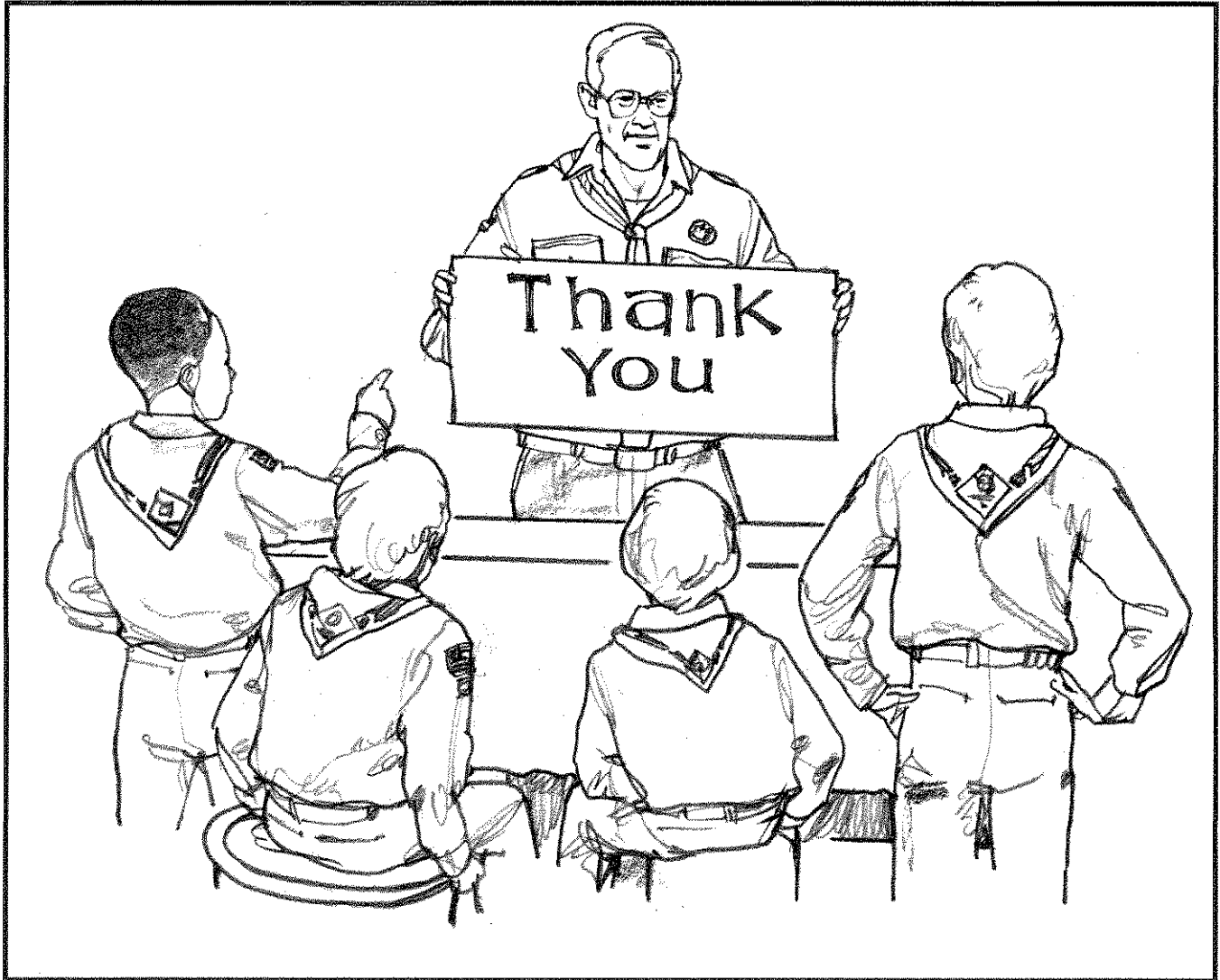


CHAPTER 6

Pack Meeting Closing Ceremonies



A Valuable Opportunity, 6-2

Ceremonies

Short Closing Thoughts, 6-2

America's Answer, 6-2

Apple Seeds, 6-3

Bird Nest, 6-3

Bird Watchers, 6-3

Blue and Gold, 6-3

Compass, 6-3

Compass Prayer, 6-3

Create or Destroy, 6-4

Cub Scout Vespers, 6-4

Do Your Best, 6-4

Dominoes, 6-4

Good News, 6-4

Halloween, 6-4

I Am Your Flag, 6-4
I Made a Promise, 6-4
I Will Use My Senses, 6-5
Light Switch, 6-5
Making a Difference, 6-5
Nature Visitors, 6-5
One Candle, 6-5
Our Flag, 6-5
Parents, 6-6
Pocketknife, 6-6
Ripple Effect, 6-6
Scout Benediction, 6-6
Scouting History, 6-6
The Sky Is the Limit, 6-6

Smile, 6-6
Sportsmanship, 6-6
Stars, 6-6
Stick to It Stamp, 6-7
Sticks, 6-7
"Taps" With Cub Scout Promise, 6-7
"Taps" With Hand Motions, 6-7
Ten Needs of a Boy, 6-7
Thank You, 6-7
Tires Can Take It, 6-7
Trees, 6-8
Value of a Badge, 6-8
World Globe, 6-8
Yardstick, 6-8

A Valuable Opportunity

The closing moments of each pack meeting are ideal opportunities to present a brief character lesson. Follow these tips for making your closing thoughts more effective:

- Your meeting should be structured so that the boys are quieter than they were in the beginning and middle of their meeting, and they are in a quiet and reflective mood.
- Use simple props and lighting to enhance your thought.
- Remember that this is a closing thought, not a full-length sermon. Keep it simple!
- Vary the thoughts you use from meeting to meeting. Don't overuse one particular theme.
- Vary the length. Use one of the brief sentences or poems and let it stand on its own, without additional comments.
- Invite leaders, adults, or den chiefs to choose and present a closing thought. It will give the boys an opportunity to see other perspectives as well as reinforce the ideas you have been developing.

Short Closing Thoughts

Keep your eyes and ears open for ideas in everything you read and hear. Remember to give credit to your source when you share someone else's words.

- Remember that it takes both sunshine and rain to make a rainbow.
