

A review of the Scout Law using three different editions of the Boy Scout Handbook

These are the actual words written in their respective Boy Scout Handbooks to help today's Scouts see what us older ones learned.

A SCOUT IS.... TRUSTWORTHY

12TH EDITION, 2009 PRINTING

A Scout tells the truth. He is honest, and he keeps his promises. People can depend on him.

8TH EDITION, 1972 PRINTING

pages 39 & 40

A scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is part of his code of conduct. People can depend on him.

For years Scouts have given the Scout sign and said, "Scout's honor." They knew then that what they said would be believed. This is great, but isn't it even better to have such a good reputation that you are believed without needing to say, "Scout's honor"?

Then people will say things like this:

"If he says so, it must be true."

"He'll be here. He said he would."

"Him cheat? He wouldn't even think of it."

"You can really count on him."

Think of the difference between that and:

"Don't listen to him. You can't believe him."

"Maybe he took it. He's stolen before."

"You'd better do it yourself. You can't count on him to do it."

Your reputation for being trustworthy will follow you through life, and is important to your future happiness. It will be important to your job, to borrowing money, to charging in stores, and even to the kind of people who will be your friends.

6TH EDITION, 1959 PRINTING

page 86

All our dealings with other people are based on trust. We drop a letter in the mailbox and trust the post office to get it to its destination. We buy a can of food and trust the manufacturer to have it filled with only wholesome ingredients. We listen to the news on the radio or on TV and trust the reporters to tell us the truth. If we couldn't trust other people, the work of the world would soon come to a standstill. And if you can't trust a Boy Scout you can't trust anybody.

Your parents and teachers and friends know that as a Scout you tell the truth and keep your promises. When your mother asks you to run an errand, she knows that you will do it promptly and efficiently. When your troop has a meeting, your leaders know that you will be there. When you have said that you are going on the hike or to camp, the other fellows in your patrol know that you will be ready to go at the time agreed to.

From time to time, you may get yourself into trouble - boys usually do. Your baseball may smash a window, your elbow may knock down a vase, your big feet may trample a flower bed. By quickly admitting what you have done and making good the damage, the incident is forgotten.

It is a great thing to have people trust you. It feels good to "keep your honor bright" and to be able to look people straight in the eyes.

As our society, and Boy Scout program, have evolved, maybe we have simplified how we look at something as simple as a definition or our expectation of ourselves as Scouts. Maybe if we take a moment to see what was expected of previous Scouts we'll understand more of ourselves.

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A SCOUT IS.... LOYAL

12TH EDITION, 2009 PRINTING

A Scout is loyal to those to whom loyalty is due.

8TH EDITION, 1972 PRINTING

pages 40 & 41

A scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school and nation.

Being loyal is doing your best for all of these. It is being true to them - to support rather than knock down. This isn't always easy. There are times when you can't be loyal to two different people. Suppose your Scoutmasters asks you to do something at the same time your dad needs help from you at home. You can't be loyal to both. This problem is easy, because your Scoutmaster knows your family comes first.

But what if some friends take your sister's bike. The strip it and sell the parts. Where does your loyalty lie? Do you squeal on your friends? Or are you loyal to them at the expense of your family?

Your decisions usually aren't that tough, but they are important because your answers will decide the kind of a person you really are.

When you get older, you'll find other places where loyalties conflict. It could be between your country and other beliefs. Just remember to look at both sides. Listen carefully to the arguments and then do what you believe to be right. Then you will be loyal to yourself.

6TH EDITION, 1959 PRINTING

page 86

Loyalty starts at home. You show this loyalty best by turning yourself into the kind of boy your parents would like you to be, by making them realize that you appreciate what they do for you, and by speaking about your home in such a way that people understand that you love it. The place where you live may not be the finest in the neighborhood - but it is your home, and no palace will ever take its place in your heart.

A chain is as strong as its weakest link. The success of your patrol and your troop depends on the loyalty of each boy - in the way you stick by your leaders and pitch in with the team, in the way you act as a Scout. People will judge all Boy Scouts by the kind of Scout you are. By being a real Scout, you prove yourself loyal to Scouting.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans have shown their loyalty to our country by giving their blood for it. But there are many everyday ways of being loyal, too - by helping in your community projects, showing respect for our flag and our government, obeying our country's laws.

