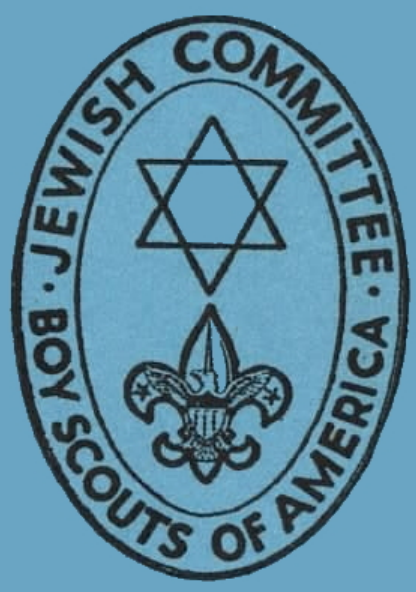
Jewish Religious Service

FOR

Boy Scout Camporees



Issued by

Jewish Committee on Scouting

2 Park Avenue New York 16, N. Y.

Jewish
Religious Service

FOR

Boy Scout Camporees

(COUNCIL, DISTRICT, TROOP,
LONG AND SHORT TERM CAMPS)

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FOREWORD

Scout Leaders have long felt the need for a brief, inspiring Jewish Religious Service which they could use at Boy Scout Camps. The Service contained in this booklet is intended to fill that need. Scout precepts and the eternal ideals of Judaism are skillfully linked to the end that Scouts may have a better understanding of the important point of the Scout Oath and Law — duty to God.

This booklet has won high praise from Rabbis, Scout Leaders, Scouts and Explorers. Included are interesting expositions on the Scout Law, illustrated with Biblical quotations, which can be used as a basis for inspirational talks. The Service may be conducted by a Rabbi or a Scout Leader. The Camp Director will want to contact the Council Jewish Advisory Committee on Scouting or one of the local Rabbis to help in planning the religious service.

On behalf of the Jewish Committee on Scouting, I wish to thank Harry Lasker, National Director of Jewish Relationships, Boy Scouts of America for preparing this excellent booklet. We are also most grateful to members of the Committee for their helpful suggestions.

FRANK L. WEIL
National Chairman
Jewish Committee on Scouting

OPENING PRAYER

Leader

Ever-living God, we raise up our voices in thanksgiving for the blessings we enjoy at camp. We are thankful for the beauty of nature—the soft green of the trees and grass, the rolling hills, and the refreshing waters. We are thankful for parents who, in love of us, sent us to the open country. We are thankful for their consideration, their kindness, and their love. Help us, O God, to be worthy of the opportunities we are given. May we always show appreciation for all the sacrifices made for our sake. Teach us to play fairly and to learn and practice the laws of cooperation and friendliness. Help us always to advance the cause of the oppressed and to lift the hands of the weak. Help us to express our thanksgiving, not only in words, but also with deeds of goodness and truth. Amen.

SCOUT OATH AND LAW

Congregation rises, gives the Scout Sign and recites in unison the Scout Oath and Law. (*Congregation remains standing for the Anthem.*)

ANTHEM: "America"

1. My country 'tis of thee,
   Sweet land of liberty,
   Of thee I sing;
   Land where my fathers died,
   Land of the Pilgrim's pride,
   From every mountain side
   Let freedom ring.

2. Our father's God to Thee,
   Author of Liberty,
   To Thee we sing;
   Long may our land be bright
   With freedom's holy light;
   Protect us by Thy might,
   Great God, our King.

RESPONSIVE READING: "A Scout is Reverent"

Leader: "The Torah is a Tree of Life to them that hold fast to it."

Scouts: Because a Scout is Reverent—
He strives to be true to God, study the Torah and to live according to its commands.

Leader: "Seek the peace of the city and pray unto the Lord for it; for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace."

Scouts: Because a Scout is Reverent—
He is loyal to America and its ideals of religious liberty to all.

Leader: "All Jews are mindful of the well-being of one another."

Scouts: Because a Scout is Reverent—
He is loyal to the Jewish people and is ready to help his fellow Jews everywhere.

Leader: "For out of Zion shall go forth the Law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

Scouts: Because a Scout is Reverent—
He is mindful of the high place that Israel plays in the spiritual life of the Jew wherever he dwells.

Leader: "Honor thy Father and thy Mother that thy days may be long upon the land."

Scouts: Because a Scout is Reverent—
He is a devoted and loyal son to his parents.

Leader: "Oh, how good it is, and how pleasant. for brothers to dwell together in unity."

Scouts: Because a Scout is Reverent—
He strives to be a good Scout, a good Jew, and a good American at all times.

(Congregation rises)

Leader

בָּרְכוּ אֶת־יְיָ הַמְבֹרָךְ׃

Bor-chu es adonoy ha-me vo-ruch.
Praise ye the Lord, to whom all praise is due.

