

SCOUTS-L

RELIGION

&

SCOUTING

Date: Sat, 3 Jun 1995 01:14:58 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@capaccess.org>
Subject: Re: Intolerance vs. Ignorance

Many have commented on whether Scouts should say a generic prayer or use one from their own faith in a Scouting setting. I have to agree that you can't learn tolerance by hiding differences. The Scouts Own at the Wood Badge Course where leaders shared together is a great example of a successful venture into learning tolerance. A lot depends on the setting and how things are handled, however. If you can create a receptive environment and the learning process is introduced with some explanation you probably will experience some degree of success. This is the key. What can be harmful is when a particular faith's prayers, etc. are used without preamble with an unspoken hope/expectation that all will learn. Likewise, forcing such a learning process on unwilling participants would not be good. In such case a more generic approach is indicated. At the heart of all this is the question of what effect this will have on individual Scouts, something that will vary in each situation. We need to be concerned that in our desire to help encourage tolerance that we don't by accident make a Scout feel that he/she doesn't belong or place a Scout in a position where he/she will be ridiculed or subjected to derision. I prefer to encourage the use of more generic approaches initially, unless I know a leader will take the time to explain and coach the Scouts through the learning process.

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Date: Sun, 16 Jul 1995 13:19:14 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: SCOUTS-L Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Religious Toleration ?

Charles,

The Boy Scouts of America does not require membership in a particular church as a criteria for membership, nor does it define what beliefs a Scout must have other than a belief in God (which is loosely interpreted to encompass faiths such as Buddhism, Hinduism, etc.). When a Church agrees to a charter, it also agrees to admit Scouts of all faiths.

Most Churches are careful to respect the differences in beliefs, but every once in awhile you will find a pastor or minister that in well meaning

zeal may give a talk or give a grace more in keeping with his/her own faith. In such cases you have to remember that you are a guest in their own house of worship and yourself be tolerant. Sometimes it helps for the Committee to ask the minister to become a Troop Chaplain or to read the pamphlet on Chaplains, which gives some helpful guidance to clergy on Scouting and its policies, including non-prosletization by chaplains. You should remember of course that in teach tolerance the emphasis is on how we react towards others, not on how they act towards us. The worst form of intolerance is an unwillingness on our part to try to understand others while at the same time having unreasonable expectations on how others should act towards us. If you want tolerance you have to practice it.

During your campouts and outings the Troop can of course use a more neutral "Scouts Own" to good purpose. Some Troops have found that this also is a great opportunity for Scouts to share the similarities and differences from their own faiths to better understand and respect each other. This is assuredly something that BP encouraged. A good way to start in a Scout's Own is to reflect on what is common. Many units have started with what is known as the Golden Principle and asked the boys to discuss what it means to all of them as a Scouts Own program. (Remember BP advised against long sermons and was for boy participation in a short Scout's Own). The leader of the Scout's Own reads the following and asks the Scout's what it means and how to apply. The Scouts do the rest:

The Golden Principle

Blessed are those who prefer others before themselves. -- Baha'i Faith

**Hurt not others in ways that you would you yourself would find hurtful.
-- Buddhism**

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. -- Christianity

This is the sum of all duty: treat others as you yourself would be treated. -- Hinduism

No one of you is a believer until you desire for another that which you desire for yourself.-- Islam

In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief, regard all creatures as you would regard your own self. --Jainism

What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. -- Judaism

Be not estranged from another for God dwells in every heart. -- Sikhism

Human nature is good only when it does not do unto another whatever is not good for its own self. --Zoroastrianism

As you can see there is a great amount of similarity in concept in these thoughts, suggesting kindness and tolerance as part of belief.