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A SCOUT IS.... HELPFUL

12TH EDITION, 2009 PRINTING

A Scout cares about other people. He helps others without expecting payment or reward. He fulfills his duties to his family by helping at home.

8TH EDITION, 1972 PRINTING

pages 41 & 42

A Scout is concerned about other people. He does things willingly for others without pay or reward.

The Scout slogan, Do a Good Turn Daily, spells out the Scout spirit of being helpful. The motto, Be Prepared, takes the idea a step farther. To be really helpful, you must know how. With first aid knowledge, you can help the injured. If you can cook, you can help when your mother is away. Know your know, and you can help strangers. Prepare yourself to be helpful. Then look for ways to help.

Scouts may work for pay, but they don't take money for being helpful. Think about the Scout in the London fog described in "The Early Years" chapter. If he had taken pay for helping Mr Boyce, Scouting might be different in the United States today.

From the editor's note....

In 1959 we see that HELPFUL did not include your daily, household chores. Household chores, or duties, were not considered GOOD TURNS.

In 1972 we see that HELPFUL did include "cooking" where it was taking over for your mother when she was away; not a regular duty.

In 2009 we see that a Scout fulfills his duties to his family by helping at home.... It seems to have turned a Good Turn and HELPFUL into an emphasis on home and not community as much....

6TH EDITION, 1959 PRINTING

pages 87 & 88

In your Scout Oath you pledge to help other people at all times. The third point of the Scout Law tells you how - by being prepared and by doing a Good Turn daily.

A boy who doesn't know first aid is of little use when someone is hurt. A boy who can't swim has little chance to rescue a drowning person. As a Scout you will know what to do - and do it. But while you may never have the chance to save a life, you have a chance every day to do some smaller service - provided you keep your eyes open.

Your regular home duties are not Good Turns - those are things that are expected of you. A Good Turn is something you go out of your way to do. One kind of Good Turn is the kind you do on the spur of the moment - like assisting a blind man to get on a bus, picking up broken glass from the sidewalk, helping a motorist change a tire. Another kind of Good Turn is the kind you plan for, alone, or with your patrol - like feeding birds during the winter, taking used magazines to the hospital, cleaning up the church or synagogue basement.

The important thing to remember about Good Turns is that they are done for the sake of helping others. Work (for which you receive pay) and help you give to one who needs it (for which you receive no pay) are two different things. If you do a Good Turn in the hope of receiving a tip, it is not a Good Turn at all.

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A SCOUT IS.... FRIENDLY

12TH EDITION, 2009 PRINTING

A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He offers his friendship to people of all races, religions, and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs and customs are different from his own.

8TH EDITION, 1972 PRINTING

pages 42 & 43

A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs other than his own.

The theme of the 1967 World Jamboree of Scouting was "For Friendship." Boys from all countries of the world with Scouting camped together for over a week. Here they lived up to the jamboree theme and to the 4th point of the Scout Law. Among the thousands of boys from all over the world were differences in race, religion, customs, age, and even political beliefs. Yet they all camped in friendship. There were no unfriendly incidents.

Friendliness is thinking about the other person. It is accepting him as he is, not as you think he should be. You know that each person is an individual with ideas and ways that are his own. To be a real friend you respect the other person's differences. Be interested in the other person. A friendless person is usually interested only in himself.

From the editor's note....

Imagine, if you can, visiting another country and not knowing their language or local customs. Without someone being friendly, how would you really enjoy yourself? Being *FRIENDLY* yourself you are polite and pleasant and will easily find yourself meeting people who will return your friendship and they will help you. This is how being *FRIENDLY* allows you to find and share *FRIENDSHIP* with others.

6TH EDITION, 1959 PRINTING

pages 88 & 89

Friendship is like a mirror. When you meet a person with a smile on your face and a helping hand stretched toward him, you will receive a smile in return and help when you need it. By being a friend yourself, you make a friend.

But there are friends and friends. Some people to whom you show friendliness will pass out of your life immediately afterward. Others may become your friends for life. Very possibly, some of these lifelong friends you will meet through Scouting.

The moment you join a patrol and a troop, you enter a brotherhood that spans the world. The boys in it are of different countries and colors and creeds, but they are brothers together, living up to the same Scout Oath and Law that you are following.