- The land belongs to many people. Some are alive today, some are dead, but most are yet to be born.

- I am only one person, so I can't change everything in this world. But I am one person, and I can change some things.
- It is far easier to bend a boy than to mend a man. (Baden-Powell)
- Famous people have taken the oath of office for president of the United States and have pledged: "I will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States of America." We, as Scouts and families, can also live up to this oath.
- The real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. (Baden-Powell)
- For every person with a spark of genius, there are a dozen with ignition trouble.
- A boy has two jobs. One is just being a boy. The other is growing up to be a man. (Herbert Hoover)

America's Answer

NARRATOR: America needs citizens who value their heritage. How does a boy come to know and appreciate his heritage as a citizen of the United States of America?

As a Bobcat, he promises to "do my duty to God and my country" and learns to handle and fold the flag. Later, he stands tall as the flag is lowered at camp. He is learning about citizenship. He continues to learn to treasure his American heritage, and he will do all he can to preserve and enrich it. So this young boy comes to manhood. He has grown tall through his Scouting experiences and through the influences of the many men and women who have guided him. He is a Scout. He is America's answer!

Apple Seeds

Materials: An apple and a knife

NARRATOR: If I were to give you a choice, which would you rather have, an apple or the apple seeds? (*Cut the apple and take out a few seeds.*)

I guess most of us would choose the apple. A long time ago, there lived a man who would have taken the apple seeds. For many years, Jon Chapman, also known as Johnny Appleseed, walked across hundreds of miles of our country. Everywhere he went, he planted apple seeds. There is a type of seed that you are planting every day, too. It is the seed of fellowship. Every time you help other people, you are planting this seed. Then the seed that you have planted can grow in them, and they can spread it to others, just like the seeds in the apple.

