elder and cut down the stern.

Very soon, yet another member of the tribe stopped, watched for awhile, then said, "The bow is too sheer." The young brave accepted this advice as well and changed the line of the bow.

Finally, the canoe was complete and the young brave launched it. As soon as it hit the water, it capsized. Laboriously he hauled it back onto the beach. Then he found another log and began his work anew.

Very soon, a member of his tribe stopped by to offer some advice, but this time the young brave was ready.

"See that canoe over there?" he asked, pointing to the useless craft on the beach. "That is everybody's canoe." Then he nodded at the work in progress. "This one," he said, "is *my* canoe."

SONG:

There Were Three Jolly Fishermen (Scouts Canada's *Song Book*)

READING: (Give each paragraph to different children to read aloud.)

A Canoe's Ribs

A canoe's ribs, thwarts and hull are like our bones which support us. Seats are for resting. Rest is important; God made rest because he cares deeply for each of us.

Paddles are like our arms and legs; they take us in directions we want to go.

Painters represent times we want to put our lives on hold and reassess our direction.

We use a bailer when we're in deep trouble.

Duct tape is needed to patch up our lives when we feel torn and tattered. Everyone feels this way at times of need.

Use your whistle to call for help; a rescue rope will pull you to safety.

Did you ever think a canoe could draw you closer to God? When we're out in the water think about God and how you can open yourself more to His ways. Take a moment to take in the beauty of the landscape around you and thank God.

SONG:

Land of the Silver Birch (Scouts Canada's *Song Book*)

CLOSING:

Onward and upward day by day,
Straight is the course, and narrow the way,
But others before us, the path have trod,
And the top of the hill is the heart of God.

THEME: A SCOUT IS LOYAL

OPENING:

Scout Promise



*Memories are made
of this.*

Photograph: Mary Margaret Boone

SONG:

Kum Ba Yah (Scouts Canada's *Song Book*)

POEM:**The Only Way to Have a Friend**

The only way to have a friend
Is to be one yourself:
The only way to keep a friend
Is to give from that wealth.

For friendship must be doublefold,
Each one must give his share
Of feelings true, if he would reap
The blessings that are there.

If you would say, "He is my friend,"

Then nothing else will do
But you must say, "I am his friend"
And prove that fact be true.

SCOUTER'S 5:

Explain what Scout loyalty is and how we can observe it in general.

SONG:

Put Friends First (*Spread a Little Sunshine* by Jack Pearse)

CLOSING:

Scout Law

THEME: NATURE

OPENING:

Good morning! What a lovely way
to open up a brand new day!
Not knowing what that day may hold
A sun of tinsel or of gold
The phrase embraces in its scope,
The world of man's eternal hope,
His faith — of every soul a part.

SONG:

Morning Has Broken
Lyrics by Eleanor Farjeon

Morning has broken, like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird
Praise for the singing, Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing, Fresh from the word.

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dew fall, on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness, of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness, where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning,
Born of the one light, Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day.

READING: (Divide the reading amongst the youth to read aloud.)

**When You Walk
Through the Woods**

When you walk through the woods, I want you to see
The floating gold or the bumblebee,
Rivers or sunlight, pools or shade,
Toadstools sleeping in mossy jade.
A cobweb new with a catch or dew,
Treetop comes against the blue,
Dancing flowers, bright green flies,
And birds that put rainbows in your eyes.

When you walk through the woods, I want you to hear
A million sounds in your eager ears.
The scratch and rattle of wind-tossed trees,
The rush as a timid chipmunk flees.
The cry of a hawk from the distant sky,
The purr of leaves when a breeze rolls by.
Brooks that mumble, stones that sing.

When you walk through the woods, I want you to feel
That no mere human could make this real.
Could paint the throb of a butterfly's wing,
Could teach a wood thrush how to sing.
Could create these wonders of earth and sky,
There's something greater than you or I.

When you walk through the woods and the birches nod,
Please meet a friend of mine named God.

SONG:

It's a Small World

Written by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman

Chorus: It's a small world after all, (3 times)
It's a small, small world.

It's a world of laughter, a world of tears,
It's a world of hopes and a world of fears,
There's so much that we share,
That it's time we're aware
It's a small world after all.

Chorus

There is just one moon and one golden sun,
And a smile means friendship to everyone.
Though the mountains divide, and the oceans are wide,
It's a small world after all.

Chorus

PRAYER:

For the Joy of the Earth

Great Spirit,
We thank you today for the beauty of your world.
For sunshine and flowers,
Storm clouds and starry nights,
For the first radiance of dawn,
And the last glow of sunset.

We thank you for physical joy,
For clear water to swim in,
For the fresh smell of rain on dry ground.
For hills to climb and work to do together,
Make our hearts wide open to these gifts,
And help us to live in thanksgiving.

CLOSING:

Be At Peace

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars.

You have a right to be here.
And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.
Therefore, be at peace with your God,
whatever you conceive him to be and,
Whatever your labours and aspirations in the noisy confusion of life,
keep peace with your soul.
With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams,
It is still a beautiful world. X

- Thanks to Scouters Marilyn Johnson, Linus Fung, and S.J. (Jim) Cossar for contributing to this article.

Linking to Strategic Direction # 6.

Visit www.santasvillage.ca



Santa's Village
& SPORTSLAND

Bracebridge, Muskoka, Ontario

Santa's Village Scouting Day!
(a day not available to the general public)

Saturday, May 27, 2006 • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$15.00 per person includes a day of fun and a night of camping at Santa's Whispering Pines campground located on site.

Rides, shows, games, activities, petting farm, camping and of course a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus at a very special youth club rate.

Upgrade to a Sportsland package that includes go-karts, batting cages, 18 holes of mini-golf and basketball for just \$10 more. Ask for details.

Reservations are required. Please call the group sales office at **(705) 645-2512 ext. 231** or e-mail groupsales@santasvillage.ca for more details.

Camping is available Friday or Saturday night. Add \$3.00 to your package to camp both nights.