

Suggestions for Religious Observations

It is vital that the staff give careful consideration to the religious obligations of the course participants. As a rule, provision is made for all faiths—Muslim, Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Latter-day Saints, or any other faith.

Some faiths have firm requirements regarding the observation of the Sabbath. Remember that the Sabbath may not be a Sunday for all religions. Consultation with the council religious advisory committees on Scouting will be helpful in assuring that provisions are made for these requirements.

Offerings at religious services—It is customary to receive an offering for the World Fellowship Fund, which is used to provide training and training supplies to countries less fortunate than our own. This offering is sent to the International Department using the appropriate form, No. 130-159. Scouters attending other services should be given the opportunity to participate.

Grace at meals for Scout camps. A blessing on the food at meals may be conducted in a reverent manner.

Philmont Grace

For food

For raiment

For life

For opportunity

For friendship and fellowship

We thank thee, O Lord.

Northern Tier Wilderness Grace

For food, for raiment,

For life and opportunity,

For sun and rain,

For water and portage trails,

For friendship and fellowship,

We thank Thee, Oh Lord. Amen.

Florida Sea Base Grace

Bless the Creature of the sea,
Bless this person I call me,
Bless these Keys You made so grand,
Bless the sun that warms this land,
Bless the fellowship we feel,
As we gather for this meal.
Amen.

Summit Grace

For this time and this place,
For Your goodness and grace,
For each friend we embrace,
We thank Thee, Oh Lord. Amen.

Sample Interfaith Worship Service

(An outdoor worship service—keep it short)

Call to Worship

The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Opening Hymn: God Bless America

God bless America
 Land that I love
 Stand beside her and guide her,
 Through the night with a light from above
 From the mountains
 To the prairies
 To the oceans, white with foam
 God bless America
 My home sweet home
 God bless America
 My home sweet home

Invocation (to be read)

Camper's Prayer

God of the mountains and hills, make me tall and strong;
 Tall enough and strong enough to right some wrong.
 God of the stars, make me steadfast and sure;
 God of every lake and stream, flow through my life and make it clean;
 Let me do nothing base or mean.

God of the trees and woods, keep me fresh and pure;
 God of rain, wash from my life all dirt and stain;
 Pure and strong let me remain.

God of seed and soil, plant in my heart Thy love;
 God of the darkness and day, through shadows or light, be my stay.

Guide Thou my way.
 God of the radiant sun, light Thou my life;
 God of glorious dawn, make each day a fresh start.
 God of evening peace and quiet, keep me free from fear and strife.
 God of joyful, free birds, sing in my heart.
 God of the surging waves and sea, wide horizons give to me;
 Help me to see the world as Thou wouldst have it be;
 God of the lovely rose, make me lovely too;
 God of the morning dew, each day my faith renew.
 God of all glowing things, keep me growing, too.

—George Earle Owen

Responsive Reading: Psalm 8

In unison:

Oh Lord, our Lord,
 How excellent is Thy name in all the earth!

Leader:

Who hast set Thy glory upon the heavens.
 Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast
 Thou established strength.
 Because of Thine adversaries,
 That Thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

Response:

When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers,
 The moon and the stars which thou hast ordained;
 What is a man, that Thou are mindful of him?
 And the son of man, that Thou visitest him?

Leader:

For Thou has made him a little lower than the angels,
 And crownest him with glory and honor.
 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands,
 Thou hast put all things under his feet.

Response:

All sheep and oxen,
 Yea, and the beast of the field;

The fowl of the air and the fish of the sea,
 Whatsoever passeth through paths of the seas.
 Oh Lord, our Lord,
 How excellent is Thy name in all the earth.

Meditation for the Day

God be praised, now and forever,
 for giving us minds to understand your teachings.
 God be praised, now and forever,
 for hands that lift up those who fall.
 God be praised, now and forever,
 for ears that hear the cry of those who need help.
 God be praised, now and forever,
 for hearts that care about the needs of others.
 God be praised, now and forever,
 for eyes that see the beauty of earth and sky.
 God be praised, now and forever,
 for the new day and this new journey.
 We praise God for all that is good, true,
 and beautiful in our lives.

Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
 For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies,
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonders of each hour of the day and of the night
 Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light.
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love; brother, sister, parent, child,
 Friends of earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild.
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

Worship Message

Offering: For the World Friendship Fund