Bird Nest

Preparation: Show a photo or drawing of a bird's nest.

NARRATOR: This nest might have been a home for baby birds. Those baby birds are much like the boys who are growing up in our pack.

As these baby birds grow, so does a boy. They will be fed and nurtured by their families. They will watch the example of other birds as they fly through the skies around them.

One day, the birds will leave their nest, just as birds have always done and will continue to do. They will have grown into adults and will play an important role in nature.

A boy will do the same as he grows and flies into adulthood. He will become an important member of his community and his country and will be a leading citizen for all to see and admire.

To grow into manhood, a boy must have nourishment for his body and his mind. He must be nurtured by his family and his community along the way, if his ideas and character are to develop.

Our community and our country need this growing youth. Our pack will fly only if we, as families, continue to nourish our youth.

Bird Watchers

Preparation: Have a Tiger Cub or Cub Scout walk on and read the statement for his rank.

Personnel: Tiger Cub, Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos Scout, and boy who is working on his Arrow of Light; narrator

TIGER CUB: I am a Tiger Cub. Like a hummingbird, I search, discover, and share.

BOBCAT: I am a Bobcat. Like a sparrow, I work hard to learn about Cub Scouting.

WOLF: I am a Wolf. Like a swallow, I swoop and learn many new skills.

BEAR: I am a Bear. Like a robin, I have colors on my chest to show my accomplishments.

WEBELOS: I am a Webelos Scout. I learn much along the Scouting trail that makes me strong and independent like the hawk.

ARROW OF LIGHT: I am earning the Arrow of Light, which is the highest award in Cub Scouting. As the eagle is a proud bird, I am also proud of my accomplishments.

NARRATOR: Just as we watch the many birds that are around us, we also watch our Scouts grow as they walk the Scouting trail.

Blue and Gold

NARRATOR: Do you know what the blue and gold of Cub Scouting means? Each color has a meaning. Blue stands for truth and spirituality, for steadfast loyalty, and for the sky above. Gold stands for good cheer and happiness, and the warm sunlight. May the meaning behind these two colors shine in your lives as we live the Scouting program.

Compass

Preparation: Hold a compass in your hand as you give this talk.

NARRATOR: How many of you have ever held and used a compass? Are you able to find which way is north? In Scouting, we have another type of compass. It's called the Cub Scout Promise. It is an excellent guide for making decisions in life. Whenever you are wondering what to do, say the Cub Scout Promise. It will not always give you an easy answer. Sometimes you'll have to really think it through to make your decision. But chances are, it will help you know the right thing to do.

Compass Prayer

CUB SCOUT 1: From the south, feel warmth and be secure.

CUB SCOUT 2: From the north, the chills of life come and we learn to adapt.

CUB SCOUT 3: From the east, we see the rising sun and the promise of a new day of life.

CUB SCOUT 4: From the west, we see the setting sun and the peace of night.

CUB SCOUT 5: Look up for hope in all the mysteries of life.

CUB SCOUT 6: Look down for the security and life the earth gives.

CUB SCOUT 7: Look inside yourself to find you in all your splendor.

Create or Destroy

NARRATOR: One of America's greatest conservationists, Aldo Leopold, said, "The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away, but he is no longer the only one to do so. When an ancestor of ours invented the shovel, he became a giver. He could plant a tree. When the ax was invented, he became a taker. He could chop it down."

Each of us possesses the power to create or to destroy. Let us use this power wisely for the good of our country and all humanity.

Cub Scout Vespers

Preparation: Have a den lead "Cub Scout Vespers."

Tune: "O Tannenbaum"
As the night comes to this land,
On my promise I will stand.
I will help the pack to go,
As our pack helps me to grow.
Yes, I will always give goodwill.
I'll follow my Akela still.
And before I stop to rest,
I will do my very best.

