

Campfire Closings

Provided by Hans Hussman

As darkness creeps into our circle of light,
Embers that glow and sigh
Draw our friendship circle closer,
Whisper memories that will not die;
God's magic danced in our fire's flames,
And fills the gathering night
With mystery and a wondrous peace.
That bids safe sleep 'til morning's light.

The stars shining over us,
Their light shines before us,
Oh God of Nature,
Grant to us a perfect peace

Once you have been a camper,
Something has come to stay
Something has come that nothing
Will ever take away.
We came as strangers, we became friends, we part as brothers.

The day was long; we've worked and played,
And round this fire, we've good friends made;
We've shared a friendship fine and deep,
And now this circle leaves to sleep.

A fire, in it's later life, goes dim.
No longer does it have the fierce brightness of it's youth.
Still, it gives a gentle, steady warmth, just as an elderly man or woman shares the
warmth of understanding and the steadiness of experience.

And, this is a fact of life: all things must die.
The memory of those passed on lives deep and dear in our hearts.
This fire will fade to cold ash, but it's flame will glow in our memory
- Leader, May '91.

Around the fire's glow the silent night
Pressed close and closer to the dying flame,
And in the narrowing circle of it's light
Closer and closer to its heart we came.

Wood and water, wind and tree,
Wisdom, strength and courtesy,
Scouting favour go with thee.

Sparkling Thoughts

You need enough sugar to give everyone in the circle a small handful. After the closing, ask the group to gather around the dying embers. Pass around the jar of sugar and quietly ask people to take some and hold onto it. When everyone is ready, together toss the sugar on the fire. You can compare the flashing sparks and quick flames to happy thoughts or simply enjoy these happy thoughts in silence.

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and hear the gentle breeze,
Then sings my soul, my saviour God to Thee,
How great thou art, how great Thou art.

Where little furred and feathered folk,
In leafy coverts hide,
And where the campfire's dusky smoke,
Blends with the eventide,
I want to breathe that smoke once more,
And live by nature's signs,
And mountain torrents muffled roar,
The silence of the pines.

Whatever you are, be noble.
Whatever you do, do well.
Whenever you speak, speak kindly,
Spread happiness wherever you dwell.

There is a destiny that makes us all brothers
None goes his way alone.
What we put into the lives of others,
Comes back into our own.

We came as strangers,
We became friends,
We part as brothers.

Wood and water, wind and tree,

Wisdom, strength and courtesy,
Jungle favor go with thee.

I sought my soul, but my soul I could not see,
I sought my God, but God eluded me,
I sought my brother -- and found all three.

(After a rainy day)
It ain't no use to grumble and complain,
It's just cheap and easy to rejoice,
When God sorts out the weather and sends rain,
Why? Rain's my choice.

By the blazing council's firelight,
We have met in comradeship tonight,
Round among the whispering trees,
Guard our golden memories,
And so before we close our eyes to sleep,
Let us pledge each other that we'll keep,
Scouting friendships strong and deep,
Till we meet again.

Slowly the flames flicker and fade,
As friends of each this fire has made,
Black ashes now, once were livid coals,
Reminders to us of Scouting's goals.

May the spirit of Scouting rest with you,
May the blessing of God remain with you,
To each of the message true,
Scouting will stand or fall by you.

As logs glow upon the fire,
So may our hearts glow,
And our thoughts be kind,
And peace and deep content,
Fill every mind.

Deep peace of the running stream to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

Did you ever watch the campfire, when the wood has fallen low,
And the ashes start to whiten round the embers crimson glow,
Tell me, were you ever nearer to the land of hearts desire,
Than when you sat there thinking with your face towards the fire.

(to the tune of Taps)

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

Around the fire's glow, the silent night,
Pressed close and closer to the dying flame,
And in the narrowing circle of its light,
Closer and closer to its heart we came.

A fire, in its later life, goes dim. No longer does it have the fierce brightness of its youth. Still, it gives a gentle, steady warmth, just as an elderly man or woman shares the warmth of understanding and the steadiness of experience.

And, this is a fact of life: all things must die. The memory of those passed-on lives deep and dear in our hearts. This fire will fade to cold ash, but its flame will glow in our memory.

- Greybeard

As glow the logs upon the fire,
So may our hearts glow and our thoughts be kind,
And peace and deep contentment,
Fill every mind.

