

The Heart of Scouting **Leader's Guide**

∞ Putting the First Duty First ∞



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Introduction

Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were a way to "tweak" Scouting meetings and activities just a little and find that the Scouts are actually behaving in ways that are more trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind and reverent? And what if they were also more gentle, considerate, loving and sensitive?

And wouldn't it be nice if we knew of a few changes we could make that would lead to fewer put-downs among our Scouts, less teasing, picking on each other, arguing, fighting, vandalism, criticism, stealing, foul language, meanness and disrespect?

A number of Scouters in the Utah National Parks Council have been making a relatively minor change in the way they do Scouting in the last several years. These are exactly the kinds of changes they are seeing in their Scouts; not all of the time or with all of the youth, but with impressive results.

When the Key Three in the Council became aware of these changes, they asked the council's volunteer committees to pull together the various things the leaders have been trying so these ideas can be shared. The result is a new program that is called *The Heart of Scouting*.

The first and most important idea in the program is to emphasize Baden-Powell's *vision* about what should be at the heart of Scouting. Visions guide the many specific things we think and do. Baden-Powell's vision was that the first ideal in the Scout Oath should be the heart of everything that is done in Scouting. The first ideal is:

“On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God...”

There are many statements by Baden-Powell that show this was his vision for Scouting. Some examples are:

I have been asked to describe in more detail what I had in my mind regarding religion when I founded Scouting and Guiding. I have been asked “Why must religion enter in it?” My answer has been that religion needn't enter, because it's already inside. It is already the fundamental factor pervading Scouting and Guiding. (*From a speech to Scout and Guide commissaries, July 2, 1926*)

Let us, therefore, in training our Scouts, keep the higher aims in the forefront, not let ourselves get too absorbed in the steps. Don't let the technical outweigh the moral. Field efficiency, backwoodsmanhood, camping, hiking, good turns, jamboree comradeship are all *means*, not the *end*.” (*Scouting and Youth Movements*, Chapter VI, p.76. Italics added.)

There is no religious side of the movement. The whole of it is based on religion; that is, on the realization and service of God. *Headquarters' Gazette*, November, 1920.

In a recent survey, people were asked to put the 13 parts of Scouting in order according to the amount they are usually emphasized. When the results were in, duty to God was not first! It was eighth. When something is eighth in a group of 13, it is *not* what Baden-Powell called “the fundamental factor underlying Scouting.” Many people seem to believe that the main goal in Scouting is to become an Eagle Scout. Outdoor skills and the Trail to Eagle seem to have become the heart of Scouting in other units. Sadly, this means that what Baden-Powell called the *means* has become the *end*, and the most important *end* has slipped to eighth just below knots and cooking.

The leaders in the Council hope that *The Heart of Scouting* program will help everyone emphasize Baden-Powell's vision of the heart of Scouting. When Scouts, Scouters and parents catch this vision, the "first duty" will become the *heart and soul* of Scouting. It will become the *centerpiece*. It will become the main *reason* to do everything else.

The Heart of Scouting will not change or replace any official programs or requirements of the Boy Scouts of America. All of the things that have endeared Scouting to youth for a century will continue but the spiritual parts of meetings, hikes and camps will be expanded and get more attention. "My duty to God" will get more time, emphasis and focus.

Unit leaders may wish to adjust parts of the program, especially if they have youth with special needs. Leaders have the freedom and permission to adjust the program in whatever ways they believe will most benefit their youth. Those who adjust the program are encouraged to share their ideas with the Council so their innovations can be shared with others. Please send your ideas to heartofscouting@utahscouts.net.

Many churches that sponsor Scouting have religious emblems programs. For example, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has the *Faith in God*, *Duty to God* and *On My Honor* programs. The Catholic Church has *Ad Altare Dei*, and the Baptist Church has the *God and Church* program. ***The Heart of Scouting*** does not compete with or replace these religious emblem programs. Rather, it introduces innovations designed to assist these programs and help them be more effective and successful.

Many Scout leaders have believed in the past that they should not bring religion into Scouting. In some situations they have been instructed in training programs that religious ideas and quotations should not be included. ***The Heart of Scouting*** replaces this belief with a license and mandate to not only include spirituality, but to give it the primary role.

Leaders from several religions have worked together to develop *The Heart of Scouting* program for all faiths. Leaders in several different faiths have shared their feelings about the program.

"In a time when our society has downplayed the role of God in our country and in our individual lives, it is vital for all of us, especially our youth to see again the importance of God in daily living.

I feel that this can happen for our Scouts through this program."

Father James Blaine, Roman Catholic Church

"This program is a great opportunity for young people to explore & learn with the help of their own ecclesiastical leaders what duty to God means and find practical ways to live it out in their own lives in ways that are relevant, enabling them to reach their potential."

Reverend Dean L. Jackson, Rock Canyon Assembly of God Church

"If all we have and all we are is a gift from God, then it is only right that Scouting should encourage young men to take their faith seriously. I applaud the efforts of the Utah National Parks Council in giving leaders a process which encourages Scouts to deepen their faith. I appreciate the sensitivity of this program to a variety of faith traditions and its adaptability for leaders to use in ways that will best suit their group."

Reverend Janet Riley, Minister of the Springville Community Presbyterian Church

<u>Area of Scouting</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Rank advancement	1
Duty to country	2
Camping	3
Cooking	4
Knots	5
Service	6
Morally straight	7
Duty to God	8
Hiking	9
Physically fit	10
Orienteering	11
Good turns	12
Plants	13

This leader's guide is intended to be used by Scout leaders in implementing their Scouting programs and placing an emphasis on duty to God in all of their Scouting activities. Additional copies of this guide may be purchased at Scout Service Centers and may be downloaded from the Council's web site at www.utahscouts.org.

Appreciation is expressed to the many Scouts and Scouters who helped create *The Heart of Scouting*. Hundreds of professionals, volunteers, and other organizations have been involved in many ways, making it impossible to list the names of those who have contributed. Each has been enthusiastic to develop ideas of ways to increase the spirituality in Scouting by give more emphasis to the first idea in the Scout Oath.

Section 1 - Emphasizing the First Duty First In Traditional Scout Activities

Section 1 describes many ways to put the *first duty first* in traditional Scouting activities. Some of the ideas are more relevant for some age groups than others, but many can be used with Scouts of all ages. Leaders should feel free to select, adapt and modify these ideas to suit the needs and characteristics of their situation. Leaders are also encouraged to develop additional ways of enhancing the “first duty” and share their ideas with the Council so they can be shared with others.

Scriptures

Scriptures can be used in many ways to help Scouts *learn and do* their duty to God. Scriptures are not usually on the list of things to bring to camps, but units are encouraged to add scriptures to the standard list of personal gear for camps. Youth who are members of different religions can each bring the writings that their church values such as a *Bible, Koran, Talmud, or Book of Mormon*. Some ways to use scriptures at camps are:

- Help the youth find ways to care for their scriptures. Books don't fare well the way boys usually pack their backpack or duffle bag. One idea is to find or build a sturdy box to hold scriptures. Making boxes that could be lined with felt or a similar material as a troop project would also help the boys learn how to care for and have respect for sacred things. Plastic bags would also protect them from moisture.
- Use the books for short activity or time and then return them to their boxes so they stay in good condition. If Scouts carry these books around at camp for long periods of time, it will be hard on the books.
- Some may prefer to bring small and inexpensive versions or servicemen's editions of scriptures. Youth may want to have an inexpensive copy to bring on camps and a nicer version to stay safely at home.
- Brief passages can be on posters or copied ahead for all to read and discuss while at camp.
- Read aloud a story from a scripture during a unit meeting, a hike or camp and then discuss what it teaches us about our duty to God. Also, a time during the day at camps can be scheduled for individual and/or group study of scriptures.
- Scriptures also can be helpful for some activities during pack meetings, troop meetings, Courts of Honor, etc.

Journals

Many people find it useful to keep a personal journal. Many great leaders have this practice. Writing one's precious experiences in a journal can be an excellent way to learn one's duty to God and cultivate the ability to do it well. This is especially the case with the precious whisperings that can come from God to one's heart. Therefore, it seems like a good idea to add a journal to the list of gear to bring to camp. Some ideas to help are:

- Keep journals in the same sturdy boxes made for scriptures.
- Some may want to bring small, inexpensive journals that are just for their outdoor experiences.
- Identify selected passages all of the members of a camp read in a religious book. For example, if all the members of a camp were Christian, they could read a selected part of the Sermon on the Mount. They could then write in their journal about their feelings and insights, and the assigned reading could then be discussed in different ways during the day.

- Combine prayer, scriptures and journals in what is called 10-10-10s. These are 30-minute blocks of time where Scouts read in their scriptures for 10 minutes, meditate and/or pray and listen for 10 minutes, and then write for 10 minutes in their journal about what they have learned or felt.
- Keep a special “prayer journal” for a few days at camp, home or elsewhere. Describe what happens when you pray. Write such things as what you prayed for, the thoughts and feelings you had, new insights, and ways prayer helps you do your duty to God.
- Keep a “gratitude journal.” This too can be a separate journal or a part of a larger journal. Gratitude is a wonderful thing to cultivate and help grow, and it helps people do their duty to God. In a gratitude journal, we write about things we are grateful for and appreciate. This too could be done for a few days, or it could be a part of a journal for a longer period of time.

Religious Emblem Programs

Many denominations have religious emblem programs. These are programs developed by the churches to help youth grow stronger in their faith. For example the Baptist Church has: *God and Me, God and Family, God and Church*, etc. The Roman Catholic Church has *Light of Christ, Lift is Life*, etc. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has the *On My Honor* and *Duty to God* programs. Units are encouraged to assist the religious emblem programs of the denominations in their unit. Scouting can support and enhance these programs by:

- Planning time in Scout meetings and camps to work on religious emblem programs. One LDS troop, for example, schedules one troop meeting a month to work on the *Duty to God* program. When time is allocated to these programs it helps the program have more emphasis and importance in the lives of the youth.
- Remember the guideline for working on religious emblems. Scouting is not a church! *Scouting always has the role of assisting rather than replacing parents and ecclesiastical leaders.* Therefore, especially when units have youth that belong to several denominations, they may find it helpful to have ecclesiastical leaders and/or parents participate in the sessions where the Scouts work on the religious emblem programs.
- Talk about religious emblem programs in Scout meetings, hikes and camps. Discussion communicates that they are important while not discussing them shows they are not important.
- Recognize admirable things Scouts do while working on their religious emblem program. Youth love attention! They love recognition! They love to see their name in special places and they love to see their picture! Leaders can capitalize on these four things by creating a poster or plaque that can be displayed in Scout meetings that has a picture and name of a Scout who has done something admirable. Different individuals could be recognized each month.
- Plaques for those who receive their religious emblems can be displayed alongside plaques in many chapels that list Eagle Scouts.
- Charts that show the progress of each Scout help parents and leaders encourage Scouts on their road to earning religious awards.

Scoutmaster Interviews

Scoutmaster can help the first duty become the foremost part of Scouting by talking about duty to God during the Scoutmaster conferences. One good rule of thumb is to talk about the first duty more than any other single topic. In formal and informal conferences, the Scoutmaster can:

- Discuss what the Scout has done and what he plans to do to fulfill his duty to God.
- Discuss what the Scout has done and plans to do to work on his religious emblem program.
- Use sections in the *The Boy Scout Handbook* that discuss different aspects of duty to God.
 - Pages 45 to 55 focus on the meaning of the Scout Oath, Law, Slogan and Motto.

- Pages 364 to 374 discuss several aspects of personal development that are important parts of doing one's duty to God.
- Other sections that focus on aspects of duty to God begin on pages 331, 353, 358, 359, 376 and 378.

Leaders can read and discuss these sections or assign Scouts to read them on their own to prepare for a Scoutmaster conference, and they can then talk about their feelings and thoughts about the ideas.

