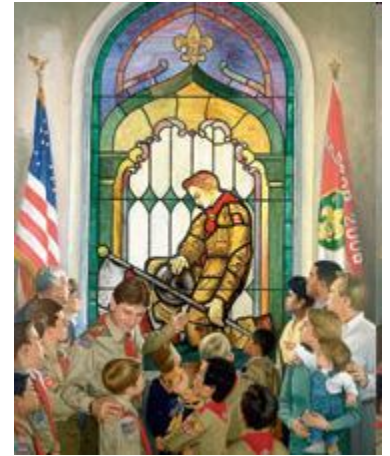


Troop 216

“A Scout is Reverent”

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Suggestions for promoting  
respectful and inclusive religious  
activities



# Scout Oath: "To do my duty to God..."

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"Your family and religious leaders teach you about God and the ways you can serve. You do your duty to God by following the wisdom of those teachings and by defending the rights of others to practice their own beliefs." (Boy Scout Handbook, 2009 edition, page 22)



# Scout Law: "A Scout is Reverent"

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- The original Boy Scout Handbook (1910) described a "Scout is Reverent" as:

"He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion."

- You'll find that in today's Boy Scout Handbook, the 12<sup>th</sup> edition (2009), page 25, the description of the final point of the Scout Law has changed very little:

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



# The Beliefs of Others....

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Church of Christ                      Baptist  
Moravian                      United Methodist                      Roman Catholic  
Jewish                      Armenian                      Presbyterian  
                    Hindu                      Baha'i                      Lutheran  
Zoroastrian                      Episcopal                      Muslim  
LDS                      Salvation Army                      Buddhist  
Polish National Catholic                      Eastern Orthodox



# Different Religions in Troop 216

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- Roman Catholic (charter organization)
- Lutheran
- Methodist
- Hindu
- Presbyterian
- Islam
- Non-denominational Christian
- Jewish
- Reformed Protestant
- Unitarian
- Episcopal



# Different Religions in the Occoneechee Council

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- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS)
- Baptist
- Non-denominational Christian
- Jewish
- Reformed Protestant
- Unitarian
- Episcopal
- Roman Catholic
- Lutheran
- Methodist
- Hindu
- Presbyterian
- Islam
- And several others...



# Respect the Belief of Others

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- Culture, dress, and actions
- Grace before meals
- Invocation/Blessings
- Scout's Own service



# Respect for Culture, Dress, Actions

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- Examples of culture, dress and action differences:
  - Catholics don't eat meat on Fridays before Easter
  - Some Islamic women cover their face and hair in public
  - Most Hindus are vegetarian (do not eat meat)
  - Seventh Day Baptists go to church on Saturday
  - Judaism requires food that is kosher and Jews celebrate Hanukkah in December

So a person's religion impacts what and when they eat,  
what they wear and what they do!



# Respect for Grace before meals

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- The Troop Chaplain Aide (scout) and Chaplain (scouter) should work to compose appropriate prayers for before and after meals. When composing these prayers, the chaplain and chaplain aide should be sensitive to the various theological and religious positions embraced by the faiths represented in the group



# Respect for Grace before meals - Examples

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- For food, for raiment, for life, for opportunity, for friendship and fellowship, we thank thee, O Lord. Amen. – Philmont Grace
- May God bless the scouts at this meeting  
May God bless the food we are eating  
May God bless the ones who are leading  
May God bless Boy Scouts everywhere.



# Respect for Invocation/Blessings

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- **Characteristics of a good invocation/blessing**
  - Short
  - Respect for different beliefs
  - Talk to God (or one of his many names)



# Respect for Invocation/Blessings

## - Examples

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- For food in a world where many walk in hunger,  
For faith in a world where many walk in fear,  
For friends in a world where many walk alone,  
We give you humble thanks, oh Lord.
- O Great Spirit! Watch over us as we begin this day.  
Protect us as we live in your care. Give us bounty  
and hold us from harm. We are your children and  
wish only to please you. We hold our Mother Earth  
close to our hearts and wish her goodness. We thank  
You for your love. -- American Indian



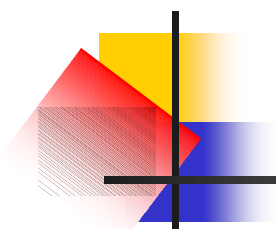
# Respect for Invocation/Blessings – Another Example

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- An example of a short prayer used on a Troop 216 campout that does a good job getting the message across while still being respectful of all religions:

## **“A Boy Scout Camp Prayer”** By Aaron Reza

Dear God,  
Thank you, for the good days we shared in this beautiful Park.  
We appreciate the fellowship of our leaders and scouts.  
We are grateful for keeping safe and cheerful.  
Help us remember the good times we had.  
Grant us a safe journey home.



# A Respectful “Scout’s Own” Service

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- What is a “Scout’s Own” Service?
  - An interfaith worship service, usually held during a scouting activity, for example on Sunday morning of a camping weekend.
- How to plan a respectful “Scout’s Own” service:
  - Work with the troop chaplain and chaplain aide to plan appropriate religious services for all members during weekend troop campouts.
  - We may conduct our own service, invite the troop chaplain or a religious figure to participate in the service, or possibly visit a nearby church, synagogue, temple, mosque, or other religious institution.



# Suggestions When Preparing Scout Religious Activities

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- God is great! Something all religions can agree on. Using God in your wording works for everyone!
- People use a lot of different names for God. Stick with mainstream names so everyone knows who you're talking about.

# Religious Emblems Program

- The Religious Emblem program is not administered by the Boy Scouts but is handled by your religious institution
- There is a religious emblem for just about every religion
- Check with your religious leader to learn the requirements for your religions emblems
- For more information about the emblems that are available, see [http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-879\\_web.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-879_web.pdf)





# Great Resources on the Internet!

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- BSA: A Scout is Reverent  
(<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Media/Relationships/ascoutisreverent.aspx>)
- MacScouter: A Scout is Reverent  
(<http://www.macscouter.com/scoutsown/>)
- "A Scout is Reverent" (<http://reverent-scout.net/reverent-scout/>)
- USSSP Reverent:  
(<http://www.usscouts.org/reverent.asp>)