

CLOSING - WORLD TAKE MY SON BY THE HAND

World, my son is growing up. He is starting on great adventures that will include wars, tragedy and sorrow.

To live his life in the world he has to live in, will require faith and love and courage.

So, world, I wish you would sort of take him by his young hand and teach him the things he will have to know.

Teach him..... but gently, if you can.

He will have to learn, I know, that all men are not true.

Teach him that for every scoundrel, there is a hero, that for every crooked politician, there is a dedicated leader. Teach him that for every enemy, there is a friend.

Let him learn early that the bullies are the easiest people to lick.
Teach him the wonders of books. Give him quiet time to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky, bees in the sun, and flowers on a green hill.

Teach him that it is far more honorable to fail than to cheat. Teach him to have faith in his own ideas, even if every one else tells him they are wrong.

Try to give my son the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone else is getting on the bandwagon. Teach him to listen to all men - but to filter all he hears on a screen of truth and to take only the good that comes through.

Teach him to sell his brawn and brains to the highest bidders, but never to put a price tag on his heart and soul.

Teach him to close his ears on a howling mob - and to stand and fight if he thinks he is right.

Teach him gently, world, but don't coddle him because only the test of fire makes fine steel.

This is a big order, world, but see what you can do. He's such a nice little fellow....

CLOSING - A TALK ABOUT OUR FLAG

I have often stopped to look at our Flag rippling in the breeze from a flag staff atop a tall building and marveled at it's beauty, with it's 13 stripes of Red and it's Stars of a field of Blue.

I often wondered why these colors were chosen, and I find that Red is a symbol of Bravery, White is a symbol of Purity, and Blue is a symbol of Love and Devotion.

The Cloth of which our Flag is made is made up of millions of threads and stitched, and all bound together and each doing it's part, it makes the background for our Flag.

In the same way our Country is made up of millions of individuals, with different Religious beliefs, different colors and creeds, but all bound together in the common cause to see that Liberty and Justice prevails in this Country of ours.

When looking at our flag, I can understand how proud of it Francis Scott Key was when he wrote our National Anthem. He had gone over to a British battle ship anchored in Baltimore Harbor to intercede for the release of a friend of his held captive by the British. When he walked into the British Captain's cabin he overheard the plans the British were making to assault Fort McHenry that night. The British Captain agreed to release Key's friend on the condition that Francis Scott Key remain overnight aboard the ship so that he could not tip off the plans for the assault.

As darkness was closing in, Francis Scott Key was on the deck of the ship and the last thing he saw was Old Glory proudly floating above Fort McHenry. During the night the British made a terrific assault on Fort McHenry and Francis Scott Key had his doubts as to whether the Fort could stand during the night. As dawn was breaking, Francis Scott Key walked out onto the deck of the ship and the first thing that met his gaze was Old Glory still proudly floating above the Fort, and the words of our National Anthem, The Star Spangled Banner, came to him at this time.

Oh say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming.

I think we should be as proud of our Flag as was Francis Scott Key, and that we should re-pledge our Allegiance to our Flag.

(Have all stand and give Pledge of Allegiance.)

CLOSING - TAPS

Have den form a living circle and sing "Taps"

Day is done,
Gone the sun,
From the lake,
From the hills,
From the sky;
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.

Fading light,
Dims the sight,
And a star,
Gems the sky,
Gleaming bright;
From afar, drawing nigh,
Falls the night.

CLOSING - THANK YOU MOM!