Those trees have served us well,
That have brought warmth and cheer
To our campfire.
May we, like these, bring warmth and cheer,
To the lives of others.

And so, before we close our eyes in sleep,
Let us pledge each other that we'll keep
Scouting friendships, strong and deep,
Till we meet again.

Wood smoke at eventide soothes the soul,

And makes an easy ladder for a prayer.
May the smoke of this fire
Carry your thoughts heavenward,
And make your hearts strong for good Scouting.

Now Chil the kite brings home the night,
That Mang the bat sets free.
The herds are shut in byre and hut,
For loosed till dawn are we.
This is the hour of pride and power,
Talon, tusk and claw.
Oh, hear the call -- Good Hunting all,
That keep the Jungle Law.

Day is dying in the west,
Heaven is touching earth with rest;
Wait and worship while the night
Sets her evening lamps alight,
Thro' all the sky.

To do our best each day
Is our aim in every way;
Be with us good, through the night;
That tomorrow we might
Perform our duties, learn and play,
Grow evere stronger, the Scouting way.

My Friends -
The coals of the council fire burn low,
Our council is nearly ended;
Let the smoke of the dying embers,
Carry our prayers to the Great Spirit;
Our council is ended.

The embers of our campfire
Are now slowly dying,
The birds and wood folk
have gone to thier rest.

The stars shining o'er us,
Their light shines before us;
Oh God of nature,
Grant to us a perfect peace.

37) Let's remember the food we've shared,
The games we've played, the songs we've sung;
Let's remember all of these things.

Let's remember the skit's we've played,
The hikes we've hiked, the problems we've shared;
Let's remember all of these things.

Let's remember the games we've played,
The friends we've made, the fires we've burned;
Let's remember all of these things.

Yes, let's remember all of these things;
I now declare this council fire closed,
Its memories stored forever in our hearts and minds.

May you sleep deep and wake refreshed,
With the sun shining down on you and a happy heart.

Zulu Farewell-

Go well and safely, go well and safely, go well and safely, the Lord be ever with you.
Stay well and safely, stay well and safely, stay well and safely, the Lord be ever with
you.

Once you have been a camper,
Something has come to stay,
Something has come that nothing
Will ever take away.
We came as strangers, we became friends, we part as brothers.

LAST CAMPFIRES

Comes the last day of many days,
The last campfire of all too few,
Last - but not lost.
In years ahead,
These times our memories shall renew.

Each campfire lights anew,
A flame of friendship true,
The joy we've had in knowing you,
Will last the whole year through.

Now as we close our last campfire,
Let's pause for a moment and praise

The Almighty God who saw fit to inspire
Our founder, who gave us these days.
May the Lord grant us His blessing,
And fill our hearts with the spirit
Of truth and peace, now and forever more.

Try this at a closing campfire. Each of the eight speakers holds up a large card showing his or her letter. You can spell out just about any word that has meaning to the people at your campfire.

M is for the memories we share tonight-the memories of camp.

O is for the opportunities we have to grow together, to learn new skills, and to share fellowship around this campfire tonight.

S is for the super things we have done here and the super people we have met and made our friends.

Q is for the quiet times we experience together times to reflect and give thanks.

U is for the ultimate peacefulness of the outdoors.

I is for the inspiration we receive from nature and from our friends.

T is for the terrific leaders who have been with us at camp.

O is for "On with the Show!"

Put them all together, and what do you have?

MOSQUITO!

CAMPFIRE CLOSINGS.

After the closing verse say
"I declare this campfire closed"

C # 1

And so before we close our eyes in sleep,
Let us pledge each other that we'll keep,
Scouting friendships strong and deep,
'Till we meet again

C # 2

As another campfire ends
Let us reflect on the life of that great man, B.P.,
Who made it all possible.

C # 3

Around the campfire's glow, the silent night,
Pressed close to the dying flame,
And in the narrowing circle of light,
Closer and closer to my heart God came.

C # 4

Around the fire's glow, the silent night
Pressed closer and closer to the dying flame,
And in the narrowing circle of light,
Closer and closer to God my heart came.

C # 5

As glow the logs upon the fire,
So may our hearts glow,
And our thoughts be kind,
And peace and deep content,
Fill every mind.

C # 6

Blazing campfires make our spirits light,
As we meet in fellowship tonight,
Scouts united for a world that's free,
Fires have lighted in our camporee.