In closing there is another thing that I would suggest to you and that is that you also need to practice the example of tolerance in your own behavior, if you expect your Scouts to learn tolerance. When you use language like "Sectarian" you are implying a negative, intolerant view; e.g., that the minister was acting in a religiously bigoted manner, when he may have been well meaning and unaware of any offense taken or at least not with any base motive to denigrate any Scout present. You might want to consider that if you invite a carpenter to give a talk at a dinner, he would most likely talking in terms of building and making things because that is what he is familiar with. And if you were the owner of a building demolition company in the audience would you take offense? Of course that sounds a bit silly, courtesy and common sense would suggest that you would understand where he is coming from. So it is with the minister, try a little understanding and a little less finger pointing. An old Scoutmaster in a Scoutmaster minute long ago at a campfire at Camp Cary once asked each of us to point a finger at him and hold our hands out in that gesture until he said stop. He was silent a bit and then asked how many fingers were pointing back. He replied to our chorus of "three" that those three were to remind us of the three points of the Scout Oath, which included obeying the Scout Law and that we should always remember each of its points whenever we felt the urge to point three fingers at ourselves.

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**Date: Fri, 25 Aug 1995 03:21:10 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
Subject: Re: Religious coercion at Webelos resident camp**

Lynn,

BSA's policies are pretty clear that at no time should a Chaplain proselytize. See, "Roles of Troop Chaplain and the Chaplain Aide" and "Chaplains' Guide in Scout Camps" (the latter is now Section 6 of the Camp Program and Property Management Manual that the Chaplain should have received at his National Camp School training).

That aside, I am not sure that compounding the error will do much to improve things. What? Well it sounds like the chap probably was well-meaning and not very tuned into his role at camp. And it sounds like he didn't put any Scouts on the spot, challenge their beliefs, etc. This really sounds like a minor mistake on his part with no real harm done. Sure we can hit 'em with the rules and certainly it would best to let your Council be aware of the situation to caution future chaplains, but beyond that it begins to sound like time to take stock of the situation. After all we are supposed to live the example of being courteous, kind, etc. Wouldn't that suggest that one should talk to the "offender" first to see what his side of the story was. And wouldn't that also suggest that a little understanding, maybe should be exercised. If we set the example, our Scouts will learn that they too can resolve conflict without going to extremes. Imagine a future generation that could resolve conflicts without lawyers. :-))

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From: sarah.jones@sawasdi.apana.org.au (Sarah Jones)
Date: 06 Sep 95 19:38:48 +1030
Subject: Lone Scouts

G'day Micheal,

"FB> In my post-graduate studies I ended up reading a couple of
"FB> histories and much related material regarding the
"FB> settlement of Australia and its growth over the years. One
"FB> of the books I read was about a priest whose ministry
"FB> required him to fly from station to station on a circuit to
"FB> serve his parish and in the book there was a discription of

"FB> school on the air because of the great distances between
"FB> inhabited areas. Which is to say that from the arm chair I
"FB> am equipped with an limited understanding from reading
"FB> other's accounts.

I know that that the Frontier Services, a service run by the Uniting Church here provides sevices similar to the story you mentioned above about the flying

Preist....It offers the ussual serivces of the church, just presented in a different manner....It is preety amazing at how they do provide the services

that they do....One guy I was talking to who is involved with it was telling the group I was with about how they do funerals and weddings and baptisms all

in the one stop as well as the regular counselling done by the clergy of the Uniting Church. I dont go to the Uniting Church (My form actually reads Anglican as my mum is Anglican and that is where she got me batpised!)

But my

Grandmother on my dad's side is and was saying that as a ex Country girl she

appreicated the sort of services they can provide for many of the poeple who

dont get to see a preist often.

"FB> Of course I'd be very interested in obtaining the phamplet.

"FB> Let me know the cost and I'll reimburse you for it and the

"FB> mailing expense. My snail mail address is:

Well, it did not cost me anything ad dont worry about the postage. It is hardly

anything anyhow. What is a few cents? The phamlets are generally given out for

nothing and are advertising thing more than anything, just explaining how it is

done differently Slightly for the COuntry people.