Among the finest expressions of this brotherhood are the great world jamborees at which as many as fifty thousand Scouts from all over the world come together and live in camp for two weeks as friends. But you need not go to a jamboree to show that you are "a brother to every other Scout." When you meet a fellow Scout in uniform greet him as a friend. And if you notice a Scout badge on a boy's coat lapel, give him the Scout salute. He may be a stranger in your town and may need your help. By greeting him, you make him feel that he is not alone.

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A SCOUT IS.... COURTEOUS

12TH EDITION, 2009 PRINTING

A Scout is polite to people of all ages and positions. He understands that using good manners makes it easier for people to get along.

8TH EDITION, 1972 PRINTING

page 43

A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows good manners make it easier for people to get along together

Courtesy is acting with respect for the feelings of others. It is doing thoughtful little things that make it easier for others. It is using words like "thanks," "please," "pardon me," "sorry," and "sir."

Think about how you react to someone who is rude to you. This is the same way they will feel about you if you are discourteous.

Courtesy means using good manners. These don't cost anything to learn and use yet they are a valuable asset to the person who uses them. They mark you as a person who cares. You never lower yourself when you are polite.

Start at home. Be courteous in your relations with all members of your family. Use good manners. The things you do at home will carry over into your public actions.

6TH EDITION, 1959 PRINTING

page 89

This is just another way of saying that a Scout is a gentleman. You will have many opportunities every day to show whether you are one or not.

First of all, be courteous in your own home. There are people with the reputation of being polite in public who seem to forget their manners when at home. Don't be one of them. A "please" and a "thank you" are easily said, and little helpful things easily done, yet they make your father and your mother and the other members of the family feel that you really appreciate what they do for you.

Good manners always please and attract people.

Opening a door for a lady, offering a seat in a crowded bus, rising from your chair when a guest enters a room, helping your mother to be seated at the family table, saluting your Scout leader, removing your hat in the presence of ladies in an elevator - these are all signs of a gentleman.

The courtesy you practice as a boy will make you a finer man.

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A SCOUT IS.... KIND

12TH EDITION, 2009 PRINTING

A Scout treats others as he wants to be treated. He knows there is strength in being gentle. He does not harm or kill any living thing without good reason.

8TH EDITION, 1972 PRINTING

pages 43 & 44

People do things for a bully because they are afraid of him. They will keep doing them only as long as the bully can enforce that gear. You do things for a person who is gentle because you want to. You will keep doing them even after he is gone.

"He treats others as he wants to be treated." Does this sound familiar? Maybe not the exact words, but the idea? It should, because this idea is basic to other points of the Scout Law. You find it in helpful, friendly, courteous, cheerful, and reverent. The way you treat others is part of each of these.

Kindness is more than just the way you treat others, though. A big part has to do with treatment of birds and animals. They are living creatures that can feel hunger and pain. Cruelty to people is bad, but they can at least fight back. Cruelty to helpless animals is inexcusable, since they can't defend themselves.

Live with nature and you'll learn to respect and love animals. Kindness to them will help you to know them better. With kindness comes trust and understanding.

6TH EDITION, 1959 PRINTING

page 90

If you have a dog or other animal pet of your own you are probably already kind to it. You want it to love you and you know that this will happen only if you take good care of it. You have to understand when it needs food and water and shelter and special attention. If you live on a farm you know how well poultry and livestock respond to good care.

In your life as a Scout, you will get to know a lot of wild animals. Some evening when you are on a hike, a deer may bound across your path. Some night in camp, a raccoon may come sniffing around your tent. And when you wake in the morning and put your head outside your tent door, you may hear the chorus of a hundred birds and see them fluttering from branch to branch overhead.

The more you live in the out-of-doors, the more you will get to like the animal and bird life around you. And the more you like wildlife, the more you will do to help it and to protect it.

From the Editor.... It's rather amazing that 50 years ago Scouting was promoting how Boy Scouts can be, and should be, "KIND" in the outdoors and with wildlife and the environment. 40 years ago it still included our outdoors, but starting having a more urban aspect that included our neighbors. Today it is a little more generic for both. Regardless of whether it a person, an animal or just our environment (Leave No Trace ring a bell?) we need to be kind in our daily lives to leave the world a better place where we've been.

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A SCOUT IS.... OBEDIENT

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A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he seeks to have them changed in an orderly way.

8TH EDITION, 1972 PRINTING

pages 45 & 46

A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he seeks to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.

