

February 10, 1934

[Boy Scouts]

FDR Speech File

Reading Copy

President's address to Boy  
Scouts--broadcast from Cabinet  
Room on Feb. 10, 1934.

*Reading copy*  
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Fellow Scouts:

I am happy to participate in the 24th Anniversary Celebration of our organization, the Boy Scouts of America. Nearly a million of us are mobilized at this time in all parts of the country as a part of the program for this week of celebration. Home and farm patrols and troops of farm boys are joining with their brother scouts in the big cities. ~~At~~ In front of the City Hall in San Francisco - and it is nine o'clock in the morning there - thousands of scouts join with other thousands in the Hippodrome in New York in carrying on the cause of world-wide brotherhood in Scouting.

As most of you know, Scouting has been one of my active interests for many years. I have visited hundreds of Troops in their home towns and in their camps. I know therefore from personal experience the things we do and stand for as Scouts. We have ideals. We are a growing organization. We believe that we are accomplishing fine American results not only for our own membership, but also for our families, our communities, and our Nation.

Summed up in one sentence, the aim of Scouting is to

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build up better citizenship. I believe that we are contributing greatly to that objective.

I am especially happy today to extend personal greetings and congratulations to the Scouts and Leaders who have earned the President's award for progress in the year 1933, as a part of the Ten Year Program. It is appropriate that we are planning for the celebration of our Silver Jubilee, the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, which will culminate in a great national Jamboree here in the Nation's Capital in the summer of 1935. Of course it would be physically impossible for us to have the whole membership of the Boy Scouts of America, a million strong, come to Washington at one time, but I much hope that it will be possible to have every nook and cranny of our Nation represented.

As a preliminary to our Silver Jubilee, and in line with the emphasis of service for others which we have always stressed, I suggest to you that it is time once more for us to do a National Good Turn.

As many of you know, we are doing everything possible in this emergency to help suffering humanity. I called upon the Federal Emergency Relief Administrator, Mr. Harry L. Hopkins, to tell me what kind of a National Good Turn would be of the greatest service. He has recommended that during the balance of the month of February every troop and every scout do everything possible in their separate localities to collect such household furnishings, bedding and clothes, as people may be able to share as gifts to those who greatly need them.

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Therefore, I ask you, under the direction of your own local officers, and in conference with the representatives of the Federal Relief Administration and other local social agencies, to gather up such of this material as may be available for distribution.

I am confident that the American people will generously cooperate and respond. Indeed, I am hoping that in many cases they will telephone or send letters to the local Scout offices to offer their help to carry through this National Good Turn.

Already I have received offers of cooperation from Governors of States, from Mayors and other community leaders. May you carry out this new Service and rededicate yourselves to the Scout Oath.

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I ask you to join with me and the <sup>Smith</sup> Eagle Scouts and  
our president and Chief Scout Executive who are here with  
me in the White House in giving again the Scout Oath.

All stand!

Give the Scout sign!

Repeat with me the ~~Scout~~ Oath!

"On my honor I will do my best:

To do my duty to God and my country and to  
obey the Scout Law;

To help other people at all times;

To keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally straight."

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REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
to the Boy Scouts of America  
broadcasting a National  
"Call to Service", mobilization, etc.  
February 10, 1934

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Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to (he previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, although they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

Fellow Scouts:

I am happy to participate in the 45th Anniversary

Celebration of our organization, The Boy Scouts of America.

Nearly a million of us are mobilized at this time in all

parts of the country as a part of the program for this week

of celebration. Home and fair patrols and troops of farm

boys are joining with their brother scouts in the big effort.

In front of the City Hall in San Francisco -- and

it is nine o'clock in the morning there -- thousands of

scouts join with other thousands in the Hippodrome in New

York in carrying on the cause of world-wide brotherhood in

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Summed up in one sentence, the aim of Scouting is to build up better citizenship. I believe that we are contributing greatly to that objective.

I am especially happy today to extend personal greetings and congratulations to the Scouts and Leaders who have earned the President's Award for Progress in the year 1933, as a part of the Ten-Year Program. It is appropriate that we are planning for the celebration of our Silver Jubilee, the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, which will culminate in a great national Jamboree here in the Nation's Capital in the summer of 1935. Of course, it would be physically impossible for us to have the whole membership of the Boy Scouts of America, a million strong, come to Washington at one time, but I much hope that it will be possible to have every nook and cranny of our Nation represented.

As a preliminary to our Silver Jubilee, and in line with the emphasis of service for others which we have always stressed, I suggest to you that it is time once more for us to do a National Good Turn.