Well, gotta go. Have another early start tommorow and I have to do a few Journal entries as I am doing 2 weeks work expeiance and will ahve to do a

essay about it and any issues that I came across in the experiance etc....

talk to you soon

YIS

Date: Fri, 5 Jan 1996 02:10:19 -0500 (EST)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Subject: Re: LDS Religious Award

Paul, George, et al

George thanks for the kind words regarding A Scout's Duty to God and Country. When we published, the best information available was that a Scout had to be registered in an LDS unit to fulfill the requirements for the On My Honor award. We had been told that this was likely to change. Apparently from what Paul has just posted, that change has come to pass. Likewise the book, Scouting Handbook: Relationships between The Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Boy Scouts of America, has been in the process of being revised and a revised version was expected in late 1995. I've heard various reports that it has been issued or is about to be issued. Apparently, it will reflect the change in requirements for the On My Honor award and changes to the Cub level emblem too. In the meantime, you may want to ask for the most recent version of

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, LDS Church Distribution Center, Application and record for Faith in God Cub Scout Religious Award, PXPR1044.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, LDS Church Distribution Center, Application and record for On My Honor recognition, PFAP0278.

Generally these application and record documents are more up-to-date and reflect recent changes, whereas the 1985 Handbook is somewhat out-of-date. Look to see that you have the 1995 version or :-) a 1996 version. You may have to call Salt Lake City to get the most recent ones.

Our book ended up being passed around in Western PA and one LDS mother

wrote back an extremely nasty letter about our misquoting the requirements for Faith in God. She enclosed the application and record booklet to make her point. It was dated 1985. Ours was dated 1995. Obviously her local Ward/Stake had not kept their stock of applications current. Not to suggest that you have the same problem, but it never hurts to check dates.

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**Date: Sat, 30 Mar 1996 00:49:33 -0500 (EST)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Subject: Promoting Religious Emblems**

Sell the sparkle - advertise the program by showing the medals that are presented to those who complete a religious emblem program.

BSA has a great poster called "A Scout is Reverent" displaying all of the religious emblems. On the reverse the poster is entitled "Religious Emblems Programs" and lists the emblems by religion and program phase; e.g. Tiger, Cub, Webelos, Scout, Explorer. The catalog no. is 5-206A. National distributed these to each Council with enough for each unit to purchase one. This poster is great for a permanent bulletin board display in a Scout room.

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**Date: Fri, 19 Jan 1996 02:23:04 -0500 (EST)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: Jackie McNabb <mcnabb@WINNIE.FIT.EDU>
Subject: Re: Blue & Gold**

Jackie,

Here are two prayers from Bowman & Bryant, A Scout's Duty to God and Country Copyright 1995, which you and members of the list may use, provided that the author and book are acknowledged in any reprinting.

A grace for use as an Invocation at a Blue and Gold Banquet:

**Scouts, family members and friends
let us take this moment to offer a prayer.**

**Here in Your presence many friends and families
are gathered to celebrate in fellowship
the achievements and accomplishments
of these young Cub Scouts.**

**We thank You for this fellowship and for helping
these families to give their sons the opportunity
to grow and learn to do their best at all they try.**

**Open the heart of each Scout to realize his duty to You
and his promise to help others
and give his parents joy and patience as
he learns and tries new things.**

**For these gifts and the blessing of abundant food
to nourish us in spirit and in body
we give You thanks.**

Amen

**By Michael F. Bowman
From A Scout's Duty to God and Country
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**Heavenly father, Lord, God, Maker of all things,
We your children of our many faiths,
Are gathered here as Scouts,
We know you by many a name,
But our need remains the same.
Hear this our prayer.
Be with us in all that we do.
Open our hearts and minds to your will.
Guide us with your gentle hand that we
Might better live our Scout Promise and Law
Knowing that we are thankful for the gift of life,
The opportunity to serve, and the wonders of your creation.
As we depart this our meeting place,
Help us to know, to understand, and to do
our "Duty to God and Country".**

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**Date: Thu, 23 May 1996 01:30:48 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-
L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
cc: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Religious Knot**

