

**Scouter's 5 Cut-outs - Pages 679 & 680  
The Leader, February 1992**

**Scout Country**

Scout Country is a special place. It is neither here nor there. It is a worldwide brotherhood held together by young people and adults who, to the best of our ability strive to love and serve God; respect human dignity and the rights of individuals; and recognize our obligation to develop and maintain our potential.

Scout Country is also held together by parents. Their help at camps, fund raising activities, and other events is essential to our success. We thank you.

In Scout Country, we do not expect you to be perfect or to know everything. We only ask that you do your best. We are all friends here...

Scout Country is a meeting room, a camp, an outdoor ramble, crafts and games, and much more. It is a day we've always dreamed would come or a day we'll never forget. It is a country where Beavers dream of becoming Cubs and leaders wish they could become Scouts again. Scout Country is where adults feel as young as children while children grow into adults.

In Scout Country, we can walk in the rain, romp in the snow, enjoy songs, skits, games, and crafts, learn new skills, or just sit around a campfire with friends. It is a place to develop a sense of belonging, cooperation, accomplishment, self-reliance, and self-discipline. It is a place to learn and, just as important, a place to have fun.

In fact, Scout Country is not a place, but a feeling - a belief. It dwells in your heart and soul. Once we become a part of it, it will always be a part of us. *District Commissioner Bryon Gale, Sioux District, Saskatoon Sask., wrote this editorial for the district newsletter. We thank him and Scouter R.J. Swann for sharing.*

**Scouter's Prayer**

I helped a Beaver to see  
That God had made the willow tree,  
And God became more real to me.

I tried to lead a Cub, through play,  
To grow more caring day by day,  
And I, myself, became that way.

I joined a Scout in woodland prayer,  
And as we bowed in worship there,  
I felt anew God's loving care.

A Venturer's sincere faith questioning  
Helped me to do my own faith testing  
As I joined him in his journeying.

O God, keep us quick to see  
That, in Scouting, we may find thee.

*-Anon, adapted by Tony Braithwaite, Essex District, Ont.*

**Cub Closing Prayer**

Dear God:  
We played a lot,  
We worked a lot,  
We learned a lot;  
We had fun a lot:  
Thanks, a lot.

*-from Michael Nellis, Akela, General Wolfe Cubs, Sillery, Que.*

=====

**Scouter's 5 Cut-outs- Pages 673 & 674  
The Leader, November 1991**

**Where We Find God**

A friend of ours recently spoke of feeling God's serenity in the peace and calm of her summer cottage. She said that her cottage experience sometimes seemed better than church.

I've known Scouters to express the same feeling in relation to camping, hiking, and other outdoor activities.

Truly, God is present in the calm of the outdoors. God is equally present in the busy office, school, and home. We also meet God in our personal devotions and the public worship of a faith community.

Think for a minute about our human relations. We meet our friends at home, at work, in social settings. These people are the same in every case, but we experience them differently in varying places. We relate differently to them in a work situation than we do in a social setting. Through these various experiences, we learn different sides of our friends' personalities.

So it is with God. In the natural world, we may experience God's beauty, or power, or calm. In community worship, we learn to name and praise God as creator and to see ourselves as part of the creation.

Our experiences of God change from time to time and place to place but, together, they shape our total understanding of God. And, as our understanding of God grows, so does our ability to love and serve God, in keeping with our Scouting promises.

*Scouter Rob Brown is regional chaplain, North Saskatchewan Region.*

**Hugs, the Wonder Drug**

Have you ever wondered how effective hugs are? You rarely give a hug that is not appreciated or receive one that does not make your day a little brighter. Can you think of any medication with such pleasant side effects?

Hugs are good for you. They're not fattening and they don't cause cancer or give you cavities. They're all-natural--no preservatives, artificial sweeteners or other chemical additives. Hugs are cholesterol-free and contain 100% of the recommended daily allowance of hope and happiness. They're a completely renewable source of energy available without prescription.

Hugs don't require any special instructions. They don't need batteries, tune-ups or x-rays. They're non-taxable, fully returnable, and energy efficient. You can use them safely in all kinds of weather (in fact, they work especially well on cold or rainy days). They are particularly effective in treating everyday problems like stress, worry, anger, frustration, sadness or sorrow and, even, the occasional nightmare.

The best thing about hugs is you can use them without special training or experience. But a word of caution if you are trying them for the first time: never wait until tomorrow to hug someone who needs it today. Once you realize how good it feels, you'll want to do it again tomorrow. Hugs, you see, are extremely addictive.

--from *Alberta Scoutbook, Northern Region*

=====

Scouter's 5 Cut-outs - Pages 649 & 650  
The Leader, May 1990

**Environment & Peace**

*The 1990 Scout/Guide Week service at Queenswood United Church in Rockland, Ont., focused on a peace theme, and we share some of the contents here.*

**Litany for Peace**

Leader: Creator and Ruler of Life, let us begin our press for peace in the world by accepting the inner peace you offer to our lives.

People: Give us your peace, O God.

Leader: Let us be makers of peace within our own families and communities.

People: Give us your peace, O God.

Leader: Fill our hearts with a love of humankind and respect for human dignity that will demand justice and peace for all the world.

People: Let us have peace, O God.

Leader: Guide us to a concern for world peace and let us accept our responsibility to call our nation and others to commit themselves to peace.

People: Help us make peace, O God.

Leader: Lead us in our press for peace, that we may not cease until there is truly peace on earth.

People: Let us make peace, O God.

**Benediction**

Friends, continue your journey walking in love;  
Care for one another; care for the earth;  
Seek justice and make peace;  
God goes before you:  
Live boldly, celebrate and sing!

**Circles**

Everything an Indian does is in a circle, because the power of the world always works in a circle, and everything tries to be round. The sky is round, and the earth is round like a ball, and so are all the stars. The wind, in its greatest power, whirls. Birds make their nests in circles, for their religion is the same as ours. The sun comes forth and goes down again in a circle. The moon does the same, and both are round. Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing, and always come back again to where they were. The life of a man is a circle from childhood to childhood, and so it is in everything where power moves. -*Black Elk, Oglala Sioux*

**The Sacred Earth**

Every part of the earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people.

The white man is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he needs. The earth is not his brother but his enemy.

Continue to contaminate your bed, and you will one night suffocate in your own waste.  
-*Seattle, Chief of the Duwamish people, in a letter to the U.S. president, 1855.*

**Terrible Tenants**

We have probed the earth, excavated it, ripped things from it, burned things in it, chopped down its forests, levelled its hills, muddied its water, and dirtied its air. That does not fit my definition of a good tenant. If we were here on a month-to-month basis, we would have been evicted long ago.  
-*Chief Justice Rose Bird, California Supreme Court: quoted in The United Church Observer.*