Remember the day your son came home, a smile was on his face. He couldn't hold still and talked so fast, it seemed he was at a race. "Guess what mom, in school today, the Cubmaster gave a show." "He wants everyone to join tomorrow." "Can I go mom, please can I go?" Remember how uncertain you were with your son's best interest at heart. Just two bucks and a form you signed gave him that scouting start. Then on the way home, you hummed scouting songs wondering what was ahead, "I'll have to get a shirt and tie and learn the promise," the young boy said. Remember then, how once a week you'd put that scouting shirt on display. You'd tuck it in, fix his tie, and tell him to have a good day. And when he got home you'd hear him say, "Mom, I ripped my shirt." Sometimes it wasn't torn too bad, but was it full of dirt. Remember that first Pack Meeting, you went with him to receive his badge. He stood there straight and very proud, and as parents you took a pledge. To help him along the Scouting Trail, and quickly you found out how, "My Bobcat badge has got to be sewn on, mom, couldn't you please do it now." Remember the derby cars he built anxiously awaiting the day, He came home without a trophy that night, but you knew just what to say, And at the Blue & Gold Banquet when his den did a skit, their uniforms all looked great. The front of your son's reminded you that earlier he dropped is plate. Remember when he earned his Wolf badge, all twelve requirements complete. He said to you. "Mom, could you sew it on and try and make it neat." "And on the other pocket mom, could you sew on my Cub Day Patch?" "It has got to be done by the next Den Meeting so everyone's will match." Remember the family picnic, when as a team you raced, And only a mother would notice, her son had a dirty face. But that was your son and proud you were when he was awarded the winner. Just think it wasn't long ago in scouting he was a beginner. Remember when he earned his Bear badge, he's getting older now it seems. "It goes right next to the Wolf badge mom, my uniform needs to be cleaned." And then came the arrow points, both gold and silver he received. "Mom you sewed them on upside down." "Could you turn them over, please?" Remember how very happy you were when he joined the Webelos Den? No more arrow points to sew on, finally you've reached an end. And when he got home from his first den meeting, there was a smile on his face. "Mom, my Den 2 patch has got to come off." "This gives the Webelos colors a place." Remember the overnight campout, how carefully everything was packed. And when he got home, he said to you, "Mom, I didn't bring everything back." "I left the kitchen knife behind and the flashlight you bought me too." "But I really had a good time though mom, look I've got both my shoes." Remember when he earned his Webelos badge, how neat his uniform looked. The Cubmaster said, "A round of applause, this boy has been studying his book." You knew well where this badge went, its place was easy to tell. His uniform was now complete, or was it? It's amazing how it fits him so well. Remember how very proud you were when he earned his Arrow of Light? "Mom," he said as he accepted that badge, "I'd like to thank you aloud." "Not only for all the patches you've sewn, but because you're always around." "And mom," he said as he held that badge high, "Boy Scouts meet Tuesday night," "Could you sew this on my new uniform, please?" "Thanks mom, you're all right!"

Written by: Alan M. Spencer - Lake Huron Area Council.

CLOSING - THE U.S.A.

This poem might be read by the Cubmaster as the closing for a program or banquet, in which there have been characterizations of various famous Americans.

THE U.S.A.

So we march into the present
And it's always rather pleasant
To speculate on what the years ahead of us will see,
For our words and thoughts and attitudes,
All our novelties and platitudes,
Will be Rather Ancient History in the 21st century

Will they find us wise - or silly?
Looking backwards, willy-nilly,
At our queer old-fashioned costumes and our quaint old-fashioned ways?
When our doings face the ages,
Printed down on textbook pages,
Will they cry, "That savage Era"? Will they sigh "Those were the days!"?

I don't know - you may be wiser.
Time's a curious capsizer
Of a lot of reputations that seemed certain to endure,
While he'll sometimes make his heroes
Out of people, once thought zeros,
For the most well-grounded reasons, by the solemnly cocksure.

So instead of prophesying
(Which is fun, but rather trying)
Who they'll pick to be our great ones when the books are on the shelves,
Here's the marching panorama
Of our past and present drama
- And we shan't know all the answers till we're history, ourselves.
- Rosemay & Stephen Vincent Benet

CLOSING - THE PENETRATING LIGHT

PERSONNEL: Cub Scouts, Den Leader

EQUIPMENT: A Cub Scout badge, a Wolf book, and a candle on a table

ARRANGEMENT: Cubs stand in front of table

Den Leader: These three things have been significant in Cub Scouting since it began in 1930. this badge is a symbol of Cub Scouting all over America. There are many books that are important to Cub Scouts. the Wolf, Bear and Webelos handbooks help us learn new skills.