C # 7

Bless all the beavers everywhere,
Help them their promise to share,
Guide them all safely home today,
Watch over them while they work and play,
Good night and busy building tomorrow.

C # 8 (Tune: Till we meet again)

By the blazing council fire's light
We have met in comradeship tonight
Round among the whispering trees,
Guard our golden memories,
And so before we close our eyes to sleep,
Let us pledge each other that we'll keep,
Scouting friendships strong and deep,
"Till we meet again.

C # 9

Comes the last day of many days,
The last campfire of all too few,

Last but not lost in years ahead,
These times our memories shall renew.

C # 10

Dear Father God, take special care of him,
He's very trusting and he is so very young,
Return him sun browned, sturdy, strong of limb,
With songs of wind and water on his tongue,
With friends, adventures, campfire dreams to prize,
And memories of mountains in his eyes.

C # 11

Deep peace of the running stream to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

C # 12 (Tune: Fire's burning)

Did you ever watch the campfire,
When the wood has fallen low,
And the ashes start to whiten
Around the embers crimson glow,
Tell me, were you ever nearer
The land of hearts desire,
Than when you sat there thinking
With your face toward the fire.

C # 13

Each campfire lights anew,
A flame of friendship true,
The joy we've had in knowing you,
Will last the whole year through.

C # 14

Fading campfires 'neath a starry sky
Sil'vry bugles sound their lullaby,
Scouting friendships fashioned here today,
Bind us closer....when we are away.

C # 15 (TAPS)

Fading light, dims the sight,
And a star gems the sky gleaming bright,
From afar drawing nigh
Falls the night.

CHORUS (actions)

Day is done, (stand motionless)
Gone the sun (point skyward)
From the lake (extend both arms toward the earth)
From the hills (move both arms fully extended toward the hills)
From the sky (move both arms toward the sky)
All is well, safely rest (lower arms slowly)
God is nigh. (bow head).

While the light fades from sight,
And the stars, gleaming rays, softly send,
To Thy hands, we our souls, Lord commend.

C # 16

Faith is a grasping of almighty power,
The hand of man laid on the arm of God,
The grand and blessed hour,
In which things impossible to me,
Become possible O Lord, through Thee

C # 17

Father guide us, where brave men have trod,
Help us know the Fatherhood of God,
Here beside us.... let us know Thy plan,
May we show the Brotherhood of Man?

C # 18

Flames a-leaping fire bright,
We be brothers here tonight.
Logs burn flames rise,
Hearts glow, troubles die,
Each for all, and all for each,
Happiness within our reach,
Joined together by the good,
Of the World Wide Scouting Brotherhood.

C # 19

Fire's burning, fire's burning,
Draw nearer, draw nearer,
In the gloaming, in the gloaming,
Come sing and be merry,

C # 20

Gently dying embers cast a rosy glow
Voices slowly sinking to tones so soft and low
Slowly, upon the still night air,
Fall faithful voices hushed in prayer
That dream of bygone campfires,
And long for those to come.

C # 21 CAMP VESPER

God of the night, the stars, the skies,
Watch o'er the fires of day.
Be with us as the sunset dies
And colours fade away
May incense from our campfires
Bear our gratitude to You in prayer.

Most days begin with the song of birds
And meadows bright with dew,
With breezes blowing fresh and clean
Beneath a sky of blue.
Our meals combined with songs and fun,
Bring comradeship for everyone.
We thank you for eventful days,
That challenge us to try,
To play the game with sportsmanship
And set our standards high.
Now as the daylight fades away
We thank you for a happy day.
May incense from our campfires
Bear our gratitude to You in prayer.

Most days begin with the song of birds
And meadows bright with dew,
With breezes blowing fresh and clean
Beneath a sky of blue.
Our meals combined with songs and fun,
Bring comradeship for everyone.

We thank you for eventful days,
That challenge us to try,
To play the game with sportsmanship
And set our standards high.
Now as the daylight fades away
We thank you for a happy day.

C # 22
Good night, good night,
Far flies the light,
But still above us shining brightly,
We feel God's love,
Flame out above,
So trustingly we sing, Good night,
Good night.

C # 23
Good night to you all,
And sweet be your sleep,
May silence surround you,
Your slumber be deep,
Good night, Good night,
Good night, Good night.

