

Throughout the 12 months of 2010, each month we will highlight one of the character traits espoused by the 12 points of the Scout Law. As members of the Scouting movement these are more than just words, but they are Words To Live By. Use these installments as a discussion tools with your child to reinforce the Values of Scouting.

Our installment for February is Loyal.

Webster defines Loyal as: unswerving in allegiance; faithful to a person to whom fidelity is due; faithful to a cause, ideal, custom, or institution

Just what is loyalty? Fred Reichheld in his book, *The Loyalty Effect* defines loyalty as the willingness to make an investment or personal sacrifice to strengthen a relationship.

How to Teach a Child Loyalty from **eHOW.com**:

- Show loyalty to teach loyalty. This can be done by doing things such as refraining from gossip, coming to the defense of those who are being gossiped about and not speaking unkindly to family members and friends. Simple things like shopping at the same grocery store, supporting a local candidate or helping out at their school can also show your child what loyalty looks like.
- Create special family traditions that your child will cherish and look forward to. If your children are older, allow them to express their ideas. Observe these traditions with commitment and enthusiasm.
- Place formal and informal pictures of the family around the house. Pictures on the walls, refrigerator, mirror, desktop or any other place will create a sense of community in the family for your children. Once they feel they are part of a community they will develop a natural sense of ownership in and loyalty to that community.
- Use conflicts to teach conflict resolution. In order to be loyal, children must learn how to work through conflicts. It is important for children to learn that a dispute does not have to mean that a relationship must end. On the contrary, conflicts can draw people closer together by teaching them things about the other person. Also, practice proper conflict resolution skills when you have disputes and your children will be able to learn from you.
- Teach your child family history. Be sure to do this in a way that does not seem boring or preachy. Instead, find casual moments in which you can connect your child's experiences with those of another family member. For example, if your child likes to write, remind him that his grandfather wrote for the local newspaper. Having knowledge of their family will help your children feel connected and loyal to their family.
- Do activities together as a family. Take the siblings to each other's games, plays, recitals, spelling bees, etc. Allow them to participate in each other's lives by being a

part of each other's activities and supporting each other. You can also plan activities for the whole family such as camping, a softball game or shopping.

"Base yourself in loyalty and trust. Don't be companion with those who are not your moral equal. When you make a mistake, don't hesitate to correct it." - Confucius Quote

"Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart" - Bible quote

"The foundation stones for a balanced success are honesty, character, integrity, faith, love and loyalty." - Zig Ziglar

"Loyalty means nothing unless it has at its heart the absolute principle of self-sacrifice." - Woodrow Wilson

"Loyalty cannot be blueprinted. It cannot be produced on an assembly line. In fact, it cannot be manufactured at all, for its origin is the human heart-the center of self-respect and human dignity. It is a force which leaps into being only when conditions are exactly right for it-and it is a force very sensitive to betrayal." — Maurice R. Franks

"Loyalty is a feature in a boy's character that inspires boundless hope." - Sir Robert Baden-Powell