The candle is a symbol of light that scouting brings to everyone. It penetrates the darkness of hate, prejudice, and distrust. It is a light which must be kept burning in the heart of every Scout, now, and as he grows into manhood.

CLOSING - THIS IS CUB SCOUTING

PERSONNEL: Six Cub Scouts parents, Cubmaster

EQUIPMENT: Candle holder made from cedar post or other wood, three blue and yellow candles, table.

ARRANGEMENT: Lights out, Cubmaster with six candles, three blue and three yellow, on a table. The six parents each light a candle and give their part of the ceremony.

PARENT 1: Some people think Cub Scouting is only for boys, but it isn't. Cub Scouting is for the family.

PARENT 2: Mothers and dads, as they work in Cub Scouting with their boys, are able to maintain their natural relationship with them, yet they come to see their boy's play and leisure in a new light. The Cub Scout advancement program ensures a closer boy-parent relationship.

PARENT 3: Cub Scouts are considerate of others. They promise "to help other people" and to do their best. When parents sign their boy's membership application, which is also a family contract, they take as their motto, "We will help our son do his best."

PARENT 4: Cub Scouting is the basic part of the three-phased Scout program for boys and girls of high school age. Each part is packed with challenges most appropriate to the age involved and leads to the next phase. Thus, when our Cub Scouts join the Webelos den and earn the Arrow of Light award they are prepared to enter Scouting with their joining requirements.

PARENT 5: Cub Scouting in all its phases operates to strengthen the home - not to weaken it. You and your family will strengthen your home only by living, playing, and growing in it together.

PARENT 6: Your boy has only a few more years of boyhood left before he looks away from home for his principal interests. What you do together today is important. Tomorrow may be too late.

CUBMASTER: Will all parents pledge their support to Cub Scouting? Now join with the Cub Scouts in the Cub Scout sign and repeat the Cub Scout promise with me. "I (name), promise to do my best...."

CLOSING - THIS MOMENT

I may never see tomorrow; there's no written guarantee,
And things that happened yesterday belong to history.
I cannot predict the future, and I cannot change the past, I have just the present moment; I must
treat it as my last.
I must use this moment wisely for it soon will pass away,
And be lost to me forever as a part of yesterday.
I must exercise compassions, help the fallen to their feet, Be a friend unto the friendless, make an
empty life complete.
I must make this moment precious for it will not come again, And I can never be content with
things that might have been. Kind word I fail to say this day may never be unsaid,
For I know not how short may be the path that lies ahead.

The unkind things I do today may never be undone,
And friendships that I fail to win may nevermore be won.
I may not have another chance on bended knee to pray,
And thank my God with humble heart for giving me this day.
I may never see tomorrow, but this moment is my own.
It's mine to use or cast aside; the choice is mine, alone. I have just this precious moment in the
sunlight of today, Where the dawning of tomorrow meets the dusk of yesterday.

CLOSING - PIRATES TILL NEXT WE MEET

ARRANGEMENT: 8 boys dressed in pirate costumes speak the line below.

PIRATE #1: Captain Woods Rogers' the name. I'm the scourge of the Spanish Main.

PIRATE #2: When they speak of Sir Francis Drake, the good people quiver and quake.

PIRATE #3: Sir Henry Morgan, I be, I'm the terror of every sea.

PIRATE #4: They call me "Peter the Great". Sails with me...

PIRATE #5: The scurviest bunch, they all know; sails with me... I'm Edward Low.

PIRATE #6: I'm Captain Bartholomew Sharp. My victims all play the harp.

PIRATE #7: When the Jolly Roger they spy; All know that Blackbeard is nigh.

PIRATE #8: Tis said Captain Kidd's crew is mee-an, the worst in the whole Caribbean.

