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Scout Law/Theme: Reverent/Passport to other lands

Discussion Topic: Duty to God

Webelos Topic: Duty to God and You

Arrow of Light Topic: Duty to God in Action

Elective: Looking Back, Looking Forward

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Duty to God / Duty to God and You / Duty to God in Action

By Ben Oliphant

Scouting and Duty to God is on page 10 of the Webelos Handbook. This page is for boys and parents to learn about Scouting's commitment to Faith in God and how each boy can earn their Scouting Religious Emblem. At the bottom of the page are 2 very helpful websites, but let's list them here just in case:

www.praypub.org

www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf512-879_wb.pdf

Scouting.org is a downloadable PDF. It has information on Duty to God, everything from African Methodist, Episcopal Church, to the Zoroastrian. If your sponsoring organization is faith based, you can just ask your religious leaders for the materials and also coordinate plans with them to help your boys earn their religious emblems and complete the duty to God adventures.

At Praypub.org you can search for links by religion, just put your faith in the box and hit go! And it just takes you there! (chuckle, chuckle) It's pretty slick. These links give you scouting documents related to religion.

Webelos Adventure Duty to God and You starts on page 50 of the Webelos Handbook. The requirements have been changed.

Duty to God in Action starts on page 168 and those requirements have also been changed.

All the program updates can be found at www.scouting.org/programupdates

You and your scouts may be able to get involved with and interfaith service. You may be able to have the Boy Scouts involved also. It would be a good way to pass off some the requirements.

The Cub scouts are not required to a religious emblem, but they do have to complete the adventures for their rank advancement. Not every boy belongs to a religious group. however, it is on the BSA application that they are a faith based group and there needs to be some kind of belief God. Therefore, you as a Webelos leader should feel confident that you can talk about God in your meetings.

You might be wondering if a boy needs to belong to a religious group to earn that religions emblem; It depends on the religious group. Some do and some don't.

Good Luck, this is an important topic for Scouting.

Steps to building a time capsule

Simple: Mason jar, or cardboard tube

A mason jar will protect against water and air, if sealed tight. The downside is: it will not protect against light damage. It's simple however, and could be re-opened in a few years.

Alternately, repurpose a paper towel tube with some tape, or consider using a mailing tube.

Advanced: PVC tube and end caps

It will take more time, and perhaps cost more, but it's a time capsule. So, it should last. Select a diameter of a few inches, to include larger items; otherwise, it might resemble an object that would catch the attention of the ATF. Just saying.

Seal the ends and insert a desiccant. You'll get an airtight seal, and it will be protected against fading and moisture damage.

Guidelines:

1. Rigid body
2. Some type of seal
3. A desiccant or drying agent, aka silica gel (use Amazon)
4. Acid free paper
5. Make sure it can be opened without destroying the contents

Make plans to open it up as the scout earns his arrow of light, eagle scout, or other important event such as a graduation from high school. It doesn't have to sit for too long. Prepare in advance some questions to ask or subjects for the boys to write about.

It will be interesting to see how their perspective changes over time. Even more interesting, is to see what may not differ over time.

Preparing a Scrapbook or Timeline

Remember, we want to see how actions in the past will influence the future. What we don't want to do spend lots of time preparing a boring history lesson, that no scout will likely recall; other than it being dull.

Why do it all? Challenge the boys to gather items that interest *them*. What were uniforms like? Have badges changed? What activities did scouts do? Why did they whistle oft?

Ask around. Find some old badges or books. What was most memorable about your scouting?

How this goes together is up to you and your boys. You can do it electronically, or old school (paper and tape). As much as possible, I try to include something that can be handled and touched. It holds their interest, and keeps them out from under a chair... usually.