

## *The Twelve Points of the Scout Law Ceremony*

### **Setting:**

- ❑ A single lighted candle is placed on a table in front of the moderator representing the Spirit of Scouting.
- ❑ One red, one white, and one blue candle are lit to represent the three parts of the Scout Oath.
- ❑ Rank symbols are placed on lower tables.
- ❑ An unlit candle is required for each point of the Scout Law.
- ❑ Lights are dimmed.
- ❑ After the narrative for each point is read, the Scout with that point crosses the stage and lights the candle for his point in the Scout Law. He then returns to his spot at the center of the stage.
- ❑ After three points have been read, the speaker elaborates on the meaning of the previous three points.

### **Participants:**

- ❑ Moderator (Special guest or Troop Committee Chairman)
- ❑ Scoutmaster
- ❑ Speaker #1 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Speaker #2 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Speaker #3 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Speaker #4 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Speaker #5 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ Speaker #6 (Assistant Scoutmaster or other Troop leader)
- ❑ New Scout - 1
- ❑ Tenderfoot Scout - 2
- ❑ 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Scout - 2
- ❑ 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scout - 2
- ❑ Star Scout - 2
- ❑ Life Scout - 2
- ❑ Eagle Scout - 1
- ❑ Eagle Candidate(s) and parents

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### **Ceremony:**

**Moderator:** The spirit of Scouting embodies the principles of the Scout Oath and Law, and it becomes a shining beacon of inspiration. Alone, this light may seem feeble, but when multiplied by all of the boys in Scouting around the world, it is powerful indeed. After a boy enters Scouting, the Scout Law that he promises to obey begins to guide his life. Each point of the Scout Law is expressed in a single word, rich with meaning. Strive to understand that meaning well enough to be able to explain it in your own words. Look back for a moment; look back over the cliff you have just climbed; look back down the Trail of Scouting and remember what it took to get where you are today; look back over the experiences you have encountered in your ascent; remember the friends you have made and the people who have helped you get to where you are. These experiences and friendships should not be forgotten, and you should profit by making sure that the bumps in the road do not occur again. Experience is a valuable teacher, but only if you learn from it.

***The New Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**New Scout:** An Eagle Scout knows that “A Scout is Trustworthy” is the first point of the Scout Law for a reason. It is the badge of honesty and trustworthy goes beyond your parents, family, troop, community, and friends. A Scout is trustworthy even when no one is watching; trustworthy even with the weak, the poor, and the unpopular. Please give us the guidance and insight to love and to trust one another and help us to be good Scouts; always worthy to “Do a Good Turn Daily.”

***The New Scout lights the first candle.***

***The Tenderfoot Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**Tenderfoot:** The second point of the Scout Law is “Loyal.” A Scout is loyal even when loyalty is not returned to you. A Scout is loyal when loyalty is not deserved; loyal to friends, family, school, community, and the ideas that make this nation a better place to live. A Scout is loyal even when it is inconvenient, a “heavy” load, embarrassing, or painful. May we keep in mind our families, whose time we have often sacrificed to help make a difference in our communities. Please support them in our absence.

***The Tenderfoot lights the second candle.***

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***The next Tenderfoot Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**Tenderfoot**: Helpful is the third point of the Scout Law. As part of the Scout Oath, all Scouts promise to help “other people at all times,” even when there is no “tip”, no reward, no benefit for them. Scouts help because help is needed and it is the right thing to do ... not because people are watching or there might be something in it for them later. By helping each other, we also help ourselves. Give us the strength to be helpful not only to those that we can easily help, but also let us learn to reach out to others that are forgotten or neglected.

***The Tenderfoot Scout lights the third candle.***

**Speaker #1**: A brand new Scout memorizes the twelve points of the Scout Law. At this point, they are twelve attributes and his interest is in memorizing them so he can earn his Scout Badge. The journey to Eagle involves learning and understanding each of the twelve points and incorporating them into every facet of his life.

A new scout learns to be trustworthy. He discovers that if each of us just does what we say we will do, our group can accomplish amazing things. He finds that a man of his word is a rare breed in today’s world, but someone who commands respect. Unfortunately, he will also learn that not everyone is true to his word. But not every Scout can complete the journey to Eagle.