Scouts

בָּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְבֹרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד׃

Bo-ruch adonoy ha-me vo-ruch le-olem vo-ed.
Praised be the Lord, to whom all praise is due forever and ever.

(Congregation is seated)

23rd PSALM

Leader and Scouts

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; He guideth me in straight paths for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

RESPONSIVE READING: "The Scout Compass"

Leader: Direct your course through life by the Scout compass.

Scouts: The point north on the Scout compass is: Duty to God.

Leader: The point east on the Scout compass is: Duty to country.

Scouts: The point south on the Scout compass is: Duty to others.

Leader: The point west on the Scout compass is: Duty to self.

Scouts: The beginning and the end of the Scout obligation is Duty to God. This is the North Pole by which each Scout will find his way over life's sea.

Leader and Scouts:

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה | אֶחָד׃

Sh'mah Yisroel, Adonoy Elohenuh, Adonoy Echod.
Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One.

בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד׃

Bo-ruch shem ke-vod mal chuso le-olom vo-ed.
Praised be His name whose glorious kingdom is forever and ever.

Leader and Scouts

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart. Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt speak of them when thou sittest in thy house, when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. Thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thy hand, and they shall be for frontlets between thine eyes. Thou shalt write them upon the door-

posts of thy house and upon thy gates: That ye may remember and do all my commandments and be holy unto your God.

Leader

As Thou hast redeemed Israel and saved him from arms stronger than his own, so mayest Thou redeem all who are oppressed and persecuted. Praised be Thou, O Lord, Redeemer of Israel.

Praised be Thou, O Lord our God, God of our Fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, great, mighty, and exalted. Thou bestowest loving-kindness upon all Thy children. Thou rememberest the piety of the fathers, and in love Thou bringest redemption to their descendants for the sake of Thy name. Thou art our King and Helper, our Saviour and Protector. Praised be Thou, O Lord, Shield of Abraham.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Leader and Scouts

I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Honor thy father and thy mother.

Thou shalt not murder.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Thou shalt not covet.

BRIEF INSPIRATIONAL TALK: (Leader or Scout)

A PRAYER FOR AMERICA

(*Congregation rises*)

Leader

Almighty God, bless with health, courage, vision and high purpose, the President of the United States and all leaders of our country, that they may govern wisely and justly. Grant that America continue to be the land of freedom; that each one regardless of race and religion may have equal opportunity to live a full, complete and happy life. Imbue us with respect for law and responsibility for our fellow men. Strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding among all the people, that we may all work together to end ignorance and hatred, to improve health and learning, to seek beauty, truth and goodness. May our country always strive to establish world peace and justice for all. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING PRAYER

(*Congregation rises*)

Leader and Scouts

Let us adore the ever-living God, and render praise unto Him who spread out the heavens and established the earth, whose glory is revealed in the heavens above and whose greatness is manifest throughout the world. He is our God; there is none else.

We bow our heads in reverence, and worship the King of Kings, the Holy One, praised be He.

(*Congregation remains standing for hymn*)

HYMN — EN KELOHENU

1. En ke-lo-he-nu
   En ka-do-ne-nu
   En k'mal-ke-nu
   En k'mo-shi-e-nu

2. Mi che-lo-he-nu
   Mi cha-do-ne-nu
   Mi ch'mal-ke-nu
   Mi ch'mo-shi-e-nu

3. Node le-lo-he-nu
   Node la-do-ne-nu
   Node le-mal-ke-nu
   Node l'mo-shi-e-nu

4. Bo-ruch el-he-nu
   Bo-ruch ad-ne-nu
   Bo-ruch mal-ke-nu
   Bo-ruch mo-shi-e-nu

5. At-to-hu-elo-he-nu
   At-to-he-ado-ne-nu
   At-to-he-mal-ke-nu
   At-to-hu-mo-shi-e-nu

CLOSING BENEDICTION

Now may the Great Master of all good Scouts be with us 'til we meet again.

EXPOSITIONS ON THE SCOUT LAW

(*Illustrated with quotations from the Bible*)

THE SCOUT OATH

On my honor I will do my best:

To do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law;

To help other people at all times;

To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

THE SCOUT LAW

1. A Scout is Trustworthy

"A Scout's honor is to be trusted. If he were to violate his honor by telling a lie, or by cheating, or by not doing exactly a given task, when trusted on his honor, he may be directed to hand over his Scout Badge."

A Scout's word should be as good as his bond. He speaks and acts the truth and can be depended upon to do his duty to the best of his ability.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." (Exodus 20:13)

2. A Scout is Loyal

"He is loyal to all to whom loyalty is due, his Scout leader, his home, parents, and country."

Joseph is an example of loyalty to his family, his country and his God. He was faithful to his master when he was a slave. When he became prosperous, he sent for his family and shared his good fortune with them. He was not ashamed of them as many are of their poorer relations when they have succeeded in the world.

