

Today I Am A Boy, But Before Long, I Will Be A Man

By EDDIE JORDAN

Today I am a Boy, but before long, I will be a Man. I would like to explain a few of the trails that must be followed to accomplish this through scouting. I have used as my guide today, The Official Scout Handbook, a text that offers to all Boy Scouts important information and sound advice. I shall not attempt to outline everything in the Scout Handbook, but rather I have selected several areas that I think would be of interest to you.

Every boy upon entering the Boy Scouts must become familiar with and learn the four basic principles that govern all of us throughout our scouting careers. The Scout Oath, The Scout Law, The Scout Motto and The Scout Slogan.

Practically everyone at one time or another has heard The Scout Motto, "Be prepared, and the Scout Slogan, "Do a good turn daily". Together they spell out our ability and our willingness to serve.

The Scout Oath is longer and the general public does not hear it as often as the Motto and Slogan. I would like to share it with you at this time.

Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and My Country and to obey the Scout Law. To help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

This is a clear statement of what is expected of us as Scouts. When we take it, we pledge ourselves to live up to our duties to God and our Country. To other people and to ourselves. We pledge that we will be good Americans and serve our God as He would have us serve Him.

The Scout Law states that a Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. This law is the foundation on which the whole scouting movement is built. The ideals of the Scout Laws are high. It is only by striving toward high ideals and keeping faith with them that you can become the man you want to be.

I enjoy scouting and the training, fellowship and discipline that goes with it. It is a pleasure and a privilege to work with my fellow scouts and the adult leaders that assist us.

I see scouting as a parallel to Christianity. In scouting we have an opportunity to work, play and learn with our fellow scouts. In our Christian life we have the same opportunities with Brother Christians. Scouting is fun, being a Christian is fun. Sometimes the road that leads to both is hard, and much work needs to be done and many mistakes are made.



Second Class Scout Eddie Jordan
Morning Speaker at Scout Sunday Celebration

(photo by Richard Cannon)

We ask guidance and directions from our Scout Leaders as we follow the trail from Tenderfoot to Eagle. We ask for guidance and direction from God as we travel the life from sinner to believer. Our minister has told us time and time again the pleasure that is to be found in Christian Fellowship, the joy of being with others who believe. I know the members of this church believe that, by their presence here today.

I feel that scouting has afforded me an opportunity to build on my Christian life, to give me a reason to be positive in the ways I use my energies. I thank God that he has given me the opportunity to enjoy life as a Scout and a Christian.


Many of you here today have seen young boys in this church grow up to be young men. You have seen them begin their scouting lives as well as their Christian Lives. Seated among our membership are many of them who have completed their scouting career and today are the young leaders of this church. The way they have conducted themselves, is an example that we as today's Boy Scouts would like to follow.

Finally, I would like to say to you parents and friends that we need your help. It is nice to turn a boy over to the Scout Leaders and say "there he is, now you make a Scout out of him". But it doesn't work that way. The Scouts need help at home and help by the community to complete the job that must be done. Together it is done in a way that turns out a good citizen for our community.

Wouldn't it be nice to have our community in the future to be made up of fathers who followed the Scout Oath, Scout Laws and the Laws of God. It would be a beautiful place to live.


We have much to be thankful for in this country. Even with all of our problems we still have the freedom to be Boy Scouts and to worship our God without interference.




!!Thank God, I am an American!!

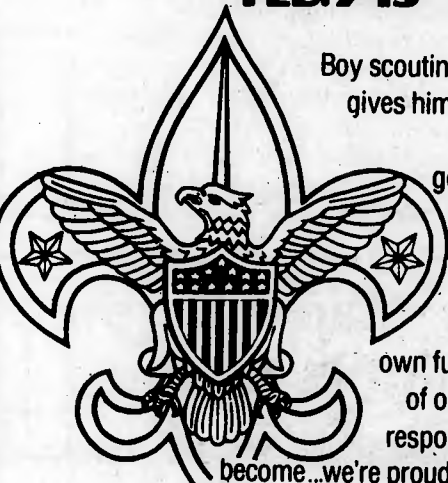


SCOUTING'S 72nd ANNIVERSARY


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