By being trustworthy, we learn loyalty to one another. In a world where popularity, current fads and political correctness are often used as excuses for abandoning traditional values, loyalty can be a difficult choice. But our civilization is built by and upon individuals who are loyal to their God, their country, their families, and to each other. On the journey to Eagle, a Scout learns to be loyal.

A new scout learns that service is part of the requirement for obtaining each rank. Along his journey he will assist in many service projects that help others. In doing so he learns another amazing lesson, that those who give of themselves receive far more in return than they have given.

Our young Scout learns to be trustworthy, loyal and helpful.

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***The Second Class Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**Second Class:** Friendly to those that need a friend defines the fourth point in the Scout Law. A Scout does not decide if he likes someone first before deciding to help. Part sharing, part caring. He is friendly to everyone – even those he does not initially like. A Scout cares and he shows it. Let us be thankful for the friends we have, and let us be wise enough to know when to lean on our friends when we need help. Let us remember that a true friend is there for us even when things are not going well.

***The Second Class Scout lights the fourth candle.***

***The next Second Class Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**Second Class:** Treating people with respect includes being polite and respectful to all around him, and is what makes “Courtesy” the fifth point of the Scout Law. It reflects an attitude that later in life you wish you had honored more ... earlier in life. Practice it in your family; enlarge it to your friends; share it with humanity. Please give us the patience and tolerance to work with others and to respect their points of view.

***The Second Class Scout lights the fifth candle.***

***The First Class Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**First Class:** Kind is the sixth point of the Scout Law and it applies to all of God’s creatures. Family members, friends, and animals are all of a concern to a Scout. Kindness is not something we do only when confronted with the need. It can be quite an adventure when we seek to be kind. But it is like your bicycle, it is just no good unless you get out and use it. Let us strive each day to treat each other kindly. Treat others as we would like to be treated .

***The First Class Scout lights the sixth candle.***

## *The Twelve Points of the Scout Law Ceremony*

**Speaker #2:** As our Scout continues his journey toward Eagle, he will further understand the meaning of the next three points of the Scout Law. Friendly, Courteous, and Kind transform from words he must memorize into action he must live by each day to reach the goal of Eagle.

It is one thing to say you are friendly, courteous; and kind it is another to make it a part of the law you live by.

**A Scout is friendly.** By definition this means a scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He offers his friendship to people of all races and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs and customs are different from his own.

**A Scout is Courteous.** By the definition this means a Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows that using good manners makes it easier for people to get along.

**A Scout is Kind.** By definition this means a Scout knows there is strength in being gentle. He treats others, as he wants to be treated. Without good reason, he does not harm or kill any living thing.

The way a Scout lives by these points of the law is through his actions. These actions, as simple as they may seem, will propel you through life. The rewards you will reap from being friendly, courteous, and kind to others are endless. On the other hand, the lack of these actions will haunt you and slow your life.

These points of the Law have no limits; they should even touch those who are not fortunate enough to return the acts and those who in the past have hurt you. As a Scout you must demonstrate these actions with so much energy that the blind see them and the deaf hear them.

As Scouts we have been visually stereotyped as the boys who help the old lady cross the street with her groceries. This is not a bad thing. What if all the people in the world were to act this way? The world would change overnight for the better.

Take this time to think back on your own life, regardless of your age.... And think of a time when someone acted mean towards you... remember how horrible it made you feel. Now think of a time when someone acted friendly, courteous, and kind to you.... Remember that feeling!! What a great program you are involved in that makes the giving of that great feeling, through acts of being friendly, courteous, and kind part of its law you swear to live by.

As you continue your journey toward Eagle remember be friendly, courteous, and kind; they are not just words, they are part of our law.

## *The Twelve Points of the Scout Law Ceremony*

***The next First Class Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**First Class:** The seventh point of the Scout Law is “Obedient”, and it is harder for some Scouts; easier for others. Obedience includes acknowledging the right of adults to make decisions about what we do and how we are expected to behave. It also commits the adult to supporting the Scout during troubled times. Obedience is the Scout’s way to say I trust you and believe in what you are saying. Please let us never forget the important lesson that to be a great leader, one must be a great follower.