ALL: Yo ho, ho, ho. Till next we meet.

CLOSING - TOM-TOM BENEDICTION

Form group into a large circle and do the friendship dance, everyone faces in and holds arms around neighbor's shoulders or waist while doing a slow side step dance to a one, two beat of the tom-tom. Close by repeating this benediction. "May the Good Spirit be with you till we meet again."

CLOSING - TRAVEL BY TRAIN, CANOE, WAGON, AND PLANE

ARRANGEMENT: This can be a closing ceremony performed by Cub Scouts holding large cardboard cutouts as they read their lines off the back of the cutouts. Or, large posters with the lines printed on them can be displayed around the room instead of the closing ceremony.

CUB 1: (Holding train engine)

When engineering a project, keep on the right track. This way you never will be caught slack.

CUB 2: (Holding canoe)

As the wise old Indian would say to you, "Learn to paddle your own canoe."

CUB 3: (Holding covered wagon)

The covered wagon served folks well in its day. But don't get in a rut, you won't go far that way.

CUB 4: (Holding plane cutout)

To guide your life, like a good pilot, you'll find It's important to keep an open mind.

CUB 5: (Holding car)

If spinning your wheels causes a terrible rumbling. You may not be moving but just sitting there grumbling.

CUB 6: (Holding a space ship)

Just as an astronaut flies into space. With a lot of determination you can go anyplace.

(Cub Scouts prop cutouts against back wall and join hands in the Living Circle while the Den Chief or Leader reads the following:)

"Just like the cars in a train, we're joined together as one; We do our best to help the Pack go while having Cub Scout fun. And when it's time to part and each take a separate trail, We'll do our best for God and Country and in that we will not fail. We remember our Cub Scout Promise in everything we do. Won't you all please join us as we pledge ourselves anew?"

(Den Chief or Leader leads boys in the Cub Scout Promise.)

CLOSING - THE DAY THE U.S.A. WAS MADE

Once a long time ago, before you were born,
God set out to make a new land, one early morn.
He thought and thought for half a day.
Then said, "I know what I'll do. I'll make the U.S.A."

First He used a glacier as a giant broom
And swept the Midwest till it was clean and smooth.
God leaned on the handle when He was through
And said, "There! I guess that will do for a corn patch or two."

Then He turned the glacier into a spade
And with a few strokes scooped out the Great Lakes.
He dug Niagara Falls for a lovely fountain
And tossed the first West to make the Rocky Mountains.

God started the great Mississippi from a little spring
And sent it flowing down the map clear to New Orleans.
You can float on a barge and watch white heron flying
Or catch twenty-pound catfish just ready for frying.

On each side of the country He set an ocean with beaches of sand
And winds full of salt spray like giant fans.
He put whales and fish along each coast
And notched deep harbors for huge sailing boats.

God looked at His work and said,
"That's grand but I need a border of garden around this land
Where it's never cold, but not too hot.
I want to plant oranges, grapefruits and lots of kumquats."

So He made the South full of fruit, and flowers
And told the sun, "Shine right there four hours and hours"
He made dark Cyprus swamps, mysterious and calm
Hung Spanish moss on the trees and planted coconut palms.

Out West He grew forests and liked them so much
He turned some to stone so they'd never be cut.
Planted dates and grapes and roses for miles
Then added the desert for a giant sandpile.

In the North He sent snowy winters across the map
With skating and sledding and maple syrup to tap
He added hundreds of dairy cows giving milk and cheese

And for juicy pies, planted the cherry and apple trees.

As a finishing touch to His fine new land
God sent wind in the trees for a soft sting band
He looked it over and smiled when He was through
Said, "There! I guess that will do for a million years or two."

CLOSING - USE THIS STRENGTH WISELY

All Cubs and Webelos form a circle. With right sleeve rolled up, have boys place right foot into the circle and raise their right arms to show their muscles.