As many of you know, we are doing everything possible in this emergency to help suffering humanity. I called upon the Federal Emergency Relief Administrator, Mr. Harry L.

Hopkins, to tell me what kind of a National Good Turn would be of the greatest service. He has recommended that during the balance of the month of February every troop and every scout do everything possible in their separate localities to collect such household furnishings, bedding and clothes, as people may be able to share as gifts to those who greatly need them.

Therefore, I ask you, under the direction of your own local officers, and in conference with the representatives of the Federal Relief Administration and other local social agencies, to gather up such of this material as may be available for distribution.

I am confident that the American people will generously cooperate and respond. Indeed, I am hoping that in many cases they will telephone or send letters to the local Scout offices to offer their help to carry through this ~~National~~ Good Turn.

Already I have received offers of cooperation from Governors of States, from Mayors and other community leaders. May you carry out this new Service and rededicate yourselves to the Scout Oath.

I ask you to join with me and the Eagle Scouts and our President and Chief Scout Executive who are here with me

in the White House in giving again the Scout Oath.

All stand! Give the Scout sign! Repeat with me the Scout Oath!

"On my honor I will do my best: To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

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## RADIO ADDRESSES

*Commemorating the Twenty-Fourth  
Anniversary of the Boy Scouts  
of America*



THE NATIONAL GOOD TURN  
Broadcast from the Cabinet Room  
of the White House

*Saturday, February 10th, 1934  
at 12 noon*

BY PRESIDENT

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

WALTER W. HEAD

*President of the Boy Scouts of America, and*

DR. JAMES E. WEST

*Chief Scout Executive*

*Editor, BOYS' LIFE*



#### TWENTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY BROADCAST

This is the cabinet room at the White House from which the Twenty-Fourth Anniversary Broadcast of the Boy Scouts of America and President Roosevelt's Call to Service took place. President Roosevelt is wearing the Silver Buffalo for Distinguished Service to Boyhood. At the President's right is Mr. Walter W. Head, President of the Boy Scouts of America and at his left is Dr. James E. West, Chief Scout Executive. A group of twenty-five Eagle Scouts was present. The broadcast took place at twelve noon (E.S.T.), Saturday, February 10th, 1934.

#### Address by President Roosevelt

Scouts:

I am happy to participate in the twenty-fourth anniversary celebration of our organization, the Boy Scouts of America. Nearly a million of us are mobilized at this time in all parts of the country as a part of the program for this week of celebration. Home Patrols and Farm Patrols and Troops of farm boys are joining with their brother Scouts in the big cities.

In front of the city hall in San Francisco, and I think it's 9 o'clock in the morning there now, thousands of Scouts join with other thousands in the Hippodrome in New York in carrying on the cause of world-wide brotherhood in Scouting.

As most of you know, Scouting has been one of my active interests for a great many years. I have visited hundreds of Troops in their home towns and in their camps. I know, therefore, from personal experience the things that we do and stand for as Scouts. We have ideals. We're a growing organization. We believe that we're accomplishing fine American results not only for our own membership, but also for our families, our communities and our nation.

Summed up in one sentence, the aim of Scouting is to build up better citizenship. I believe that we are contributing greatly to that objective.

#### Jamboree in Capital

And today I am especially happy to extend personal greetings and congratulations to the Scouts and leaders who have earned the President's award for progress in the year 1933, as a part of the Ten Year Program. And it is appropriate also that we are planning for the celebration of our Silver Jubilee, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, which will culminate in a great national Jamboree

here in the nation's capital in the summer of 1935. Of course it would be physically impossible for us to have the whole membership of the Boy Scouts of America, a million strong, come to Washington at one time, but I much hope that it will be possible to have every nook and cranny, every section of our nation, represented.

### Request for National Service

As a preliminary to this Silver Jubilee next year and in line with the emphasis of service for others which we have always stressed, I suggest to you that it is time once more for us to do a Good Turn.

As many of you know, we are doing everything possible in this emergency to help suffering humanity. I called on the Federal Emergency Relief Administrator, Harry Hopkins, to tell me what kind of a National Good Turn would be of the greatest service, and he has recommended that during the balance of the month of February every Troop and every Scout shall do everything possible in their separate localities to collect such household furniture, such furnishings, bedding and such clothing as people may be able and willing to share as gifts to those who greatly need them.

Therefore, I ask you, under the direction of your own local officers and in conference with the representatives of the Federal Relief Administration and other local social agencies, to gather up such of this material as may be available for distribution.

