



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

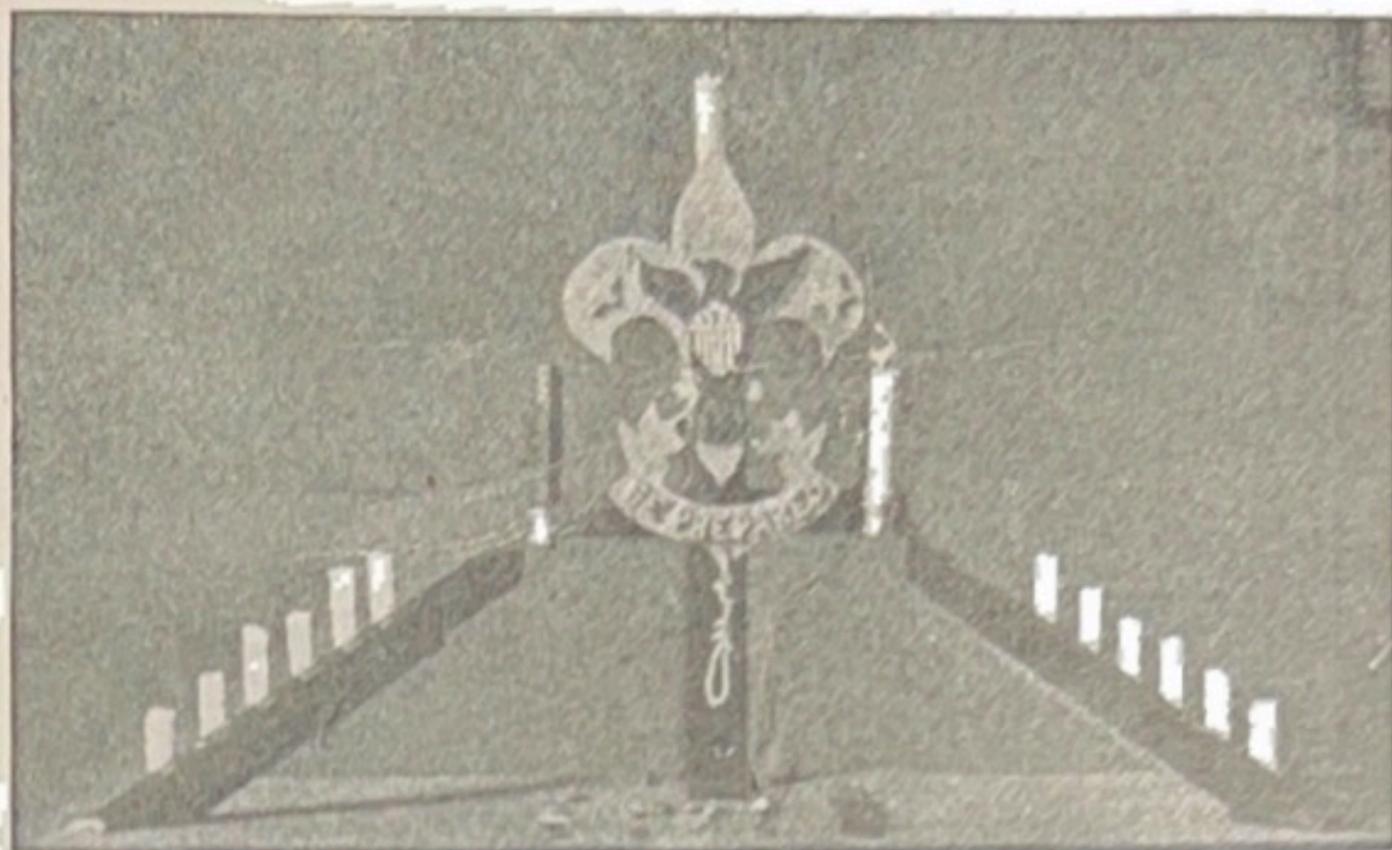
Delaware and Montgomery
Counties

Investiture
Ceremony

LEFAX FILING INDEX

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Headquarters have repeatedly been asked for a form to use in an Investiture Ceremony. Through the kindness of Mr. William L. Fisher, Scoutmaster Troop No. 30, Philadelphia, the following ceremony was compiled.



(Have a three branched candelstick holding three lighted candles on the table, and on either side of it stands six other candles. Arrange in front of the burning candles all the badges that are to be presented. Behind the table stands the Scoutmaster with six scouts on either side of him. The candidates or tenderfoot are brought in, after all lights except the three on the candelstick have been extinguished, and stand before the table.)

The Scoutmaster says, in substance:

You boys have come, seeking admission to the Boy Scouts of America, the greatest organization of boys that has ever been formed; and that to some extent takes the place of the ancient orders of knighthood. You have read how, when a man wished to become a knight, he had to pass certain tests as you have done. Then he had to take an oath that he would be true and loyal to his king and to his order. In the same way we have an oath that you must take. This oath is like the oath that men take in a court of law when they swear to tell the truth, it certainly is not like the oaths that some men swear when they use profanity, but it is a very solemn promise. A promise so big, that no boy must ever dare to make it unless he means to the very best of his ability to keep it all the time. This oath has three parts, and we have represented them by the three lighted candles on the table. The first one represents your promise to do your best to do your duty to the big things in your life, to your God, and to your country, and to the Scout movement, by keeping its laws. The second represents your duty to other people, when you promise to help other people at all times. The third represents your duty to yourself, when you promise to keep yourself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

INVESTITURE. CEREMONY

Besides this oath, the Boy Scouts have a code of laws that they promise to obey. Before you make that promise, it is your right to hear the laws read, and the twelve scouts in the circle will read them for you, listen.

(The full form of the law is repeated, each scout as he finishes his law lighting a candle which he holds from one of the burning candles and placing it in the stand on the table. When all have finished the Scoutmaster proceeds.)

You have now heard the twelve laws of the scout, and we have lighted a candle for each one of them, to remind you that the laws are to be the guiding lights all through your life as a scout. You will remember that the three candles representing the oath were burning before you came in. That means that the oath is the central thing in Scouting. The thing that must never be forgotten.

Now before you take the oath I must ask you three questions.

Is there anything in the oath or the law that you do not understand? *(Answer, No Sir.)*

(If there are several candidates the answer may be given in concert.)

Do you know of any reason why you should not take the oath and become a Boy Scout? *(Answer as before.)*

Have you passed all your tenderfoot tests fairly and on your honor? *(Answer, Yes Sir.)*

Then you will each in turn raise your right hand to the position of the scout sign and repeat the oath, putting your own name into it.

(Then repeat "On my honor, I, John Smith, will do my best, etc.")

(The Scoutmaster then steps to the front of the table as he says,—)

Now that you have taken that oath it becomes my duty and pleasure, to pin on your breast, John Smith, the badge of the tenderfoot scout, to give you the scout handshake, and to declare you a member of the Boy Scouts of America.

(After having said this to each candidate in turn, the Scoutmaster returns to his place and says to the troop,—)

To you, members of Troop — I present these new tenderfoots, bidding you receive them as members of the troop and treat them as brother scouts. And I remind you new scouts, that this is only entering Tenderfoot. There are more tests to pass and honors to win, both for yourselves and for the troop. I bid you be loyal to your oath and to your troop. You will now take your places in the troop formation.

The ceremony must be given with at least one member of the Troop Committee present. The paraphernalia for the conducting of the ceremony can be borrowed from Headquarters, 704 Real Estate Trust Bldg., Phila., Pa., by giving at least two weeks notice.