Do Your Best

NARRATOR: When we say the Cub Scout Promise, the words "Do my best" are some of the first words we say. Let's stop for a minute and think about them. What does the word "best" mean? (*Let the boys answer.*) That's right—it means to do something better than we have done it before. You are the only person who knows whether you have done your best. Think about the meaning of this promise and decide that you will always "do your best," no matter what you are doing.

Dominoes

Preparation: Hold up a box of dominoes.

NARRATOR: Does everyone know what these are? Right. This is a box of dominoes.

Imagine that each one of them is a Scout. Have you ever lined them up on a table so that they are standing on their ends? They stand up straight and tall, but as they go through life, there will be winds that try to knock them down.

It doesn't take much to make the dominoes start to fall. And yet, it only takes one domino to stop the entire row from collapsing.

Perhaps the Scout relies on the support of a family member, his den leader, Cubmaster, teacher, or another relative to help him stand tall. Or perhaps he uses what he has learned in Scouting to move out of the influence of drugs or a friend who tells him that shoplifting is OK.

Or perhaps all the dominoes band together for strength in numbers so that they can't be knocked down.

Scouting will help you remain standing tall and proud just like these dominoes.

Good News

NARRATOR: You all have inside yourselves... a piece of good news. The good news is that you really don't know:

How great you can be,
How much you can love,
What you can accomplish, or
What your potential is.

How can you top good news like that?

—Anne Frank, from her diary

Halloween

Preparation: Make nine large cards with the letters H, A, L, L, O, W, E, E, and N on them.

NARRATOR: H is for Halloween.

CUB SCOUT 1: A is for awesome.

CUB SCOUT 2: L is for laughs.

CUB SCOUT 3: L is for lighted pumpkins.

CUB SCOUT 4: O is for outrageous.

CUB SCOUT 5: W is for wacky.

CUB SCOUT 6: E is for eerie.

CUB SCOUT 7: E is for exciting.

CUB SCOUT 8: N is for nighttime fun!

ALL: HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

I Am Your Flag

Materials: U.S. flag

CUB SCOUT 1: I am the symbol of freedom.

CUB SCOUT 2: I am faith.

CUB SCOUT 3: I am hope.

CUB SCOUT 4: I am love.

CUB SCOUT 5: I am tolerance.

CUB SCOUT 6: I am justice.

CUB SCOUT 7: I am hope for peace on earth.

CUB SCOUT 8: I am a sign for the future.

CUB SCOUT 1: I am the flag of the United States.

I Made a Promise

CUB SCOUT 1: I made a promise—I said that in whatever I did, I would do the very best I could.

CUB SCOUT 2: I made a promise—to serve my God and my country the best I could.

CUB SCOUT 3: I made a promise—to help other people the best I could.

CUB SCOUT 4: I made a promise—to obey the Law of the Pack the best I could.

CUB SCOUT 5: I have done my best, and I will do my best, because I am the best.

CUB SCOUT 6: I am a Scout.

CUB SCOUT 7: Please stand and join us in reciting the Cub Scout Promise.

I Will Use My Senses

CUB SCOUT 1: This is my country.

CUB SCOUT 2: I will use my eyes to see the beauty of this land.

CUB SCOUT 3: I will use my ears to hear its quietest sounds.

CUB SCOUT 4: I will use my mouth to enjoy the fruits of its harvest.

CUB SCOUT 5: I will use my mind to keep its beauty for future generations.

CUB SCOUT 6: I will use my hands to serve it and care for it.

CUB SCOUT 7: And with my heart, I will honor it.

Light Switch

Preparation: Hold a flashlight or a battery-powered lantern.

NARRATOR: Did you ever stop to think that each one of us is like a light switch? Each one of us gets turned on by different things.

When someone throws your switch, what do they get? Do they get heat, such as anger, arguments, or grumbling? Or do they get light in the form of friendliness, kindness, and understanding?

What you give off depends on what you are plugged into—what you are really like inside as a person. Every day we should try to be a little better than the day before.