### Public to Cooperate

I am confident that the American people will generously cooperate and respond, and indeed, I am hoping that in many cases they will telephone or send letters to the local Scout Offices to offer their help to carry through this National Good Turn.

Already I have received offers of cooperation from Governors of States, from mayors of cities and other com-

munity leaders. May you carry out this new service and rededicate yourselves to the Scout Oath.

And now I ask you to join with me and with the Eagle Scouts and our President and the Chief Scout Executive who are with me in the White House at this moment, I ask you to join with me again, in giving again the Scout Oath.

All stand!

Give the Scout Sign!

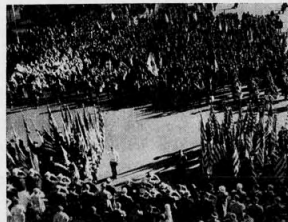
Repeat with me the Scout Oath!

"On my honor I will do my best:

"To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;

"To help other people at all times;

"To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight."



One of the mobilized groups of Scouts listening to the President's broadcast. Some 600,000 Scouts and Scouters mobilized to listen to the President's Call to Service.

## ACCEPTING THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

By WALTER W. HEAD

*President, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA*

Fellow Scouts and Scouters, you have heard the challenge of our President, and I know that you one and all join with me in thanking him for his message. Here is our big chance to show him that his faith in Scouts and Scouting is justified. I know that you boys and young men of America can carry on and meet this National need in the same splendid way that other Boy Scouts have done. Not many of you know, for instance, about the record that Scouts made during the War. Did you know that in the five Liberty Loans, Scouts—boys and young men like yourselves—secured altogether some 328,308 subscriptions amounting to \$352,122,-975? That meant that each boy sold \$880 worth of bonds. Think of it! I am not going into details about the 20,758,660 board feet of standing walnut they located nor the one hundred carloads of fruit pits they collected for gas masks, nor the many other services they rendered, although it is a thrilling story.

### What Other Scouts Have Done

I just want to give you a brief picture of some of the things that Scouts have done for the nation and their communities. There was their service on the occasion of the hurricane in Florida, for example. The local authorities have told me that only Scouts were permitted to go into certain areas, and that the gay Scout Neckerchief was the passport through the police lines. Some of you perhaps know about how wonderfully they helped at the time of the tornado in Saint Louis, and again in the floods in New England two years ago. There they set up first aid stations, delivered telegrams, helped at supply depots, and made themselves practically indispensable in a hundred ways.

### Carry On These Traditions!

And now you have a chance to carry on the traditions that other Scouts have helped to make. The need is great. Our President has called upon you for service. What a wonderful opportunity there is for everyone of us—man and boy—to take part in this National Good Turn. The nation expects more of Scouts than it does of other boys. They are trained. They are resourceful. They stand up for the right.

I am not saying that this is an easy job that our President has requested of us, but I do believe that the Boy Scouts of America are not going to fail him. I do believe that you are going to respond in the same way that Scouts always have responded when their help was requested. Each of you in your own community has no doubt taken part already in many forms of worthwhile civic service. Make this the biggest and most worthwhile thing yet.

And now I am going to present to you the man who has been the head of your organization from practically the beginning of the Movement, the man who has through the years thrilled with pride over your achievements and has devoted all his energies to work for boys, Dr. James E. West, Chief Scout Executive and Editor of BOYS' LIFE. Dr. West will suggest to you practical details by which you in your different communities can work out plans to make this great service effective.



In all mobilized groups there was great enthusiasm. In many cases the challenge was accepted by the Governor, the Mayor or leading citizens.



## INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE EFFECTIVE THE REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONWIDE SERVICE

By **DR. JAMES E. WEST**

*Chief Scout Executive*

Hello, Scouts!

To me has been assigned the responsibility of presenting recommendations and instructions for making effective the request from the President of the United States.

This National Good Turn is to be a great adventure in Scouting. For this reason it is important that plans for each community be such as to give each Scout and Scouter, each Patrol and Troop, as well as each Local Council definite opportunity for participation. Ample time has been provided to make it possible for each Local Council to develop its own plans in its own way for this service to help suffering humanity. We have fully eighteen days within which to do the job.