DeLane, Joanne, Kevin, Steve, and others,

**The religious emblems available to Cub and Boy Scouts of the Roman
Catholic faith are as follow:**

TIGER CUBS	Light of Christ
CUB SCOUTS (WOLF)	Light of Christ
CUB SCOUTS (BEAR)	Parvuli Dei
WEBELOS SCOUT	Parvuli Dei
BOY SCOUTS (11-13)	Ad Altare Dei
SCOUTS/EXPLORERS (14 & OLDER)	Pope Pius XII

**Steve is correct that if your Scout earned the Parvuli Dei as a Bear he
should do two of the other requirements instead.**

The religious emblems for Protestant Scouts (including Baptist) are

TIGER CUBS	God and Me	S33604, C33603,
M33606		
CUB SCOUTS	God and Me	S33604, C33603,
M33606		
WEBELOS SCOUTS	God and Family	S33597, C33598,
M33595		
BOY SCOUTS	God and Church	S33599, C33600,
M33596		
SCOUTS/EXPLORERS (14 & OLDER)	God and Life	

All Scouts that earn a religious emblem are entitled to wear the silver square knot on a purple background no. 5014.

And quoting from A Scout's Duty to God and Country, 3d ed. Copyright 1995,

"These recognition devices serve as a lure and may help encourage other Scouts to participate in religious growth programs. The square knot also serves another very important function: it identifies the wearer as having completed a very important step towards becoming an adult. Most Scouts have seen adults wearing various knots on their uniforms and for most Scouts this will be the first time they also can wear one of the square knots on their uniform, signalling a link to adulthood. And you can believe that in the Scout's eyes that knot is about two feet long and one foot high when he looks down at his uniform with pride."

And yes the Scout can wear this knot throughout the rest of his Scouting career.

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Date: Sat, 1 Jun 1996 12:24:18 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: Goeres Donald J <RE19719@deere.com>
Subject: Re: A SCOUT'S PRAYER

Don,

I am thrilled that you got such a wonderful reaction to the prayer. I am only too happy to forward the text of the prayer to you for your use. I've also included a few others.

1. A SCOUT'S PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help to keep my honor bright
And teach me that integrity of character

Is my most priceless possession.

**Grant that I may do my best today,
And strive to do even better tomorrow.**

**Teach me that duty is a friend and not an enemy,
And help me face even the most disagreeable task cheerfully.**

**Give me the faith to understand my purpose and life,
Open my mind to the truth and fill my heart with love.**

**I am thankful for all the blessings you have bestowed upon my country.
Help me to do my duty to my country and
To know that a good nation must be made from good men.**

**Help me to remember my obligation to obey the Scout Law,
And give me understanding, so that it is more than mere words.**

**May I never tire of the joy of helping other people or
Look the Other way when someone is in need.**

**You have given me the gift of a body,
Make me wise enough to keep it health,
That I might serve better.**

**You are the source of all wisdom,
Help me to have an alert mind,
Teach me to think,
And help me to learn discipline.**

**In all that I do and in every challenge I face,
Help me to know the difference between right and wrong,
And lead me in obedience on a straight path to a worthy goal.**

By Michael F. Bowman

2. A SCOUT'S PRAYER IN WINTER

**Lord, we are camping in the snow today;
We may fear the cold,
But we trust that your Spirit
Will guide and warm us.**

3. A SCOUT'S PRAYER

**We have hiked along life's pathway,
Our packs upon our backs,
We have pitched our tents and rested
Here and there along the tracks.
We have used our compass wisely
To guide us on our way
And hope to reach the campsite
Of our Great Chief Scout some day.**

**We have tried to be trustworthy -
Kept our honor high and clean,
We have been as loyal as any
To our Country and our Queen.
We have done our best at all times -
Kept our Promise - been prepared,
And hope our good deeds please Him
When at last our souls are bared.**

**We have lightened others' burdens,
With our smiles along the way,
We have kept our hand in God's hand,
Walked beside Him day by day.
And when our span of life runs out,
We'll make this gentle plea -
May we sit around His Campfire
At the Final Jamboree.**

From Scouting in New South Wales

4. A SCOUT'S PRAYER

**Lord, we thank you for this day.
Help us to do our best every day,**

And forgive use when we slip.