When someone throws our switch, we should reflect the very best and brighten up the world around us. (*Turn on lantern or flashlight and shine it on the boys.*)

Making a Difference

NARRATOR: A young boy walking the beach one morning noticed an old man picking up starfish and tossing them back into the sea. He caught up to the man and asked him why he was doing this. The man explained, “The stranded starfish will die when the sun comes up and they dry out.” Then the boy asked, “But the beach goes on and on, and there are zillions of starfish; how can what you do make a difference?” The man looked at

the starfish in his hand and said, “It makes a difference to this one.” And he tossed it safely back into the waves.

Nature Visitors

CUB SCOUT 1: We enjoy being outdoors but always need to remember those who follow us.

CUB SCOUT 2: Try to be a good visitor and leave the plants and creatures for others to enjoy.

CUB SCOUT 3: The only things I took home with me were drawings, photographs, and memories.

CUB SCOUT 4: I walked on pathways to protect the plants and soil.

CUB SCOUT 5: When I see animals, I remember that I am a guest in their home.

CUB SCOUT 6: I always make sure that all campfires are completely out.

CUB SCOUT 7: When we are careful like this, we’ll be able to leave these things for others to enjoy in the years to come.

One Candle

Preparation: Light one candle or turn on a small light.

NARRATOR: Let’s turn out the lights. (*Have someone dim the lights.*)

I want you to think about the darkness. (*Pause and then light the candle or turn on the small light.*) Even this one tiny light makes the room seem more cheerful.

That’s the way it can be with a Scout. He might not be very big, but he can light up his home and make the people around him a little happier if he keeps the Scouting spirit alive. Scouts, to do that, always remember to do your best.

Our Flag

Remember that the Pledge of Allegiance doesn’t always have to happen at the beginning of your pack meeting!

NARRATOR: I have often seen a large flag rippling in the breeze from a flagstaff atop a tall building and marveled at its beauty with its 13 red and white stripes and stars on a field of blue. Have you wondered why these colors were chosen? Red is a symbol of bravery, white is a symbol of purity, and blue is a symbol of love and devotion. Our flag is made from cloth that contains millions of threads and stitches, all bound together—each doing its part. In this same way, our country is made up of millions of individuals, with varied religious beliefs and cultural backgrounds, but all are bound together in a common cause to see that liberty and justice exist in our country. Please stand and join me in pledging our allegiance to our flag.

Parents

CUB SCOUT 1: I would like to ask that families keep these things in mind.

CUB SCOUT 2: Counsel your sons that they may have eyes to behold the red and purple sunsets,

CUB SCOUT 3: and that they may have sharp ears to hear the voice of the Great Spirit.

CUB SCOUT 4: Guide them to have hands that respect the things God has made.

CUB SCOUT 5: Help them be wise and see the lessons hidden in every leaf and rock.

CUB SCOUT 6: Help them seek strength, not to be superior to others, but to help others.

CUB SCOUT 7: Help them to do their best along the Scouting trail.

Pocketknife

Preparation: Hold a pocketknife in your hand.

NARRATOR: I hold in my hand a pocketknife. This is a valuable tool because it can be used for many useful things. It is a dependable tool as long as the blade is kept sharp and free from rust and the working parts are in good condition. But, if it is neglected and becomes dull and rusty, it can be a dangerous tool.

The same thing applies to us. We have a body, and when we keep it in good condition, it will serve us well. If we get plenty of exercise, eat the proper foods, and have healthy habits, we will be able to enjoy the many things we can do. But if we fail to take care of ourselves, we can become rusty and dull like the neglected knife. Do your best to keep fit!

Ripple Effect

Preparation: Hand each person a pebble to drop into the water.

Materials: Tub of water and a pebble for each person

NARRATOR: This tub of water symbolizes the world of nature around us. Each pebble that is dropped into the water has an effect on the waves that were caused by the previous pebble. This is the same thing that happens in nature. We are all connected and need to remember that what we do has an impact on everything around us. As you leave, please silently drop your pebble into the water.

Scout Benediction

NARRATOR: Please stand. *(Pause.)* Now may the Great Master of all Scouts be with us until we meet again.