Rules and laws are the backbone of a civilized society. Obedience to them is vital or they become meaningless. Failure to obey causes death and destruction. Look at the highway accident rate. Many, many accidents are caused by disobedience of the law. Innocent people are killed and injured.

If a rule or law is bad, it should be changed. Laws made by man can be changed by man. Don't break laws you don't like. Disobedience to some leads to a breakdown of all.

Unfortunately, there are some who live outside the law. Thus, we need law enforcement to protect those who live within the law. Some don't like this, but if laws are to protect our lives and property, they must be enforced.

If your parents have rules for you to follow, you are lucky. It means they love and care for you. They make rules to protect you until the time when you can make your own decisions based on experience.

6TH EDITION, 1959 PRINTING

pages 90 & 91

A distinguished French officer once asked the mother of George Washington, "How did you raise such a splendid son?"

Her answer was simple. "I taught him to obey."

This is true of all great leaders. They learned to obey before they learned to lead. That's why real men hold obedience high.

Obedience begins with your father and mother. When they request you to do a thing, do it immediately and cheerfully - even if you happen to be in the middle of a game or an exciting TV program. Soldiers do not enjoy going into battle. But they obey orders. They know what is expected of them and do it.

There are others to whom you owe obedience. When a teacher tells you to do a thing, it is usually for your own good. When your employer tells you to do a thing, it is for the good of the business. And when your Scout Leader gives you a job to do, it is for the good of the patrol or troop - which means it is good for you too.

But being obedient goes beyond the obedience you owe to certain individuals. It also means obedience to your country's laws. Here again, obedience works to your own good. Think, for instance, of all the lives that would be saved each year if people obeyed the traffic laws. And just imagine the amount of money that would be available for education and other worth-while purposes if people were so law-abiding that we could close our prisons and reformatories!

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A SCOUT IS.... CHEERFUL

12TH EDITION, 2009 PRINTING

A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way and tries his best to make others happy too.

8TH EDITION, 1972 PRINTING

page 46

A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way and tries his best to make others happy.

We like to be with people who do things with a smile. They get things done because they think they can. The way they act rubs off on others.

Compare them with the grouches in the world who can spoil any activity. You know the kind. Nothing is right. "It's no fun." "The leaders don't know what they're doing." "The food is lousy." And on and on.

It's easy to be cheerful when things are great. The real test comes when things get rough. Can you smile when hiking in the pouring rain? How about the time you had to take care of your brother instead of going to a ball game with the gang? Everyone is faced with tasks he doesn't like. A cheerful spirit and a smile will make the job easier. It's a cinch that griping and complaining won't help.

From the Editor.... This does not mean that there won't be times you will be unhappy with something. There will constantly be challenges in life that frustrate you or can make you unhappy. What cheerful also means is that you have to be willing to make the difference and improve the problem so the next Scout (or person) doesn't find the same problem. If you can, FIX IT! Both the satisfaction of improving the situation and the improvement are things to be cheerful about.

6TH EDITION, 1959 PRINTING

pages 91 & 92

There's an old saying that goes, "Smile and the world smiles with you - weep and you weep alone."

There are people who always see the dark side of things. They are dissatisfied when the sun shines - it hurts their eyes and it is too hot. They are annoyed when the sun doesn't shine - things are too cold and dark. If it rains it is bad, and if it doesn't rain it is still worse.

Then there are others who are happy always. When the sun shines they enjoy the bright weather. When it pours they say, "Just what the farmers needed!" People who are cheerful and satisfied not only make life easier for themselves, but they help their fellow beings, too.

It is not the good times you have that will make you the man you want to be. It is only as you learn to overcome difficulties with a smile that you will grow to be a real man. In Scouting, you will have a lot of fun on sunny days. But peculiarly enough, the memories that will live the longest in your heart will be of the times when you overcome obstacles cheerfully - when the patrol fights its way home from a hike against a stiff wind and every step seems to be a mile, when a drenching downpour puts out your campfire, when your tent blows down in the middle of the night. These are the times when your cheerfulness is tested and your manliness grows.

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A SCOUT IS.... THRIFTY

12TH EDITION, 2009 PRINTING

A Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves national resources. He is careful in his use of time and property.

