

Thoughts about your Brown 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. 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 14 years old before August 1st.

The challenge of the Brown Scarf: Christian service through the development of a well-rounded life.

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, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. When you received the 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.

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

1) Evelyn Underhill wrote, "The spiritual life of individuals has to be extended both vertically to God and horizontally to the other souls: the more it grows in both directions, the less merely individual and therefore truly personal it will be." How do you think this relates to the challenge of the Brown Scarf?

2) Henry Van Dyke had this to say about life: "Four things you must learn to do, if you would have your record true. To think without confusion, clearly; to love your fellow folk, sincerely; to act from honest motives, purely; and to trust in God and heaven, securely." How do you think this relates to the challenge of the Brown Scarf?

3) St. Terese writes, "I have found my calling: my calling is love." The First Letter to the Church in Corinth says, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." How does love relate to the challenge of the Brown Scarf?

4) Paul wrote to the church in Philippi, "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." What are the ideals of Christian service? What does Christian service mean to you? If you are not a Christian, how does the idea of Christian service fit in with your own faith?

Make some notes below for your discussion at the scheduled Brown Scarf discussion meeting.

You might want to spend some time in quiet reflection and prayer.

Name:

Date: