

Prayers And Other Religious Materials

The following pages may be used as part of the invocation or benediction. Please remember that there may be people present who are of many different religions. Please try not to offend those of the other religions who are attending. There is a difference between a non-denominational service and an all faiths service. Try to keep it as an all faith service to prevent problems and offending others. The term "Great Scoutmaster of us All" can usually be substituted for G-d in prayers.

AMERICAN INDIAN PRAYER

**G-D OF THE MOUNTAINS, G-D OF THE HILLS.
SHOW US THEY SPIRIT, TEACH US THY WILL.
G-D OF THE STARLIGHT, G-D OF THE DAWN,
GIVE US THEY VISION, LEAD US ON.**

A SCOUTER'S PRAYER

**GREAT SCOUTMASTER OF US
ALL FROM YOUR JUDGEMENT SEAT ON HIGH,
LOOK DOWN ON A SCOUTER SUCH AS I.
SEARCH ME THROUGH AND FIND ME WHOLE.
THEN HELP ME TO REACH MY GOAL.
HELP ME TO WORK FOR THEE.
GUARD MY HOMELAND, KEEP IT FREE.
HELP ME TO WORK WITH OTHERS AND BE KIND,
HELPFUL WITH MY HANDS AND MIND.
KEEP ME BOTH WELL AND STRONG
TO HELP OUR GROWING BOYS ALONG.
CONTROL MY THOUGHTS AND KEEP THEM RIGHT,
SOUND, CLEAN WEAPONS FOR LIFE'S FIGHT.**

Prayer For Our Country

The following prayer was contributed by Stan Krieger (smk@summit.novell.com) of Summit, NJ. It is a slight rewrite of the Prayer for Our Country, as translated in the Siddur Sim Shalom (the prayer book used in many Conservative Jewish congregations). The prayer was revised in May 2000 by Assistant Scoutmaster Ken Spiegel, Troop 80, Farmingville, Long Island, NY to make it more universal to all religious groups.

Among the principles of Scouting are Duty to G-d and Duty to Country. These are expressed in the following reading:

Oh Great Scoutmaster of us All, we ask Your blessing for our country, for its government, for its leader and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights of Your Law, that they may administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst.

Creator of all flesh, bless all the inhabitants of our country with Your spirit. Then citizens of all races and creeds will forge a common bond in true brotherhood, to banish all hatred and bigotry, and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions which are our country's pride and glory.

May this land under Your Providence be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all men in peace and freedom.

Amen.

Prayer

by Greg Gough

**Thy song sings in my heart
Thy voice whispers
in the wind.
Thy beauty is shown
in all things.
Magnificent & steadfast
is your presence.
Thank you for reminding us of
How great you are.**

What Can We Give?

The following reading was contributed by Stan Krieger (smk@summit.novell.com) of Summit, NJ. It is from a compilation of readings used by Sisterhood (the women's group of many Conservative synagogues).

One of the objectives of Scouting, duty to others, is readily expressed in the following writing:

What can we give?

- Our Friendship to those who need it.
- Our Love to those close to us.
- Our Thanks to those who deserve it.
- Our Encouragement to those who are unsure.
- Our Support to those who seek it.
- Our Respect to those who have earned it.
- Our Understanding to those whose views differ.
- Our Comfort to those who suffer illness.
- Our Consolation to those who grieve.
- Our Time to causes we deem worthy.

These are gifts we can all afford to give. None is beyond our means, none has to be gift-wrapped, and none needs to be exchanged for size or color preference.

A gift of oneself is precious not only to the recipient, but enriches the giver as well.

A Hiking Prayer

**The following prayer was contributed by Paul S. Wolf
(aa854@Cleveland.Freenet.Edu) who is Sysop of The Freenet Scouting
Center and a member of the Greater Cleveland Council.**

by Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav (1722-1811)

Master of the Universe

Grant me the ability to be alone;

May it be my custom to go outdoors each day

Among the trees and grass, among all living things.

And there may I be alone, and enter into prayer,

To talk with the one to whom I belong.

May I express there everything in my heart,

And may all the foliage of the field

(All grasses, trees, and plants)

May they all awake at my coming,

To send the powers of their life into the words of my prayer

So that my prayer and speech are made whole

Through the life and the spirit of all growing things,

Which are made as one by their transcendent source.