8TH EDITION, 1972 PRINTING

pages 46 thru 48

A Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for unforeseen needs. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

There are many different kinds of work. There are simple jobs you do at home without thought of pay, and jobs outside the home like a paper route, yard care, door-to-door selling, and baby -sitting. You get paid for these and so become a little independent. With the m money you get, you can decide some of the things you will do and buy. If the money you earn is used to help support your family, you are doing much more than working to be independent. It's a good idea to save a little , too. Then there will be money to buy bigger things later.

Thrift is more than working, wise spending, and saving. It is also taking care of t things you already have. You grease and oil your bike so the parts wear longer. You use your clothing so it lasts. You paint things to prevent rust and rot. You protect things from the weather. A little care can save money - money you can use for other things.

Time is important, too. You know how boring it is to have nothing to do. So don't waste time just sitting around. Many a top athlete became expert because he used his spare time to practice. Lots of people have helped to educate themselves by reading in their spare time.

Thrift is also concern for and doing something about our natural resources. Read the explanation of the Outdoor Code and the Conservation skill award for an understanding of this.

6TH EDITION, 1959 PRINTING

pages 92 & 93

To be thrifty doesn't necessarily mean to save money. Far oftener it means to know how to spend money wisely and to take good care of things that represent money - your clothes, your books, your home, and your school.

As a matter of fact, real thrift consists of five different things: earning, saving, spending wisely, sharing, and conserving. The saving could be in a savings bank, or in United States savings stamps or bonds.

It is a wonderful thing to be able to pay your own way - to earn money for your own clothes, for your Scout uniform and your camp equipment, and to take care of your troop dues out of your own pocket.

It takes pluck to earn money and save it. Some fellows never succeed. They go after easy money and, somehow, it always slips away from them. They sometimes even leave school without graduating because they see a job that will give them quick money - without realizing that the fellow who completes his education will earn far more money in the long run.

It is a good thing to be able to put money in the bank, but while you are young, it is more important for you to spend it on a good education, on something that will give you a better future, and to learn to share whatever you earn with others who may be in greater need than yourself.

One of the most important ways in which you can show that you are thrifty is the way you go about protecting and conserving our country's natural resources - its soil and water, its woods and fields, its wildlife. The water that drips, drips, drips from a faucet will amount to a waste of hundreds of gallons in a year's time. The forest where a campfire gets out of control may never give shelter to animals and birds. When you realize that waste is the worst enemy of thrift and act accordingly, you do your part to keep American beautiful.

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A SCOUT IS.... BRAVE

12TH EDITION, 2009 PRINTING A Scout faces danger even if he is afraid.

8TH EDITION, 1972 PRINTING pages 48 & 49

A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at or threaten him.

Why can you face danger even if you are afraid? Because, as a Scout, you are prepared for danger. You have learned what to do in many dangerous situations. And you know that most dangers aren't as bad as they seem at the time. You can laugh at many of your fears later.

However, only a fool is never afraid. You face danger in spite of your fear because of your confidence in your ability to take care of yourself and others.

One of the real dangers you will face is that of giving in when others laugh at the things you stand for. Those who do give in lose their sense of values. To be popular they join in destroying property or start to smoke or use alcohol or drugs. All because they don't have the courage to say "No."

The greatest kind of bravery is to do what is right when others call you a coward or chicken for doing it.

From the Editor....back in 1962, the 3rd season of the Twilight Zone by Rod Sterling, there was an episode "The Changing Of The Guard" where an aged professor discovered that he made a difference in the lives of his students and how he encouraged them to be Brave...and how he learned from his students to be brave himself in facing his own future. Your bravery can mean more than you know even if today you don't think so.

6TH EDITION, 1959 PRINTING pages 93 & 94

The highest award a Scout can receive is the Honor Medal for lifesaving. This is not earned by just rescuing someone - it is given only if the deed required real heroism and was done at the risk of the Scout's own life. In spite of these high standards, more than thirteen hundred Scouts have earned the Honor Medal since the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. Those boys had a glorious opportunity to prove their bravery and were prepared to act. Your opportunity may come. Will you be ready for it?

But lifesaving is not the only way you can prove your bravery. You can show it in your everyday life.

It takes bravery to stand up for what you think is right when others try to make you do what you know is wrong. It sometimes takes real courage to speak the truth and nothing but the truth. It takes backbone to admit a mistake and to apologize for it. It takes backbone to defend a friend when he is under attack by others.