Boards of Review

Boards of Review are a unique opportunity to stress the importance of the first duty in the Oath. When all of the attention in a Board of Review is on records and outdoor skills, this communicates what the leaders think is important in Scouting. Members of the board have an opportunity to have youths think more deeply about their duty and their God than might occur at other times. Boards of Review can:

- Discuss how showing Scout spirit and living the 12 points of the Scout Law are part of doing their duty to God.
- Scouts can report on how they demonstrate their duty to God
- Spend time reviewing a Scout's progress on the religious emblem program.
- Suggest the Scout make plans to do complete his religious emblem requirements.
- Express praise and appreciation for the good things the Scout has done and for what he plans to do to fulfill his duty to God..

One good rule to help Boards of Review promote the first duty is to spend more time discussing the first duty than any other single topic.

Courts of Honor and Pack Meetings

Many things can be done in Courts of Honor and at pack meetings to help the first duty become the foremost part of Scouting. A good start is to do something in each Court of Honor and pack meeting that focuses on the first duty. Some ideas are:

- Have a talk, story, skit or presentation that reminds everyone that *The Heart of Scouting* is doing their duty to God.
- Honor Scouts for achievement in their religious emblem program. Post a chart showing their progress.
- The Scout leaders could visit with parents before the Court to learn about outstanding things that have been done at home showing how they live a point of the Scout Law and how that shows our duty to God. Scouts could be given a special award
- The chaplain or chaplain aide in the unit can make a presentation in Courts of Honor.
- In Eagle Courts of Honor, point out that the Scout has excelled in doing his duty to God and/or in working on his religious emblem program.
- Invite 12 Scouts to line up in front of the audience and say "I do my duty to God by..." and then have each one explain something about one of the points of the Scout Law.

Weekly Meetings

When boys begin Scouting, they usually have little understanding of what duty to God means. By the time they leave Scouting, they have matured enough that they can have a fairly good understanding of what it means. The weekly meetings in dens, patrols, troops, teams and crews are a good time to help Scouts learn about and do their duty to God. Here are some examples of the many topics that can be discussed in these

sessions:

- Discuss what duty to God means and what they can do to do it.
- Discuss how God influences the decisions and actions in daily life.
- Discuss how God guides people in making life's choices.
- Make a list of behaviors that show respect and disrespect for those who have different beliefs.
- Brainstorm about new things that would help them better understand what duty to God means and how to do it.
- Discuss how the points of the Scout Law help them do their duty to God, especially how being friendly, courteous and kind help, particularly when they are hard to do with those who are different.
- Discuss and highlight good things that have been done.

It is important to have different kinds of activities. Boys and young men need a balance of games, lessons, contests, fun and excitement in addition to spirituality.

Prayer

Units are encouraged to open and close *every* meeting with prayer. Prayer is one of the ways to love, serve, communicate with, and do our duty to God. Each meeting and activity ought to begin and end by using prayer to express thanks and appreciation and seek the guidance and protection of God.

Flag ceremonies should occur after the opening prayer and prior to the closing prayer. Therefore, prayers should come first and last in all that is done in Scouting. Another way of saying this is that prayer ought to be the “bookends” to everything in Scouting.

Scouts and Scouters are encouraged to pray often and for many things. For example, when creating a Vesper trail or a Commitment trail at camp, it would be good to pause after all the markers and items are prepared and ask God to bless the site and the occasion. When a Scout enters a Board of Review, it would be good to pause for a moment and pray together for those precious minutes they will take to review the progress the young man is making in his life and in Scouting.

Prayer is appropriate for meetings between Scouts and a merit badge counselor. The goal of these meetings is to change the boy's life in good ways and this is another occasion when praying for divine assistance is appropriate.

Some prayers are spontaneous but it may help some people if they occasionally wrote a prayer on paper. This may help them think longer about what they want to pray about, how they want to pray, and what prayer can mean in their life. If a person occasionally wrote a prayer, it may help them pray in a more meaningful and helpful manner.

When planning the daily schedule for camps and other activities, allocate times for individual prayer and meditation. Scouts and leaders can find a stump or rock near camp and spend time personally seeking communion and guidance.

Special Trails and Stations

There are many types of special trails and stations that can be created on hikes and in camps. The out-of-doors provides places where there can be small fires or dim lights and leaders or older Scouts can share uplifting thoughts and/or brief stories. In urban settings, a special trail can even be set up by going to a series of rooms in a chapel or large building and creating a sequence of different experiences.

