

## Closing Prayer

Chief Yellow Lark of Seattle

*Oh Great Spirit, whose voice I hear 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 small and weak, I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made, my ears sharp to hear your voice; make me wise, so that I may know the things you have taught my people, the lesson you have hidden in every leaf and rock. 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 when life fades as a fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame. Amen.*

## Sending Forth



# A SCOUT IS REVERENT



# Lessons from American Indians

## Welcome

God has smiled on this gathering and on our activities, and so we come together to celebrate God's blessings and return thanks for all He has done for us.

## Responsive Reading

*[FACE EAST]*

Leader: From the East, the direction of the rising sun, we receive peace and light and wisdom and knowledge.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*[FACE SOUTH]*

Leader: From the South comes warmth, guidance, and the beginning and the end of life.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*[FACE WEST]*

Leader: From the West comes the rain, purifying water, to sustain all living things.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*[FACE NORTH]*

Leader: From the North comes the cold and mighty wind, the white snows, giving us strength and endurance.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*[FACE UPWARD]*

Leader: From the heavens we receive darkness and light, the air of your breath, and messages from your winged creatures.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*[FACE DOWNWARD]*

Leader: From the earth we come and to the earth we will return.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

Prayer: Let us go forward, forward, for the glory of God.

At each day's waking, embrace God.

In each day's working, serve God.

In each day's playing, enjoy God.

At each day's struggling, thank God. Amen.

## Story – Eagle ... or Prairie Chicken?

A Shawnee brave found an eagle's egg and put it into the nest of a prairie chicken. The eaglet hatched with the brood of chicks and grew up with them.

All its life the changeling eagle, thinking it was a prairie chicken, did what the other prairie chickens did. It scratched the dirt for seeds and insects to eat. It clucked and cackled. And it flew in a brief thrashing of wings and flurry of feathers no more than a few feet off the ground. After all, that's how prairie chickens were supposed to fly.

Years passed, and the changeling eagle grew very old. One day it saw a magnificent bird soaring far above the cloudless sky. Hanging with graceful majesty on the powerful wind currents, it soared with scarcely a beat of its strong golden wings.

"What a beautiful bird!" said the changeling eagle to its neighbor. "What is it?"

"That's an eagle – the chief of the birds", the neighbor clucked. "But don't give it a second thought. You could never be like him."

So the changeling eagle never gave it another thought. And it died thinking it was a prairie chicken.



## Message – Are you prepared to fly?

As a leader in your Scout troop, in school, in your religious institution, in your family – are you prepared to soar like an eagle, or will you spend your life clucking like a prairie chicken?