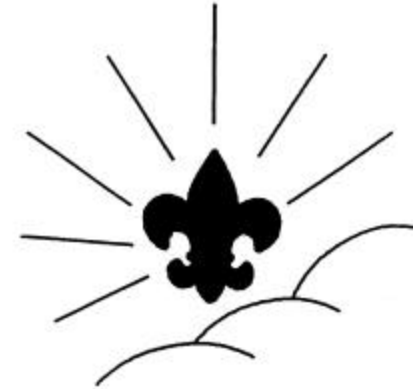


Everyone: Dear Lord, I am grateful for the trail that has been blazed by the pioneering men who have gone ahead of me. Keep me in the straight path, which they have marked out and which will help me reach the heights of noble living. May I be willing to obey the rules that protect others rights and not claim any special privileges for myself. Amen.



Troop 626
Sunday Morning of Travel to El Rancho Cima
July 4, 1999



Obedient

Worship Leader: *“A Scout is Obedient.”*

Everyone: “A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his country. If he thinks these rules are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.”

Worship Leader: *“Life is filled with things that we must do. One of the marks of growing up is our readiness to accept responsibilities willingly.”*

Everyone: “Jesus Christ gave us an example of perfect obedience throughout his life. This can be a hard point of the Scout Law, because it will mean discipline and giving up things that we may want at times. It means following the rules of family, school, and troop. Disobedience brought death and sin to the world; obedience brought our salvation. Real victory comes from obedience first to God, then to all he has placed in authority as long as they deserve our obedience.”

Troop 626, July 4, 1999

Men of Conscience and Principle

Worship Leader: *Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Five were captured and killed by the British. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army. Another two had sons captured.*

Nine of the 56 fought and died from their wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were attorneys and jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means and well educated.

But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in rags.

Vandals and soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge and Middleton.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months. John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot of what happened in the Revolutionary War. Some of us take these liberties for granted...We shouldn't.

So, take a couple of moments on this Fourth of July holiday to silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price that they paid...

Observe a moment of silence

Troop 626, July 4, 1999

My Country 'tis of Thee

**My Country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing.**

Land where our fathers died.

Land of thy pilgrims pride.

From every mountain side,

Let Freedom ring.

Proverbs 3:12

Worship Leader: *"Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to the words of knowledge."*

Everyone: **Dear Father, I thank Thee that I live in an orderly world, where all creatures are expected to obey Thee. Help me to understand that success and happiness come from doing Thy will, and not from doing as I please. Amen.**

Matthew 19:17

Worship Leader: *"If you would enter life, keep the commandments."*

America the Beautiful

Oh Beautiful for spacious skies,

For amber waves of grain,

For purple mountain majesties,

Above the fruited plain.

America, America, God shed his grace on thee,

And crown thy good with brotherhood,

From sea to shining sea.