There are special characteristics about dawn and the close of the day that add to special trails. These trails have many different names such as Honor trails, Vesper trails, Commitment trails, etc. One unique type of special trail is to focus on duty to God. Individuals can be placed along the trail with prepared messages about different aspects of doing our duty to God and small groups can walk the trail and listen to the presentations.

One variation of special trails is to have a silent trail. Signs can be placed at different places along the trail with inspirational messages or questions, and individuals can walk the trail and stop at the different stations for a minute or two to meditate and/or make personal commitments. The signs can be illuminated with soft lights. If there are large groups in a camp, they can be divided into small groups to walk the trails.

Most council and troop camps have stations where a great deal of time is spent teaching Scouts about outdoor skills and merit badges. Stations and/or time can be devoted to teaching them about how to personally discover what their “duty to God” is. Time also could be spent cultivating the abilities that are needed to do one’s duty to God. This could be done in simple ways with 11- to 13-year-olds and in more mature ways with Varsity Scouts, Venturers and Explorers to help them deepen their understanding as they grow. Parents and/or religious leaders can be invited to teach in these stations.

Respect for Differences

One of the greatest challenges facing mankind is learning how to live peacefully with religious diversity. This problem is so serious that it is the cause of most ancient and current wars and some of the most hateful and inhumane things that are done.

There are many ways Scouting can help with this challenge. One way is to remember Baden-Powell’s view of religious differences. He said “In the Scouts each form of religion is respected and its active practice is encouraged.” (Baden-Powell, Kandersteg, 1926)

Experiences can be created from Cub Scouts to Venturing to help Scouts learn how to have respect for differences. One important source of learning is for adult leaders to always be a good example of respect for others, especially those who have different beliefs.

Another way to promote respect for diversity is to have prayers given by people who have different approaches to religion. Youth may also learn how to be respectful for those who have different religious beliefs by attending services at different churches and then discuss after the visit how to be respectful.

Ceremonies and Traditions

Ceremonies and traditions do many good things. For example, the procedure of standing at attention with the right arm at the square and three fingers pointing up when saying the Scout Oath and Law add to the dignity and importance of them. Many units have special traditions or ceremonies in the way they present the Eagle Scout award and in the way they greet each other.

Introducing a new tradition or ceremony may be a useful tool in helping the first duty become first. An example might be to pause for a moment of silence during which people may make a silent, personal promise about an aspect of doing their duty to God. Leaders can use these moments whenever they think they will be helpful and appropriate such as a part of a campfire program, Court of Honor, or part of a troop meeting.

This tradition can have more impact if leaders follow-up with discussions. The discussions can help Scouts better understand what is involved, what their duty is, what personal promises to God mean, and

many other things that make this experience useful and uplifting. The discussions will, of course, be different with Cubs than they will be with older youth.

It does not seem wise to invite Scouts to go around a group and share what they promised because as the privacy and individuality of promise should be respected. However, if a leader shares some of the things the promise means to him or shares some of the things he has promised, this modeling of sharing can lead to some of the Scouts also sharing some of their thoughts and insights. Another idea is to suggest to parents and/or Scouts that they discuss the promise with each other in their home.

Connecting Activities with Duty to God

The main reason to give service and do the other parts of Scouting is because they are parts of what God wants us to do and doing them is part of doing our duty to God.

Many do good things because they are good and noble things in and of themselves. However, when Scouts and Scouters learn that character, values, morality and service are desirable because they are important parts of God's plan, they are building their beliefs on a more solid foundation that will stand well against the emerging whims and novel ideas.

One of the goals in *The Heart of Scouting* is to help Scouts learn that service with no focus on doing their duty to God is good for the receiver but of little value for the server. Trying to fulfill a duty to God without service is hypocritical; service with a focus on duty to God ennobles. Thus, it is wise to talk with Scouts often and in many different ways about the purposes of being courteous and kind, clean and reverent, being prepared; and doing service.

