
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

**Series 2: “ You have nothing to fear but fear itself:” FDR
and the New Deal**

File No. 1201

1939 February 8

Radio Address to the Boy Scouts of America

suggested draft for the President's greeting on the Twenty-ninth Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America to be delivered over a national radio hookup on Wednesday, February 8, 1939 at 10:00 P.M., E.S.T.

FELLOW SCOUTS:

On this, our twenty-ninth birthday, we can look backward with pride and forward with hope and courage. We rejoice that our organization has reached full maturity.

Because the nation never had greater need of ^{The Boy Scouts} ~~our organization~~ than it has today I find peculiar satisfaction in Mr. Head's reassuring report on our progress during the past year. I am glad that our membership is greater than ever before, not from any ^{mere} ~~simple~~ pride in numbers, ~~near~~ ~~that would be a mistake.~~ But because there is so much work to be done we need all the workers we can muster.

To all who have had a part in bringing the Scouts to their present splendid standing I offer hearty congratulations. These ^{boys} ~~young men~~, ~~men~~ so full of promise for the future, are a national asset and therefore should be regarded as a national trust. Ours is the duty to inculcate in the scout mind those simple but fundamental principles which embrace strength of body, alertness of mind and above these and growing out of them that sense of moral responsibility upon which all sound character rests.

In building up ^{S.M.L.} ~~characteristic young~~ character~~s~~ we are insuring the future strength and stability of the nation. Sooner than many of us realize the Boy Scouts of today will be full-fledged citizens to discharge for better or worse the civic duties upon which the happiness of the nation will rest.

As one who has long been active in Scout work and who feels a special responsibility as Honorary President of the Boy Scouts of America I like to think that faithful observance of the Scout Oath constitutes an

excellent preliminary training in the duties of citizenship. I like to think of the entire Scout training as an apprenticeship for the mastery of civic duties.

I have always been a believer in the discipline and training afforded by camp life. ~~I believe that~~ life in the open constitutes an ideal recreation while at the same time it encourages initiative, resourcefulness and self-confidence. On this account I am heartened by Mr. Head's announcement of the gift of a fine site for advanced camping in the Rocky Mountains. Camp life is an American tradition. It is a way of life. A generation trained in the art of camping will receive ~~a discipline and~~ experience which I believe will give them exceptional equipment with which to cope with some of the most vexatious problems of life in the years that lie ahead.

And now my fellow Scouts I trust that the year ahead will be one full of achievement and useful service for all of you. I appeal to all of you to be faithful now and always to the Scout Oath and the Senior Scout Citizenship Pledge in which ^{is about to} ~~we~~ ^{we} lead you.

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
TWENTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
THE WHITE HOUSE
FEBRUARY 8, 1939

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In building up solid character we are insuring the future strength and stability of the nation. Sooner than many of us realize the Boy Scouts of today will be full-fledged citizens to discharge for better or worse the civic duties upon which the happiness of the nation will rest.

As one who has long been active in Scout work and who feels a special responsibility as Honorary President of the Boy Scouts of America, I like to think that faithful observance of the Scout Oath constitutes an excellent preliminary training in the duties of citizenship. I like to think of the entire Scout training as an apprenticeship for the mastery of civic duties.

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Orig. reading copy

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HOLD FOR RELEASE

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FOR THE PRESS

February 8, 1939

CAUTION: This address of the President, broadcast in commemoration of the twenty-ninth anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America MUST BE KEPT in confidence until released.

NOTE: Release to all editions of newspapers appearing on the streets NOT EARLIER than 10:00 o'clock P.M., E.S.T. today.

Care must be exercised to prevent premature publication.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

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