***The First Class Scout lights the seventh candle.***

***The Star Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**Star:** Cheerful involves having a sense of humor and a positive attitude, even when things are not going our way. It can be a search for the lighter side of a bad situation. Sometimes, it is finding hope in the midst of hopelessness. It is uplifting to all around you and can cause a smile, momentarily lift a burden, or give a better perspective in a midst of a difficult period. Sometimes, it can be down right contagious! Let us be cheerful for what you have given us and let us appreciate each new day as a new opportunity to make a positive difference.

***The Star Scout lights the eighth candle.***

***The next Star Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**Star:** Thrifty may be the most misunderstood point of the Scout Law. Ask everyone from the newest first year Scout to the Eagle, and you will get differing definitions of the word “thrifty.” Thrifty Scouts look beyond the moment to consider such things as tomorrow; next week; and next month. He is not so caught up in the moment that he forgets about the big picture. It means a lot more than just putting your pennies away for a rainy day; and is the opposite of cheap. Help us learn to save so we can share, not only our money but also our resources, with others. Let us always be mindful of our environment and treat our Earth respectfully.

***The Star Scout lights the ninth candle.***

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**Speaker #3:** It is a very common thing for boys to think that they cannot do things, when the truth is they do not want to. It is an unconscious excuse for laziness, and it is easy enough to be as unqualified as one pleases when one does not want to take the trouble to observe, to understand, and to act. When we have the spirit of obedience strongly developed, we are willing to take on things we do not know how to do, feeling confident in our ability to learn as we go.

As a Scout grows, he learns the importance of being cheerful. When everything is pleasant and comfortable around us and we are having a good time, it is easy enough to be cheerful; when other people are doing what we like and giving us our way, it is easy enough to have a smiling face; but, when things are going against us, and we are required to give up what we care most about, then it becomes much tougher to continue cheerfully doing our duty.

Thrift is based upon a true sense of the value of things; and since the value of material things is usually expressed in terms of money, thrift is generally thought of in terms of dollars. However, the true value of something does not depend on how much we may want it, but rather depends on how much its possession will add to our true and lasting happiness. The first element of happy thrift is the habit of going without things which are not necessary and which are not going to benefit anybody but ourselves.

Our young Scout has learned to be obedient, cheerful and thrifty.

### ***The Life Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**Life:** This might be the toughest point of all for a Scout. Being “Brave” means standing up for what is right; standing up for people who are in the right; even if it means you have to take a stand against your friends. It includes seeking the truth on rumors, being willing to hear what others have to say – even when it is critical of them. It is the Scout who knows he is on the “right” road ... and not others around him who dictate this behavior. Please give us the courage to speak up for what is just and proper and the tenacity to make the world a better place in the midst of trials and tribulations.

### ***The Life Scout lights the tenth candle.***

## *The Twelve Points of the Scout Law Ceremony*

***The next Life Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**Life**: A Scout keeps himself physically and mentally “clean” – both inside and out. He keeps clean in body and thought, stands for clean speech, clean sport, and clean habits. He must resist the temptation and desire to win at any cost, knowing that the loss of honor is a disaster compared to the loss of a game. We tend to concentrate on keeping the outside clean, but it is what is inside that matters most. A Scout does his best ... and at night, as he prepares to sleep, he can close his eyes knowing he has lived as a Scout should. Let us keep our minds and our bodies: “physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.”

***The Life Scout lights the eleventh candle.***

***The Eagle Scout advances to the center of the stage.***

**Eagle**: The final point of the Scout Law is “Reverent.” It implies that a Scout accepts his worthiness as a child of God; accepts the presence of a force greater than himself. A Scout respects his spiritual faith regardless of his religion, as well as the lack of it in others. He need not push his faith or values on others. He just needs to live his own life and let it speak for itself. It is this faith that allows him to forgive himself or others after inevitable mistakes that occur with growing and learning. It is this faith that supports him as he ventures into new and unfamiliar territory; this faith that is the foundation for his reverence.