Scouting History

NARRATOR: Robert Baden-Powell, a British hero, started Scouting in England. He developed Scouting as an out-

door program for boys with ideals built in. It was a way of thinking, a way of living, a way of doing things.

Today, Scouting is still a program filled with fun and adventure. Men who earned badges as Scouts have served on the Supreme Court, in the United States House of Representatives, and in the United States Senate. The late President John F. Kennedy was the first president who had been a Boy Scout. Former President Gerald Ford is an Eagle Scout. Many of our astronauts were Scouts. More and more men, trained as Scouts, are taking their places in today's world. Please stand with me and repeat the Cub Scout Promise.

The Sky Is the Limit

NARRATOR: Have you ever heard anyone say the phrase, "The sky is the limit"? This meant that people could make anything of themselves that they wanted. Our astronauts have proved that there is almost no limit to what you can strive to be, either on Earth or in space. How well you perform as a man will depend on how you accept each new challenge as you are growing up. The sky is not the limit. If you want to aim for the stars, you must remember that you are building a launching pad right now in every task you tackle—at home, in school, and in Scouting.

Smile

Preparation: Make and hold up a sign with the word SMILE written on it.

NARRATOR: A smile costs nothing—but creates much. It happens in a flash, but the memory sometimes lasts forever. It cannot be bought, borrowed, or stolen, but it is something that isn't any good until it is given away to someone else. So, if you meet someone who is too weary to smile, give that person one of yours. No one needs a smile quite as much as the person who has none left to give.

Sportsmanship

NARRATOR: We hear a lot of talk about being a good sport, but just what does that mean? A good sport learns the rules so he can follow them. He competes and does his best. If he wins, he doesn't rub it in but makes positive comments to his competitors. If he loses, he accepts that fact and congratulates the winners. A sportsman accepts defeat, studies how to improve, and determines how to improve his "best."

Stars

NARRATOR: Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, once wrote: "I often think that when the sun goes down, the world is hidden by a big blanket from the light of heaven, but the stars are little holes pierced in that blanket by those who have done good deeds in this world. The stars are not all the same size, but some are big and some small. Some men have done small deeds but

they have made their hole in the blanket by doing good before they went to heaven. Try [to] make your hole in the blanket by doing good while you are on earth. It is something to be good, but it is far better to *do* good.”

Think of Baden-Powell’s message when you promise to help other people.

Stick to It Stamp

Preparation: Hold an envelope that has a postage stamp on it.

NARRATOR: The postage stamp you see on this envelope had the important job of making sure that this piece of mail was delivered to me. The stamp is pretty small, but despite its size, it did the job. Each of you has a job to do in your den and your families. Like the postage stamp, it’s not your size that determines how well you do the job, but how well you stick to it. We aren’t good at all things. Remember the stamp. It did the job despite its size by sticking to the job. Do your best and stick to it until your job is done.

Sticks

Preparation: Have a single stick and then a group of about eight sticks or matchsticks.

NARRATOR: I’m holding in my hand a stick. It’s easy enough to break by itself, isn’t it? (*Demonstrate.*) However, if you take a group of eight sticks, they’re almost impossible to break. (*Demonstrate again.*)

This is true also for us. The single stick is each of you. The group of eight is your den. Can you imagine how strong we are when there is a stick for each adult and boy in our pack?

“Taps” With Cub Scout Promise

Form the pack in a large circle, with families behind the boys. Have all hum “Taps” quietly while one Cub Scout slowly recites the Cub Scout Promise.

“Taps” With Hand Motions

Preparation: Have one den practice this so they can demonstrate. Have the pack join in the second time.