CUBMASTER: May the Great Master who gives us our bodies and our strength give us the wisdom to use this strength wisely in accordance to His wishes - especially to help those who need our help.

Cubs, do you promise to use your strength wisely and especially to help others?

CUBS: (Shout) We do!

CUBMASTER: Then go forth and use what you have learned wisely.

CLOSING - WHO ELSE...

Have all the Cub Scouts and Webelos line up at the front of the room with a spotlight and the adults reading the following parts from the back of the room.

ASST. CUBMASTER: Boys, are the nicest things that ever happened to me... those arrogant, self-assured, little men-children who assume that all the great big world revolves around them.

DEN LEADER: Who else can carry half a worm, one crushed daisy, a piece of scrap metal, a three-day old apple core, and two cents all in one pocket?

DEN LEADER: Who else can take a bath without getting their shoulders wet, and wash for dinner without turning on the faucet.

DEN LEADER: Who else can believe that right is right and wrong is wrong, and the good guy always wins in the end.

WEBELOS LEADER: Who else can be a fireman, sword fighter, cowboy, deep-sea diver, all in the space of an hour. And then solemnly hold a funeral, complete with cross and box, for a shell off a turtle lost a month ago?

SEC-TREAS: Who else can be a cutter without teeth, meaner without malice, kinder without embarrassment, sillier without foolishness, and clean without neatness?

COMM. CHAIR: The world gains much in leaders and man power when boys grow up...but it loses something too...that magic feeling that comes with being nine! The feel of dust between bare toes and the ability to lie quietly while time stands still, to watch a minnow in a brook.

CUBMASTER: Me...I like Cub Scouts -- the boys! They smile when I need a smile; they tease when I'm somber; they keep me from taking myself too seriously. No, I don't wish that I were nine again. I just hope that somehow God will see to it that I always have someone nine years old in or near my house and heart.

ALL: Cubs are the nicest thing that ever happened to ME!

CLOSING - THOUGHTS FOR YOUR WHOLE LIFE THROUGH

ARRANGEMENT: Cub Scouts hold up cards with slogans as they read their lines.

1st CUB: Do Your Best - in everything you do on life's way.

2nd Cub: Always Be Friendly - to brighten others' day.

3rd CUB: Give Away Your Smiles - for it is rewarding indeed.

4th CUB: Be Prepared - to help others in their daily need.

5th CUB: Be Honest and Sincere - towards others you meet.

6th CUB: Be Loyal and True - a most commendable feat.

7th CUB: Count Your Blessings - being thankful each day, for Life's wonderful opportunities that come your way.

8th CUB: Good night to each and every one of you. May these thoughts stay with you your whole life through.

CLOSING - CHRISTMAS SPELLING

ARRANGEMENT: Nine Cub Scouts come onstage, one by one. Each carrying a large cardboard letter. As he speaks his lines, he holds up his letter, each ultimately spell out the word Christmas.

C - C is for candles, we burn on Christmas night.
To gladden weary travelers with their light so bright.

H - H is for happiest; the happiest time of year;
It's jolly, gay old Christmas tunes with all its mirth & cheer.
R - R is for ring; we ring the Christmas bell.
All the Christmas gladness, the world to tell.

I - I is for the infant who lay in a manger
Little Lord Jesus, a dear little stranger.

S - S is for shepherds who kept their flocks by night;
And heard the angels singing, and saw a wondrous light.

T - T is for tree, all green and gold and red,
We see it Christmas morning when we jump out of bed.

M - M is for the mistletoe we hang at Christmas time;
In merry wreaths, when candles burn and Christmas bells chime.

A - A is for all; to all men we wish cheer,
Joy and gladness, love and hope, for Christmas time is here.

S - S is for the star that shone on Christmas night,
Star and candle, bell and wreath, all make our Christmas bright.

CLOSING - INDIAN PRAYER OH GREAT SPIRIT

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I here 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 to 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.

(This prayer, composed by Chief Yellow Lark, Blackfoot Tribe, may be read as a closing.)