He did not mistreat his brothers because they treated him wrongfully but forgave them and helped them. When he held high office he served for the benefit of his country and the welfare of the people. Throughout his life Joseph was loyal to God. When Pharaoh praised Joseph as an interpreter of dreams, Joseph answered Pharaoh saying: "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace." (Genesis 41:15)

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Leviticus 19:18)

3. A Scout is Helpful

"He must be prepared at any time to save life, help injured persons, and share the home duties. He must do at least one Good Turn to somebody every day."

Every human being is our neighbor. We should be ready and glad to help anyone in need of assistance whatever be his nationality, creed, or color. A Scout should always be on the lookout for an opportunity to help someone.

"Thou shalt surely open thy hand unto thy poor and needy brother, in thy land." (Deuteronomy 15:11)

4. A Scout is Friendly

"He is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout."

One of the purposes of Scouting is to develop friendship. True friendship is among the greatest blessings of life. One of the most famous friendships is that of Jonathan and David. It was a mutual friendship; each felt the same way toward the other. There was no jealousy or rivalry because of the success or position of the other. Jonathan defended David even before his father, the King, and tried to have him treated fairly. He was willing to help him even at the risk of his own success and welfare. (See First Book of Samuel—18:1-16. Also 20:1-17.)

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Leviticus 19:18)

5. A Scout is Courteous

"He is polite to all, especially to women, children, old people and the weak and helpless. He must not take pay for being helpful or courteous."

Courtesy is another word for politeness. It is the mark of a gentleman. It helps make life smooth and pleasant.

When a Scout is courteous, he not only makes other people feel better, but it makes him feel better too.

"Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and thou shalt fear thy God: I am the Lord." (Leviticus 19:32)

6. A Scout is Kind

"He is a friend to animals. He will not kill nor hurt any living creature needlessly, but will strive to save and protect all harmless life."

One of the most important virtues mentioned in the Bible is the quality of kindness. We are commanded to be kind not only to people but also to harmless birds and animals. Every living creature is the handiwork of God.

"A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast." (Proverbs 12:10)

7. A Scout is Obedient

"He obeys his parents, Scoutmaster, Patrol Leader, and all other duly constituted authorities."

If we are to grow into good citizens, we must obey the laws of our country. If we are to have strong healthy bodies, we must obey the laws of health. In the same way if we are to develop the right kind of character, we must keep the laws of God. The best place to begin obedience is by being obedient to parents, Scoutmaster, Patrol Leader and all other duly constituted authorities.

When Moses set before the people of Israel all the laws which God commanded him, all the people answered together and said:

"All that the Lord hath spoken we will do." (Exodus 19:8)

8. A Scout is Cheerful

"He smiles whenever he can. His obedience to orders is prompt and cheery. He never shirks nor grumbles at hardships."

Nobody likes a "grouch." It is important, therefore, to cultivate happiness and a cheerful disposition.

We use oil on a machine to make all the parts run smoothly. Cheerfulness is to life what oil is to a machine; it makes all that we do go more smoothly. When we are cheerful we get on better ourselves and we are more agreeable and helpful to all other people.

"A cheerful heart is a good medicine; but a broken spirit drieth the bones." (Proverbs 17:22)

9. A Scout is Thrifty

"He does not wantonly destroy property. He works faithfully, wastes nothing, and makes the best use of his opportunities. He saves his money so that he may pay his own way, be generous to those in need, and helpful to worthy objects. He may work for pay, but must not receive tips for courtesies or Good Turns."

By thrift we mean making the best use of our earnings and avoiding all waste. We should save part of what we earn and use the rest for our needs and those of others.

"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise; which having no chief, overseer or ruler, provideth her bread in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest." (Proverbs 6:6)

10. A Scout is Brave

"He has the courage to face danger in spite of fear, and to stand up for the right against the coaxings of friends or the jeers or threats of enemies, and defeat does not down him."

To be brave does not mean not to fear, but to have courage in spite of fear. Concern for the right and the truth and to defend it with all our might is the highest bravery of all.

The story of David and Goliath is famous because it is a story of great bravery. You will recall how the Philistine Goliath defied the Living God. There was no one in the armies of Israel to take up his challenge, but David, a shepherd lad, volunteered to battle with the strong man of the Philistines. David was brave and he had faith as well, and he said:

> "The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine." (I Samuel 17:37)

11. A Scout is Clean

> "He keeps clean in body and thought, stands for clean speech, clean sport, clean habits, and travels with a clean crowd."

Cleanliness of mind and body indicates self-respect and strength of character.

> "Who shall ascend into the mountain of the Lord?
>
> And who shall stand in His holy place?
>
> He that hath clean hands and a pure heart . . ." (Psalms 24:3, 4)

12. A Scout is Reverent

> "He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties, and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion."
>
> "It hath been told thee, O man, what is good,
> And what the Lord doth require of thee:
> Only to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." (Micah 6:8)

JEWISH COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

Advisory Committee of the Boy Scouts of America

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