During the Revolutionary War, young Nathan Hale secretly entered the British encampment at New York to find out what forces were there. He was caught and was hanged as a spy. His last words were, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Countless other Americans have been willing to lay down their lives for what they thought right. Certainly you will be brave enough to stand up for your convictions.

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A SCOUT IS.... CLEAN

12TH EDITION, 2009 PRINTING

A Scout keeps his body and mind fit. He chooses friends who also live by high standards. He avoids profanity and pornography. He helps keep his home and community clean.

8TH EDITION, 1972 PRINTING

pages 49 & 50

A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He goes around with those who believe in living by these same ideals. He helps keep his home and community clean.

Your body and clothes get dirty in hard work or play. You can be proud of this kind of dirt. Soap and water will clean it off when the job or game is over.

In America today, personal cleanliness is an important part of being accepted by your fellow man. The kind of clothing you wear and the cut of your hair are not as important as their cleanliness.

Another kind of dirt shows up when a person swears, tells dirty stories, or travels around with those who do. You know this is wrong because you usually try to hide it from people you respect. It's hard to get rid of this kind of dirt. It doesn't wash off.

The easiest way to be clean and stay clean is to not get dirty in the first place. This is true of both the dirt you can see and the other kind that can get into your heart and mind and shows up in the way you talk and act.

You will be judged in part by the friends you have. It has been said that if you travel with thieves, you will be considered a thief. "Unfair," you say? Maybe so. But we tend to make friends with people who are like ourselves.

You should also help with the cleanliness of your home. There are two ways you can do this: Don't mess it up and clean up the messes. It isn't fair to expect your mother to clean up after you.

The same thing goes for your town and countryside. Do your share in keeping a clean America.

6TH EDITION, 1959 PRINTING

pages 93 & 94

Two boys were walking along a muddy road when one asked the other, "How do you keep your shoes so clean? Mine are getting all dirty." The other boy answered, "That's easy - I just look for the clean spots and put my feet there.

The simplest way of being clean is not to get dirty in the first place. And that goes not just for your clothes and your body, but also for your thoughts and words and deeds.

You never need to be ashamed of the dirt that will wash off. If you play hard and work hard you can't help getting dirty. But when the game is over or the work done, that kind of dirt gives way to soap and water.

But there's another kind of dirt that won't come off by washing. It is the kind that enters your mind. You will have a hard struggle fighting that kind of dirt, but if you really try, you'll win. An important part of the battle is to keep away from fellows who seem to get a kick out of using vile language and telling dirty stories. "If you play with tar," as the saying goes, "some of it is sure to stick." Get in with a clean crowd where you will hear clean speech, learn clean sportsmanship, and get a clean outlook.

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A SCOUT IS.... REVERENT

12TH EDITION, 2009 PRINTING

A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

8TH EDITION, 1972 PRINTING

pages 50 & 51

A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

Reverence toward God is a whole lot more than going to church. It is shown in the way you act every day. You take care of your body. You live by the moral code and worship God in the way taught by your own religion.

There are many different religious beliefs in the world. Some are like your own. Others are very different. The men who founded the United States of America believed in the right of all men to worship God in their own way. This is a great heritage they have given us. Scouts can strengthen it by their actions.

A great teaching of most religions is known by us as "the golden rule." It says that you should treat others the same way you would want them to treat you. This is so simple that you can use this rule to easily measure yourself in your daily actions.

People who worship God in a way different from you can be very religious. Their ways mean a great deal to them. To laugh at or show disrespect for the beliefs of others is to make a mockery of all religions, including your own.

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Take a Lincoln penny out of your pocket and look at it. What do you see on it? Just above Lincoln's head are the words "In God We Trust." Twelve little letters on our humblest coin. Not only as individuals, but as a nation, too, we are committed to live and work in harmony with God and with His plan.

Most great men in history have been men of deep religious faith who have shown their convictions in deeds. Washington knelt in the snow to pray at Valley Forge. Lincoln always sought divine guidance before making an important decision. Eisenhower prayed to God before taking his oath of office as President of the United States. These men had many things in common: love of the out-of-doors, human kindness, and an earnest vigor in working with God in helping make a better world.

You are reverent as you serve God in your everyday actions and are faithful in your religious obligations as taught you by your parents and spiritual leaders.

All your life you will be associated with people of different faiths. In America we believe in religious freedom. That is why we respect others whose religions may differ from ours, although for reason of conscience we do not agree with them.