C # 24 (ZULU FAREWELL)
Go well and safely,
Go well and safely,
Go well and safely,
The Lord be ever with you.

C#25
Hear us, God, Beavers bright,
Keep us safe from morn 'till night,
Guide us in your own sweet way,
Bring us back another day.

C # 26

Help us O Lord to love thee day by day,
To do our duty and enjoy our play,
O Lord over us care,
And as beavers, help us share, share, share.

C # 27

I sought my soul, but my soul I could not see,
I sought my God, But my God eluded me,
I sought my brother ----- and found all three.

C # 28 (Tune: - Keep the home fires burning)

Keep the campfire burning
While our thoughts are turning
To the stories songs and yells
The long day's fun
Warm red embers gleaming
Stars oe'r head are beaming
Plan tomorrow's big new joys
Till the day is done.

C # 29

Keep the spirit of this campfire in your heart for ever.

C # 30

M-m-m ... I want to linger
M-m-m ... a little longer,
M-m-m ... a little longer here with you
M-m-m ... this has been the perfect way
M-m-m ... for all of us to say
M-m-m ... this is good day but not goodbye

Form a circle. Put arms on the shoulders of the 2 people next to you.
Hum the tune once then sing softly.

C # 31

May the spirit of Scouting rest with you,
May the blessing of God remain with you,
To each of us the message true,
Scouting will stand or fall by you.

C # 32

Men my masters! Men my lovers!
Ye have fought and ye have bled
Gather round my bloody embers,
Softly glowing by my bed,
By my heart of solace dreaming
Rest ye and be comforted.

C # 33

Now as we come to our last campfire,
Let's pause for a moment and praise
The Almighty God who saw fit to inspire
Our Founder who gave us these day

C # 34

Now the day is over,
Night is drawing nigh,
Shadows of the evening
Steal across the sky.

Jesus give the weary,
Calm and sweet repose,
With thy tend'rest blessing,
May our eyelids close.

When the morning wakens,
Then may we arise
Pure fresh and sinless,
In Thy holy eyes.

C # 35 (Aloah)

Proudly sweeps the rain cloud o'er the cliff,
Borne swiftly by the western gale
While the songs of lovers' parting grief,
Sadly echoes amid the flowering vale,
Farewell to thee, farewell to thee,
The winds will carry back my sad refrain.
One fond embrace before we say goodbye,
Until we meet again.

C # 36

Scouts of the world where 'ere you be,
God shed His blessed grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.

C # 37

Slowly the flames flicker and fade,
As friends of each this fire has made,
Black ashes now, once were vivid coals,
Reminders to us of Scouting's goals,

C # 38

Softly falls the light of day
As our campfire fades away;
Silently each Scout / cub should ask,
Have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my honour bright?
Can I guiltless rest tonight?
Have I done and have I dared
Everything to 'Be Prepared.'

C # 39

Softly falls the light of day
As our campfire fades away
Silently each cub should ask,
Have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my cub laws too,
Taught to me by old Baloo?
Always try to do my best,
God grant me a quiet rest.

C # 40

The golden sun sinks in the west,
Great spirit calls our scouters to rest,
We've had our work, we've had our play,

And now, to live the true Scouter's way.

C # 41

There is a destiny that makes us all brothers
None goes his way alone,
What we put into the lives of others,
Comes back into our own.

C # 42

We came as strangers,
We became friends,
We part as brothers.

C # 43

We thank you Lord for our fire,
As we camp upon this night,
May our love for you never tire,
And we be guided by your light.

As the flames point to the sky,
And the logs burn and glow,
While the sparks upward fly,
The nearer to you we grow.

As the campfire warms us,
Logs burn and to ashes made,
For your love will never fade.

And when our fire dims to an end,
Let scouting be in our heart and mind,
Your message of goodwill we will send
And all your gifts to men of every kind.

C # 44

Where little furred and feathered folk
In leafy coverts hide,
And where the campfire's dusty smoke
Blends with the eventide,
I want to breathe that smoke once more,
And live by nature's signs
And mountain torrents muffled roar,
The silence of the pines.

C # 45

Whatever you are, be noble,
Whatever you do, do well,
Whatever you speak, speak kindly
Spread happiness wherever you dwell.

C # 46

Wood and water, wind and tree,
Wisdom strength and courtesy,
Jungle favour go with thee.