

Thoughts about your Gold Scarf

Welcome back to the Scarf Program. Remember, this program is meant to challenge you to accept responsibility in different areas of your life, according to your age and/or grade. All members of the Scarf Society progress through the colors by thoughtfully and prayerfully choosing to accept the challenge for which they are ready.

Requirements for the Brown Scarf:

You may choose to accept the challenge of the Brown Scarf if you are entering 10th grade, or are 15 years old before December 1st.

The challenge of the Brown Scarf: is a deeper understanding and concern for others

If you received a Gray Scarf, you accepted the challenge to be a good citizen and a helpful camper. If you received one shield, you added the challenge of being a true friend. If you received two shields, you added the challenge of being a good example to others. If you received three shields, you accepted the challenge to accept some responsibility to be a leader. If you received four shields, you were introduced to Jesus' summary of the law: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself". When you received your Blue Scarf, you accepted the challenge to be loyal to God, oneself, and others. If you received the Green Scarf, you accepted the challenge to rededicate yourself to the Christian way of life. When you received your Brown Scarf you accepted the challenge of Christian Service. In trying to do these challenges, you built the necessary foundation for accepting the next challenge, the challenge of the Gold Scarf.

Even if you did not take all these challenges, you may want to think about these areas of your life as you prepare yourself to accept the Challenge of the Gold Scarf.

As you prepare to accept the challenge of the Gold Scarf we would like you to think about the following:

The Gold Scarf challenges you to "a deeper Understanding and Concern for Others." Being a good friend; being active in social concerns; or working in service activities could be part of your Gold Scarf Challenge.

What does it mean to "understand" someone? How can you show concern for someone? Who are the "Others" you should have understanding and concern for?

- 1) Listen to the voice of God!
Around you! Within you! Listen!
He calls you to grow!
To stretch your mind with new knowledge;
To stretch your muscles with clean play and hard work;
To stretch your heart to include new friends;
To stretch your soul and fill it with beauty and hope and great purposes!
Listen to the voice of God!

- 2) Thank you, God, for this new day in which to grow.
 For wondrous things, which, when this day is done, I shall know.
 For each new face that I shall meet throughout this day;
 And for the lessons I shall learn from all who come my way.
 And thank you, too, for strange ideas I shall meet,
 That call for my best efforts, lest I know defeat.
 And if, sometime today, I seem to fail, help me to know
 Tomorrow's still another day in which to grow.

- 3) O God, give me clean hands, clean words, and clean thoughts.
 Help me to stand for the hard right against the easy wrong.
 Save me from habits harm.
 Teach me to work as hard and play as fair in Thy sight alone as if the whole world saw.
 Forgive me when I am unkind, and help me to forgive those who are unkind to me.
 Keep me ready to help others at some cost to myself
 and send me chances to do some good every day.
 AMEN

- 4) Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend. You are my friends if you do what I have commanded you."

- 5) Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace!
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 Where there is injury – pardon;
 Where there is doubt – faith;
 Where there is despair – hope;
 Where there is darkness – light;
 Where there is sadness – joy;
 O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
 To be understood as to understand;
 To be loved as to love;
 For it is in giving that we receive;
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
 It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Aims for improvement. Write down a list of things that you want to improve in your life. Make some notes below for your discussion at the scheduled Gold Scarf Discussion meeting. You might want to spend some time in quiet reflection and prayer.

Name: _____ Date: _____