***All of the participating Scouts advance to the center of the stage in order of rank.***

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**Speaker #4:** By now, you are nearing the end of your journey through the Scout Law. Hopefully, you no longer have to think about each point – they have become an important part of your life. These are no longer just twelve words you fire off at the beginning of a troop meeting. People now look up to you because of them and what they stand for, and parents hope that their children will grow up to be like you. Just as important, younger boys are beginning to look up to you as a role model.

Growing up, all boys yearn to be brave. They dream of conquering evil, catching the bad guy, and strive to protect their mothers and younger siblings. But, being brave does not mean being foolish, and it is not always popular. It is easy to avoid “getting involved” when something does not directly affect you. It is easy to just look away and ignore the behavior of others, because they are “just having a little fun.”

Being clean refers to the mind as well as the body. Water, soap and a toothbrush can take care of the outside. On the journey through life, a Scout learns that a clean mind is harder to maintain than a clean body. Only your determination will keep the inside clean. You can do it by following the example of the people you respect – your parents, your coaches and leaders, your teachers, your clergy, and your friends.

A new scout learns that you can be reverent in many ways. It is the very freedom to choose our own faith that makes us the great country that we are. Spiritual development may take on the form of a particular religion, faith or sect, and will vary from Scout to Scout. The goal is to create a more tolerant and caring society.

Our young Scout now knows the true meaning of trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

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**Speaker #5:** Yes, it is the Scout Law ... a demanding list, a rewarding guide. The Scout Law is a challenge to every Scout to live the best life that is within him. It does not require great wealth or material things to accomplish. It does not require great physical strength – only the inner strength to stand up for what is right. The Scout Law gives us an objective that we will not always be able to reach but will always be sought. Do we dare ask little and hope for greatness? Shall we leave the future to the whim of “fate” or shall we set the course on a higher road and risk losing a few along the trail? Scouting is a pathway to fun, but is also to a life-style that requires effort on the part of all involved.

Eagle is the highest rank in Scouting, and the most coveted of all Scouting awards. Along the way, you have achieved a purpose of building character, in the training of leadership, in the practice of service to others, and the confidence in yourself that you can truly accomplish anything – if you put your mind to it! As you reflect back on the accomplishment you are here to celebrate today, think of how the points of the Scout Law have influenced your decisions not only in the past, but as you live your life into the future.

**Speaker #6:** Eagle candidates, you are to be congratulated for reaching the highest peak of the Eagle Trail; your diligence and hard work have paid off. It is an occasion for pride and joy and a time for serious contemplation. You have made Troop 701, your community, your friends, and your family very proud. May the qualities that inspired you to this achievement continue to lead you on to even greater success in your life. As an Eagle Scout, the eyes of Scouting -- yes, the eyes of the world, will be upon you. The traditions of Eagle Scout are high. The expectations are even higher. May you live up to those traditions and expectations, always guided by the Spirit of Scouting and the twelve points of the Scout Law, represented by these blazing candles before you.

Before completing your journey up the trail to your goal, let me remind you that there are more mishaps in mountain climbing after reaching the top than there are on the trail upward. One who achieves the highest goal of Scouting should never forget the rigor of the training he has endured and the responsibilities of leadership and service that were such a large part of your success.

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**Moderator:** The Eagle badge that you are about to receive is symbolic of this Spirit of Scouting. As part of this ceremony, you will pin a miniature Eagle Scout badge over your mother's heart in recognition of her love, encouragement, faith, and trust in your future. As an Eagle Scout, may you never disappoint her. Your father has also stood by you over the years and has offered his encouragement and assistance. As a symbol of what he has contributed to your being here today, you will present him a miniature Eagle Scout tie tack. In addition, your father will have the honor of placing the Eagle Scout neckerchief around your neck to tell the world that he will continue to support you as you continue to grow into a man. Remember proudly, that you are never a former Eagle Scout!

May the Scout Oath and the Scout Law continue to be your guide for tomorrow and into the future! As you leave this afternoon, remember the Scout Law is not a menu. It is not something you choose to follow when it is convenient or when there is something in it for you. It should be the guiding light for you as you grow – something you follow automatically and without thinking – even when no one is watching.