



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

My early years as a Boy Scout were invaluable in helping to shape the course of my later life. Throughout my public service and extensive travels around our country, I have seen firsthand evidence of the immeasurable worth of the basic values taught by scouting programs.

The Scout Oath to help other people, to keep physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight and to do one's duty to God and to our country provides a solid base on which to build both individual and national strength.

The three great principles which scouting encourages -- self-discipline, teamwork and moral and patriotic values -- are the building blocks of character. By working for these principles, those who belong to and support the Boy Scouts of America add greatly to the vitality of our society and to the future well-being of its people.

*Gerald R. Ford*