Section 2 - Awards and Program Helps

The Heart of Scouting Pin

A *Heart of Scouting* pin has been created to help duty to God be the foremost part of Scouting. It is a symbolic reminder for Scouts and adults. The pin can be earned as a part of Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, Venturing and Exploring. It may also be earned by leaders and family members. It is worn by those who understand why duty to God is the heart of Scouting, have made a personal commitment to put duty to God first in their life, and want to use the pin as a way to remind themselves and encourage others to put duty to God first.

Requirements for *The Heart of Scouting* pin are found in *The Heart of Scouting* brochure and at www.utahscouts.org.

Recipients of this pin may purchase several pins at Scout Service Centers and wear them on the lapel of suits, as a tie tack, on dresses or blouses, or on Scout uniforms. The pin may be worn immediately above the seam of the left pocket on the Scout uniform.

It is likely that the number of youth who will want to make the personal commitment symbolized by the pin and who will wear the pin will correspond with the number of leaders who get involved, complete the requirements and wear the pin when they are in front of their youth.

The Heart of Scouting in Summer Camps

A Utah National Parks Council summer camp program has been created to help emphasize the first ideal in the Scout Oath. Scouts can earn a beautiful Duty to God patch by doing several things each day at Council summer camps that emphasize duty to God. All summer camp participants, including adult leaders, may participate in this program at our Council summer camps. The booklet that describes the details and requirements of the Duty to God summer camp program will be given to you when you check in at camp on your first day. Duty to God patches may be purchased at the Trading Post in your camp and at our Scout Service Centers.

The Heart of Scouting in Cub Scouting

Some of the ways of helping duty to God become the heart of Cub Scouting are to have discussions, talks and stories about duty to God in den and pack meetings. Plaques and posters can be created to help remind Cubs and Cub leaders about *The Heart of Scouting*. Dens and packs can take trips to visit religious sites and places, and leaders in churches can be invited to visit and make presentations in den and pack meetings.

A group of activities that are geared to Cub Scouts have been developed, and there is a *Heart of Scouting* patch for Cub Scouts described in the brochure for *The Heart of Scouting* program. The patch may be worn on the right pocket of the uniform as temporary insignia. The activities are described in the brochure and on the Council's web site at www.utahscouts.org.

The Cub Scout handbooks have a Character Connection for Faith. They are on page 66 (Achievement 5, Let's Go Outdoors) in the *Tiger Cub Handbook*, pages 95-97 (Ach. 11, Duty to God) in the *Wolf Handbook*, pages 27-29 (Ach. 1, Ways We Worship) in the *Bear Handbook*, and pages 50-51 (Requirement 8, Webelos Badge) in the *Webelos Handbook*. Leaders can integrate *The Heart of Scouting* program with the Character Connection part of Cub Scouting. They may substitute the Character Connection for Faith requirements for

some of the activities in *The Heart of Scouting* brochure or do all of them.

The Heart of Scouting with Boy Scouts

There is one requirement for rank advancement that is so important it is repeated for each rank in the Trail to Eagle. It is Requirement 13 for Tenderfoot, Req. 9 for Second Class, Req. 10 for First Class, and Req. 2 for Star, Life and Eagle. It is: “Show Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life.”

One of the goals in *The Heart of Scouting* is to help Scouts, Scouters and parents give greater emphasis to this requirement by helping Scouts learn what is involved in doing their duty to God and helping them do it. It is easy to ignore this requirement because most of the other requirements involve specific tasks that ask Scouts to do fairly precise behaviors. The behaviors that pass the other requirements can be easily seen and checked off. Living the Scout Oath and Law are more abstract and general ideas. They aren't very tangible and they aren't things a Scout can demonstrate once and then forget.

To help this requirement become *the most important of all the requirements*, a number of activities have been designed to help Scouts **learn and do** their duty to God. Also, to provide additional incentives for them to participate in these activities, they can earn a patch when they complete the requirements. The requirements are in *The Heart of Scouting* brochure and at www.utahscouts.org.

The Heart of Scouting in Varsity Scouting

Varsity Scouts can earn a beautiful *Heart of Scouting* pin by completing the activities that are described in the *The Heart of Scouting* brochure and on the council web site. These activities are part of the personal development area of emphasis. This pin is different and larger than *The Heart of Scouting* pin that anyone may earn that was referred to at the beginning of Section 2.

