

Scout Skills: The Power of Loyalty

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, learners will explore the second point of the Scout Law: "**A Scout is Loyal.**" We will move beyond just defining the word and look at how loyalty works in real-life situations, using the Scouting method of "learning by doing."

Learning Objectives

- **Define:** Explain what loyalty means in the context of family, friends, and community.
- **Identify:** Recognize the difference between "blind loyalty" and "principled loyalty."
- **Apply:** Demonstrate loyalty through a trust-based physical challenge and a creative "Code of Honor."

Materials Needed

- A blindfold (a Scout neckerchief or a clean scarf works perfectly)
- Paper and colored markers
- A few household "obstacles" (chairs, pillows, or boxes)
- "Loyalty Scenario Cards" (can be hand-written on index cards)

I. The Hook: The "Blind Lead" (10 Minutes)

The Activity: Create a simple obstacle course in the room using pillows or chairs. The student must be blindfolded. The teacher/parent must guide them through the course using *only* verbal instructions.

The Discussion: After the activity, ask the following:

- How did it feel to rely entirely on someone else's voice?
- What would have happened if I had intentionally guided you into a chair?
- **The Connection:** This is the foundation of loyalty. Loyalty is about *trust* and *reliability*. It means people can count on you to have their back, especially when things get "foggy" or difficult.

II. Content: What Does "A Scout is Loyal" Mean? (15 Minutes)

I Do: Modeling the Concept

In Scouting, being loyal means being "true." Explain the three directions of loyalty:

1. **Upward Loyalty:** Being true to your leaders, your country, and your personal beliefs.
2. **Sideways Loyalty:** Being true to your friends, your "patrol" (your team), and your family.
3. **Downward Loyalty:** If you are a leader, being true to the people you are looking after.

Key Talking Point: Loyalty doesn't mean following someone into doing something wrong. If a friend asks you to lie for them, being **loyal to the truth** is more important than being loyal to their mistake. That is

called "Principled Loyalty."

We Do: Sorting Scenarios

Present the following situations and discuss whether they show loyalty:

- *Scenario A:* Your best friend is being teased at lunch. You don't join in, but you don't say anything either. Is this loyal? (Discussion: Loyalty often requires standing up for someone.)
- *Scenario B:* Your sports team is losing every game. You keep showing up to practice and working hard anyway. Is this loyal? (Discussion: Yes, loyalty to the team is about commitment, not just winning.)
- *Scenario C:* A friend tells you a secret that involves them being in danger. You tell a trusted adult. Is this disloyal? (Discussion: No! True loyalty means wanting what is best for the person, which means keeping them safe.)

III. Active Practice: The Loyalty Shield (20 Minutes)

You Do: Creative Application

Scouts often use symbols to represent their values. The student will design a "Loyalty Shield."

1. Divide a piece of paper into four quadrants.
2. **Quadrant 1:** Draw a symbol of someone you are loyal to (e.g., a family crest, a friend's initials).
3. **Quadrant 2:** Write one "Loyalty Rule" (e.g., "I will never speak badly of my friends behind their backs").
4. **Quadrant 3:** Draw a "Loyalty Animal" (e.g., a dog, a wolf pack, or an elephant) and explain why that animal represents the trait.
5. **Quadrant 4:** Write a "Motto" for yourself regarding loyalty.

IV. Conclusion & Recap (5 Minutes)

Summarize: Loyalty is more than just being a friend; it's a commitment to be reliable and true to your values and your "team," even when it's not the easy thing to do.

Check for Understanding: Ask the student:

- "If you had to explain 'Loyalty' to a younger Scout in just one sentence, what would you say?"
- "What is one way you can show loyalty to your family this week?"

Assessment & Success Criteria

Success Criteria: The student is successful if they can:

- Define loyalty as "being true and reliable."
- Correctly identify that "principled loyalty" means choosing the right thing over a bad influence.
- Complete a "Loyalty Shield" with at least one personal rule of conduct.

Formative Assessment: Observation of the "Blind Lead" activity (did they trust the leader?) and participation in the Scenario Sorting discussion.

Adaptability & Differentiation

- **For Advanced Learners:** Research a historical figure known for their loyalty (such as Hachiko the dog or a historical figure like George Washington's Culper Spy Ring) and present a 1-minute summary.
- **For Kinesthetic/Active Focus:** Instead of drawing a shield, build a "Loyalty Fort" or structure using items in the room. Each "brick" must represent a person or value they are loyal to.
- **Group Context:** If doing this with a group/patrol, play "Human Knot." To untangle, they must communicate and stay "loyal" to the group by not letting go of hands.