Day is done. (*Hands out to sides, palms up*)
Gone the sun, (*Turn palms down*)
From the lakes, (*Hands in front at waist height, palms down*)
From the hills, (*Hands in front at shoulder height, palms down*)
From the sky. (*Hands high above head*)
All is well, (*Right hand to left shoulder*)
Safely rest, (*Left hand to right shoulder*)
God is nigh. (*Bow head after singing*)

Ten Needs of a Boy

CUB SCOUT 1: Every boy has 10 needs:

CUB SCOUT 2: To climb a mountain and look afar,

CUB SCOUT 3: To sit around a campfire with good friends,

CUB SCOUT 4: To test his strength and his skills on his very own,

CUB SCOUT 5: To be alone with his thoughts and his God,

CUB SCOUT 6: To be ready to reach out and find the hand of an understanding adult who is ready and willing to help,

CUB SCOUT 7: To have a code to live by that is easily understood and fair; a chance to play hard just for the fun of it and to work hard for the thrill of it,

CUB SCOUT 8: To have a chance to fail...and know why,

CUB SCOUT 1: To have and be a good friend and have a chance to prove both,

CUB SCOUT 2: To have a hero...and a vision to measure him by.

Thank You

Preparation: Hold up a sign with the words THANK YOU written on it.

NARRATOR: The words “thank you” are two simple but very important words. They tell people that you appreciate what they have done. We do good things for others, but do we remember to take the time to thank others who have done something for us? Remember to say, “Thank you.”

Tires Can Take It

Preparation: Hold up a newspaper advertisement for tires.

NARRATOR: Tire manufacturers are always working to make a better tire for our cars—one that can take the pounding and abuse that driving demands. In other words, they are trying to make a tire that can take it.

Like a tire, you and I are put to the test every day. When things are going smoothly, it is easy to smile and take it. The real test is how we do when the going gets rough—when things don’t turn out the way we want them to. At times like these, the Cub Scout Promise can help you carry on with the right attitude and do your share without grumbling. It will help you meet the test. Can you take it?

Trees

CUB SCOUT 1: Have you ever thought about how helpful a tree is?

CUB SCOUT 2: It provides a nesting place for birds, shade from the sun, and protection from the rain.

CUB SCOUT 3: It discards its dead branches, providing firewood for our warmth and fuel for cooking food.

CUB SCOUT 4: It adds beauty to our world.

CUB SCOUT 5: It adds oxygen to our air.

CUB SCOUT 6: A tree gives a lot more than it receives.

CUB SCOUT 7: We can learn a lesson from the tree—by doing our best to always be helpful to others and by putting others first and ourselves last.

CUB SCOUT 8: Remember to give to others more than you receive.

Value of a Badge

Preparation: Hold a Wolf badge in your hand.

NARRATOR: A badge in Scouting is a piece of embroidered cloth. If you were trying to sell that badge, it wouldn't sell for very much money. The real value of the badge is in what it represents: the things you learned to earn it...how to keep healthy, how to be a good citizen, good safety practices, conservation, and many new skills. So when you wear your badge, think of its real value—it represents what you have learned.

World Globe

Preparation: Hold a world globe in your hand and spin it.

NARRATOR: Did you know that all over the world, Scouts just like us are taking part in Scouting activities too? It's true. The Scouting movement exists in more than 100 countries in almost every nation of the world. Their Scouts are very much like us. They have the same ideals and the same brotherhood of service to others. Let's think of all those other Scouts as we say the Cub Scout Promise.

Yardstick

Preparation: Hold a yardstick that has been scored at 10½ inches, 9 inches, and 6 inches.

NARRATOR: This yardstick represents the entire life of your boy. If the average person lives about 72 years, then every half inch on this represents one year. After the age of 21, we really can't influence how people think, or what they do or what they believe. (*Break the yardstick at 10½ inches.*) All we have left is 21 years—this 10½ inches.

Of course, at the age of 18, people are pretty much on their own. They can vote, own property, be married, or defend their country (*Break the scored piece at 9 inches.*) This leaves us 18 years—or this 9 inches—to influence our boys.

But the boys in our pack are at least 6 years old, so this part is already used. (*Break the scored piece at 6 inches.*) We can't get this time back. That leaves us 6 inches or 12 years to make the difference of a lifetime.