

VENTURER INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Setting: Darkened room, Venturers in a circle-crew's President in center holding lit long (14") candle (or shorter candle in long holder) in left hand.

Procedure: New Venturer escorted to circle center by his/her sponsoring Venturer, new Venturer stands before P-is instructed to grasp candle with left hand.

P: (Candidate's First Name), it is my pleasure to welcome you to our crew circle. The circle is a significant geometric shape because it has neither corners nor angles nor end. It has no corners in which to hide from your fellow Venturers, nor angles to evade your promise and its incumbent responsibilities to yourself, your fellow Venturers, your crew, your country, or your god. A circle is perfection itself—an attribute toward which we all strive, but which we cannot form alone; only with your fellow Venturers can you hope to better yourself, in order to leave this world a better place than you found it.

(Candidate's First Name), I am going to ask you to repeat a solemn pledge. If you have any hesitation or feeling of inner evasion, it is best now to speak than to proceed. There is no dishonor in stating that you are not ready. How say you? Shall we proceed, or shall you leave our circle?

C: Responds to proceed.

P: Then it is time. Raise your right hand (P mirrors) and repeat after me...

As a Venturer, in the presence of my fellow crew members and my god by all names, I do solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm...

That I will commit myself to a new journey in life...

A journey of purpose and participation, of friendship and fellowship...

A journey that seeks adventure, yet is always mindful of the welfare of others...

A journey that seeks wisdom and truth, yet never forgets the truth of the heart...

A journey of caring for the earth, yet never forgets the children of the earth...

A journey that may reach the stars, yet is always firmly grounded...

A journey that is mine alone, yet is always shared with my fellow Venturers...

And in this journey I will, so far as my abilities lie...

Commit myself to both learning and mentoring, both following and leading...

And strengthening both my body and mind...

As I serve my god, my country, my fellow Venturers, and all of humankind.

P: To complete your pledge, please make the Universal Scout Sign with me as we together say the Scout Oath and Law.

On my honor...

A Scout is...

P: I will now ask you to transfer the spirit embodied in the light of this candle into your own heart, by extinguishing it. (C blows out candle)

Lights up. Sponsor is first to shake new Venturer's hand, then all others present do the same.