

## **Prayers**

### **A SCOUTER'S THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

With reverence in our hearts,  
We, Your many children of many beliefs,  
United in common purpose,  
Gather to offer this our humble prayer,  
In Thanksgiving:

As Scouters we are thankful for:

The many gifts and talents given to our fellow Scouters, and to ourselves;  
The freedom we have to join together and as a team accomplish more than any of us could alone;  
The opportunity to be of service to young people, parents, other Scouters and our community;  
Our joy at seeing so many young people become excited as they grow and are able to meet challenges;  
Being reminded by their ceremonies and legends that he who serves his fellows, is of his fellows greatest;  
And most importantly we are thankful for the gift of knowing that our prayers are heard.

We each in own way take this moment to silently add our own thanksgivings . . . (pause)

With thanks in our hearts we offer our prayers and ask that You, the Great Scoutmaster of All Scouts, be with each of us until we meet again. AMEN

By Michael F. Bowman

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### **A SCOUT'S PRAYER**

We have hiked along life's pathway,  
Our packs upon our backs,  
We have pitched our tents and rested  
Here and there along the tracks.

We have used our compass wisely  
To guide us on our way  
And hope to reach the campsite  
Of our Great Chief Scout some day.

We have tried to be trustworthy -  
Kept our honor high and clean,  
We have been as loyal as any  
To our Country and our Queen.

We have done our best at all times -  
Kept our Promise - been prepared,  
And hope our good deeds please Him  
When at last our souls are bared.

We have lightened others' burdens,  
With our smiles along the way,  
We have kept our hand in God's hand,  
Walked beside Him day by day.

And when our span of life runs out,  
We'll make this gentle plea -  
May we sit around His Campfire  
At the Final Jamboree.

From Scouting in New South Wales. Contributed by: Michael F. Bowman

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## **A SCOUT'S PRAYER II**

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help to keep my honor bright  
And teach me that integrity of character  
Is my most priceless possession.

Grant that I may do my best today,  
And strive to do even better tomorrow.

Teach me that duty is a friend and not an enemy,  
And help me face even the most disagreeable task cheerfully.

Give me the faith to understand my purpose and life,  
Open my mind to the truth and fill my heart with love.

I am thankful for all the blessings you have bestowed upon my country.  
Help me to do my duty to my country and  
To know that a good nation must be made from good men.

Help me to remember my obligation to obey the Scout Law,  
And give me understanding, so that it is more than mere words.  
May I never tire of the joy of helping other people or  
Look the Other way when someone is in need.

You have given me the gift of a body,  
Make me wise enough to keep it health,  
That I might serve better.

You are the source of all wisdom,  
Help me to have an alert mind,  
Teach me to think,  
And help me to learn discipline.

In all that I do and in every challenge I face,  
Help me to know the difference between right and wrong,  
And lead me in obedience on a straight path to a worthy goal.

By Michael F. Bowman

### **SCOUTER'S PRAYER**

Dear Lord, from your judgement seat on high,  
Look down on a Scouter such as I.  
Search me through and find me whole,  
Then help me Lord to reach my goal.

Help me Lord 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 Lord, both well and strong  
To help our growing boys along.

Control my thoughts, keep them right,  
sound, clean weapons for life's fight.

Protect my morals, keep them high,  
Grant this to a Scouter such as I.

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## **SCOUTER'S PRAYER II**

"Build me a Scout, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory... Build me a Scout whose wishes will not take the place of deeds; a Scout who himself is the foundation stone of knowledge...

Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail...

Build me a Scout whose heart will be clear, whose goals will be high. A Scout who will master himself before he seeks to master others, one who will march into the future, yet never forget the past...

And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of true wisdom, and the meekness of true strength...

Then I, a Scouter who knew him, will dare to whisper, "I have not lived in vain."

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## **Oh, Great Spirit**

Prayer composed by Chief Yellow Lark, a Blackfoot Indian--

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me. I come before you, one of your many children. I am weak and small. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset; my ears sharp so I may hear your voice. Make me wise, so I may learn the things you have taught my people, the lessons you have hidden under every rock and leaf. I seek strength, not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy--myself.

Make me ever ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so  
whenever life fades, like the fading sunset, my spirit will come to you  
without shame.

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### **Native American Prayer**

Morning star wake us, filled with joy  
To new days of growing to man from boy.

Sun, with your power, give us light  
That we can tell wrong and do what's right.

South wind, we ask, in your gentle way  
Blow us the willingness to obey.

North wind, we ask, live up to thy name,  
Send us the strength to always be game.

East wind, we ask, with your breath so snappy,  
Fill us with knowledge of how to be happy.

West wind, we ask, blow all that is fair  
To us, that we may always be square.

Moon, that fills the night with red light,  
guard us well while we sleep in the night.

Akela, please guide us in every way,  
We'll follow your trail in work or play.

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### **A Prayer by Chief Yellow Lark, of the Sioux Tribe**

O' great spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear  
me! I am small and weak, I need your strength and wisdom.  
Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.  
Make my hands respect the things you have made, and my ears sharp to hear your voice.  
Make me wise so that I may know the things you have taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.  
I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy – myself.  
Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.  
So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

### **Simple Blessing**

May you walk in Peace,  
Live with Love,  
work with Joy,  
and May Your God go with you.

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### **Solemn Prayer**

O Lord, this solemn prayer comes from deep desire,  
May my life be as pure as candle fire.  
Let my every breath dispel the world's gloom,  
Let my spirit glow so brightly that darkness meets its doom.

May my life enhance my country's glory  
As the flower enhances the garden's splendid revelry.  
May I be as faithfully drawn to learning  
As the moth is drawn to the candle's burning.

May my life be devoted to serving the needy  
And to loving a sorrowful, ever suffering humanity.  
Lead me away from the path of temptation.  
O Lord, let truth alone be my destination.