### Thousands of Families in Distress

As stated by the President, the selection of the type of the nationwide service has been upon the recommendation of the Honorable Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Emergency Relief Administrator, in conference with representatives of the Boy Scouts of America. As Mr. Hopkins explained in all sections of the country there are thousands of families in great distress because of the economic situation during the past years. Such emergency relief as has been made possible thus far has been, necessarily, primarily to provide food and shelter. In many instances, families are seeking to re-establish themselves in homes. They need the bare necessities of:

1. Household furnishings of all kinds; that is, chairs, tables, bedroom furniture of all character; dishes, buckets, cooking utensils, brooms, etc.

2. Bedding of all character; that is, mattresses, pillows, sheets, pillow cases, blankets, quilts, etc.
3. Clothing for men, women and children; that is, underwear, stockings, sweaters, overcoats, shoes and other wearing apparel.

While it is realized that in some communities there have already been collections of clothes, it is believed that in response to this nationwide appeal many homes can find in their storage trunks, attics and clothes closets used clothing and household materials and bedding of all kinds which may be spared and shared with unfortunate people who can use them to greater advantage.

### Each Scout and Scouter to Respond

If, however, in any community, after conference of the Scout authorities with the representatives of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the regular welfare and relief organizations and other charitable groups, it should be determined that this list should be supplemented, or that special emphasis should be placed upon some special things needed to bring relief in that community, this will be entirely in order and in keeping with the spirit of the National Good Turn. Remember that the primary purpose is to help people in need and to give each Scout and Scouter an opportunity on a personal basis in response to the President's appeal to have some part in the effort. It is anticipated that every Scout and Scouter will first want to ascertain in conference with his home folks what can be spared from his own home, if anything; and from the home of his immediate relatives and friends and neighbors.

### On a Troop Basis

It is recommended that in every Council each Troop be given the responsibility of covering some specific area. Each Troop should have its own place to accumulate articles as collected. These should be listed and turned over to the

district committee or Local Council in accordance with plans developed by the Local Council.

Undoubtedly, most Troops can arrange for the use of the basement of a church or a school, with which the Troop is connected, or a vacant store or the basement of some home, or other suitable place.

The Local Council reports to the National Council and Regional Office, in duplicate, at the completion of the service. These reports should list results by Troops whenever practicable.

### **Cooperation of the Nation**

It is recommended that when, after conference of the Scout Officials and representatives of the Federal Emergency Relief and other local agencies, definite plans have been agreed upon as to the time and method of collection, the cooperation of the daily press be requested to secure the fullest publicity possible. In some communities the Mayors will gladly issue proclamations asking cooperation of the whole community. Merchants will carry boxes in their daily advertisements asking cooperation.

Arrangements should be made for the use of automobile, trucks and other conveyances to help collect the material available for delivery at definitely designated places.

### **Responsibility for Distribution on Relief Agencies**

The responsibility for distribution of materials collected and all related questions should be placed upon the local emergency relief organization and the various welfare and charitable agencies of the community, such as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and other regular agencies of the community.

Mr. Hopkins has already issued instructions, through his State representatives, to all of his local representatives for emergency relief for them to cooperate with the Boy Scouts of America in this project to the fullest extent.

Care should be exercised to conform to all local health

rules and regulations. It has been suggested that in some communities cleaning establishments will be glad to cooperate in re-conditioning such bedding and clothes as may require such handling before being re-distributed.

### **Let Us Meet the President's Request**

I am confident that there is in each Local Council the resources in leadership which will make possible the development and execution of such plans as may be necessary for this big undertaking in a way that will effectively meet the request from the President of the United States and give to each of our Scouts and Scouters an opportunity to do something worth while in response to their obligation as Scouts to be helpful to others at all times. Further, I am fully convinced, based upon past experience, that when the records have been sent to the National Office for presentation to the President of the United States and the American people, it will reveal a service of tremendous proportions and very much worth while and fully justify the high esteem which Scouting has throughout the nation during the last twenty-four years.

### **Other Friends of Scouting Participating**

Your National Scout Commissioner, Daniel Carter Beard, who is at this moment with a group of Scouts in Florida, Mr. Colin H. Livingstone, who was President of the Boy Scouts of America for the first fifteen years of its history, as well as all of the other members of the National Executive Board who are at various places listening in to this broadcast, join with President Head and me in extending to you birthday greetings, and in expressing the hope that every Scout and Scouter will do his best in this big undertaking.

May I urge each person listening in to begin now to think how you can help in some practical fashion. Kindly feel free to offer your cooperation by letter or telephone to the nearest Scout Office or to me personally at our National Office, Two Park Avenue, New York City.

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Remarks of the President to the Boy Scouts of  
America, broadcasting a national "Call to Service"  
mobilization, etc.  
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