Varsity Scouting emphasizes leadership and self-determination because young men experience several developmental shifts during this period of their life. They move from being heavily influenced by adults and groups to desiring and being able to exercise greater control over their own lives. The impulse to *duty* begins to come increasingly from within the boy himself. The values that shape his long-term commitments are increasingly based on his personal and private feelings and his interpretation of them.

Therefore, programs that support deep commitment to duty to God at this stage of a young man's life depend a great deal on his assessment of his own feelings and a comparison of what he feels with what he observes in the lives of his adult leaders and his personal heroes. One-on-one conversations about important issues in his life with well-prepared and honest leaders can have more impact than requirements and awards, and his views depend a great deal on what he sees in the lives of adults and how honest and consistent they are in their deepest commitments.

The task of the Varsity Scout who is coming to grips with his duty to God involves much personal inquiry and the development of characteristics such as:

- Awe and reverence
- Commitment
- Courage
- Compassion

Techniques for cultivating these characteristics include:

- Personal attention
- Example

- Regard
- Voluntary compliance

Another aspect of “...do my best to do my duty to God...” is a better understanding of what duty to God involves. Discussing and working on the issues listed below can help deepen this understanding from the standpoint of all religions regardless of how one perceives God:

- Seek to learn more of, from and about God
- Learn what God has done for us and cultivate thanks
- Decide how we will respond to God
- Open communication with God
- Learn God’s laws and understand how they might be beneficial to us
- Give reverence to God
- Learn what God expects of us
- Learn of God’s good works and express praise for what God has done
- Talk to others and tell them what we know about and from God
- Give comfort to others in need such as we have received from God; to share resources
- Respect the beliefs of others no matter how different
- Respect all of God’s creations: all people, living things and the natural world

The maturity of Varsity Scouts allows them to explore and experience a deeper understanding of their duty to God. Varsity Program Managers and Captains can select activities from the following list, and they can create additional experiences that stretch the spiritual fitness of Varsity Scouts and their ability to do their duty to God.

- Have each team member present a story from a scripture or other materials of an individual who is an example of doing their duty to God.
- Hold a religious program presented by Varsity Scouts that focuses on how living the points of the Scout Law is doing one’s duty to God.
- Visit a Museum that includes religious art. Discuss what the team members observed about the artists’ spiritual expression.
- Develop a list of 10 qualities the team admires in their fathers or another adult. Discuss how the foundation of these qualities is based on faith and duty to God.
- At a friendship night, talk about the importance of respecting how others worship God.
- Do something to help a person who is having difficulty in their life. Discuss with your Scout leader experience and feelings regarding this service.
- Create a team challenge to avoid profanity. Specify a length of time, penalties and rewards to help the team recognize and change bad habits.

The Heart of Scouting in Venturing

The Heart of Scouting brochure lists a number of activities for Venturers that will help them better understand how to do their duty to God. When Venturers complete the activities that are described in the brochure, they can earn a beautiful *The Heart of Scouting* pin. This pin is different and larger than *The Heart of Scouting* pin that anyone may earn that was referred to at the beginning of Section 2.

There are several other aspects of the Venturing program that emphasize spirituality. For example, there is the Religious and Community Life Bronze Award and the TRUST Award.

The spiritual aspects of Venturing can also be enhanced through what are called "reflections" at the end of each activity. These are discussions with youth about an activity after the activity. A spiritual link can usually be attached to most everything we do and the responsibility lies with the leaders to bring that link

to the forefront. Instructions on how to conduct a reflection can be found in the *Venturing Leadership Skills Course*.

Venturing crew advisors need to have their spiritual antennae's tuned all the time. Each outdoor experience should be a strategic, spiritual experience. The purpose for camping and outdoor activities is for Venturers to apply what they have learned in the classroom. Outings should be the laboratory of spiritual learning and application.

The information in Section 5 about Varsity Scouting is also relevant for leaders in Venturing, and leaders are encouraged to read that section and apply the ideas to their Venturing program.