**Teach us to be kind to other people
and to help them at all times
Bless our parents and teachers and leaders
and all the members of Scouting**

**Bless us, Lord in your love for us
Help us to be a better Scouts
and let us do our best for you**

Amen

5. A SCOUTER'S PRAYER

"Build me a Scout, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory...

Build me a Scout whose wishes will not take the place of deeds; a Scout who himself is the foundation stone of knowledge...

Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail...

Build me a Scout whose heart will be clear, whose goals will be high. A Scout who will master himself before he seeks to master others, one who will march into the future, yet never forget the past...

And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of true wisdom, and the meekness of true strength...

Then I, a Scouter who knew him, will dare to whisper, `I have not lived in vain.'"

Speaking Only for Myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman

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Date: Sun, 8 Sep 1996 15:10:37 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Subject: Adult Religious Awards - Was St. George Award

Many religious organizations offer awards to adult leaders who demonstrate over a period of years unselfish service to their faith, community and Scouting. These awards are by nomination and governed by rules set by each religious organization. For most recipients these awards represent a high point in their Scouting career similar to the Silver Beaver or Silver Antelope awards given by BSA. The newspaper may have been more correct in saying that the St. George Award (Roman Catholic, Eastern Rite Catholic, and Episcopal) is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a Scouter.

Adult Religious Awards include:

Association of Unity Churches Award	Distinguished Youth Service
Baptist	Good Shepherd
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	God and Service
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS)	On My Honor
Churches of Christ	Faithful Servant
Eastern Orthodox	Prophet Elias
Eastern Rite Catholic	St. George
Episcopal	St. George
Islam	Allaho Akber
Jewish	Shofar
Lutheran	Servant of Youth Lamb
Meher Baba	Ancient One
Moravian	Order of David Zeisberger
Polish National Catholic	Bishop Thaddeus F. Zielinski
Presbyterian Church (USA)	God and Service Award
Protestant	God and Service Award

Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of LDS	International Youth Service
Religious Society of Friends	Friends Award
Roman Catholic	Bronze Pelican
	St. George
Salvation Army	Salvation Army Scouter's Award
Unitarian Universalist	Religion and Youth Award
United Church of Christ	God and Service
United Methodist (3)	Cross & Flame
	Torch Award
	God and Service

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Date: Sun, 8 Sep 1996 15:16:55 -0400 (EDT)
 From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
 To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-
 L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
 Subject: Religious Emblem Programs - Was What is Awana??

Joanne makes a good point in reminding us that religious growth programs are available to Scouts in BSA. The following is a table of religious organizations offering a religious emblem program followed by notations as to which phases of Scouting there are emblem programs.

T = Tiger, C = Cub Scout, W = Webelos, B = Scouts 11-14, E = 14 & Older

Armenian Church of America (Eastern Diocese)	T, C, W, B, E
Armenian Church of America (Western Prelacy)	B, E
Association of Unity Churches	C, W, B
Baha'm	T, C, W, B, E
Baptist	T, C, W, B, E
Buddhist	C, W, B, E
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	T, C, W, B, E
Churches of Christ	C, W, B, E
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS)	W, B, E
Eastern Orthodox	T, C, W, B, E
Eastern Rite Catholic	T, C, W, B, E

Episcopal	T, C, W, B, E
First Church of Christ, Scientist	C, W, B, E
General Church of the New Jerusalem	B, E
Hindu	W
Islamic	C, W, B, E
Jewish	T, C, W, B, E
Lutheran	T, C, W, B, E
Meher Baba	T, C, W, B, E
Moravian	B, E
Polish National Catholic	C, W, B, E
Presbyterian Church (USA)	T, C, W, B, E
Protestant (General)	T, C, W, B, E
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	C, W, B, E
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	C, W, B, E
Roman Catholic	T, C, W, B, E
Salvation Army	T, C, W, B, E
Unitarian Universalists	T, C, W, B, E
United Church of Christ	T, C, W, B, E
United Methodist	T, C, W, B, E
Zoroastrian	B, E

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