

Customs and Manners Emblem



Exploring the World of Good Manners

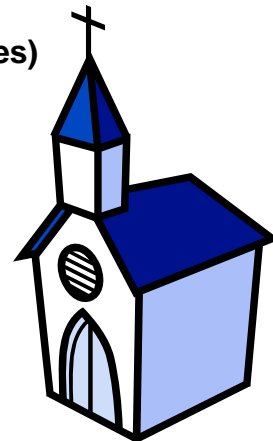
We need to emphasize the point that good manners are very important and unfortunately are often overlooked by children AND adults. This emblem can be taught in an enjoyable way, using creative and interactive examples.

Here are a few ideas to help “explore” the world of good manners:

- Divide the boys into teams and see who can list the most examples of good manners, then do a second round listing examples of bad manners.
- Watch a video or a TV program (appropriate in content) and have the group identify examples of good and bad manners – food fights and family meal situations are examples.
- Have the boys interview various people about what good manners are.
- If you have access to a video camera, tape the boys acting out scenarios about good and bad manners.
- Go to a store or restaurant and survey how many people used good manners and how many didn't.

Rules Demonstrating Good Manners in Church (examples)

1. Be quiet and attentive.
2. You should not talk or speak loudly in church.
3. Stay seated.
4. You should not eat in church.
5. No whistling or shouting in church.
6. No playing or running in church.
7. Be respectful of others.
8. Be polite at all times.
9. Be quiet when someone is speaking or praying.
10. Never have pizza delivered during the church service.



Ask the corps officer to give his/her opinion as to good manners in church.

Table Courtesy

The handbook lists eight rules for the Explorers to learn about table manners. With those as a guide, serve a meal to your group and practice some of these rules. (Note: Using plastic plates, cups, saucers and utensils is a good idea.)

Table Setting Competition

When teaching how to set a table, you may want to have a competition to see who can set the table the quickest AND most accurately. Have a simple setting – plate, cup and saucer, water glass and utensils. Place them in a box away from the table. On the word “go” they must set the table. Deduct two seconds from their time for each incorrectly placed item. If you want to add some difficulty, fill the plate, cup and glass with food and water. If they spill, deduct time.

If you have a Girl Guard or Sunbeam troop at your corps as well, host a competition in table setting with them.

At Home

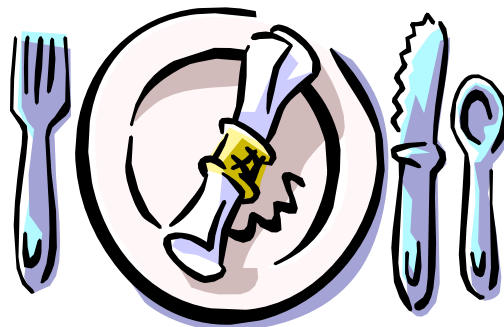
Assign each Explorer to set the table at home for one week. Ask the parent/guardian to sign a note that this task was completed. This might not be possible in all areas – just an idea.

Visit a Restaurant

Another “if possible.” This one might be a bit far fetched, but if you can visit an elegant restaurant in your area, ask if they will let your section see how they set a table and how they serve their guests. (They might even show you the kitchen at work!)

Adding On

If your boys quickly master the basic table setting setup, move on to the advanced and add salad plate and fork, butter knives and desert spoons! (Note: If you have multiple utensils, make sure you let the boys know that they use the utensils from the “outside-in.”)



Special Holidays

This requirement in the handbook is very self-explanatory. However, you could be creative and combine this requirement with the next one and have a celebration around a specific holiday or special event. Take plenty of photos the boys can use and have each write a brief report about their experience.

Other Ideas

- In some areas, local churches and organizations can participate in parades and community festivals (Pioneer Days, Foundation Days, County Fairs, etc.).
- Have each boys create a scrapbook about a special holiday or event.

Having a Party

Throwing a party or special event is a great opportunity to get people connected in a non-threatening environment. They are also a great way to practice and display the good manners, which were learned in this emblem!

One important aspect that was not specifically mentioned in the handbook is a budget. Make sure that you have enough money or a means to accomplish what you would like to.

Devotionals

The Greatest Commandment

How many of you know the Ten Commandments? Have a chalkboard or poster board ready to write them all down, then review each one briefly. They are found in Exodus 34 and Deuteronomy Chapter 5 (presented a little easier here):

1. Thou shall have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image.
3. Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shall not kill.
7. Thou shall not commit adultery.
8. Thou shall not steal.
9. Thou shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. Thou shall not covet.

What do the Ten Commandments teach us about manners?

Now Jesus tells us of the greatest commandment in Mark 12:30-31. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart...” *Read the entire reference.* What does this tell us about good manners? That we should put God first in our lives and that we should love our neighbor as ourselves. *Children will need an explanation on “love” here.*

No, not “huggie/kissee” love. It means treating each other with respect, treating them as you would like to be treated. Doing what you can to make them happy. Loving like Christ loves.

Select a child and bring them a treat (ice cream cone, candy, etc.). How does receiving this make you feel? Can you imagine how your friend or neighbor would feel if you did that for them?

This week try to love God with everything you have and treat your friends, your parents, your classmates the way you want to be treated. Do something nice for somebody this week.

Watching Eyes

Have you ever slipped your pet dog or cat a treat from the dinner table because he or she was begging, or you just didn't want to eat it? Maybe that brussel sprout that you accidentally knocked off your plate? If not, you most likely have seen something happen like that on TV or in a movie.

You wait until no one is looking, patiently waiting, just a bit longer... and BAM! That piece of food is quickly in Fido's mouth and no one knows except you and him. Well, that's not a very good example of table manners, is it?

Sometimes we do things when no one is watching, not our friends, our teachers, not even our parents. That can be a very lonely feeling, and sometimes a guilty feeling if we have done something we shouldn't have done.

But the Bible tells us that God watches over all who love Him, all the time. *Read Psalm 1:6a, 121:5 and 145:20a.* Even when we are sleeping, even when we aren't thinking about God, He is watching over us. Isn't that amazing?

God knows what we are doing all the time. We need to trust in Him all the time and do our best to live the life He wants us to live.

Make a promise to God right now that you will do your best this week for Him and thank Him for always watching over you.

Note: *You may want to augment this devotional with wiggly eyes you can get from craft stores and talk at the beginning about our eyes and what they see. What would the wiggly eyes see?*

The Missing Piece

Have an incomplete table setting in place (something missing) and a puzzle put together with a few missing pieces.

How would a table setting look without the plate or without any utensils? It would be incomplete. Or, what if you were planning on serving a seven-course meal, but you only had a small side salad? Have you ever seen a puzzle with a few pieces missing? It's incomplete, not finished, isn't it?

Read Ephesians 4:11-13, 16 - God uses people like you and me. Just like a puzzle needs each piece to be complete, or a table setting needs all the pieces, God needs each one of us to work together to do good things for His kingdom.

God made us to work together, but He gave us different gifts. None of us are exactly like another person, just like if we each drew a picture on a pad of paper of the same thing, everyone's would look different. We are all different, but all a part of the family of God – we belong to Him. We are all an important part of the setting or the puzzle, no matter what we look like, no matter what talents we have, no matter what we talk like, no matter where we live, etc. We are all important to God.

God wants us to love each other and support each other, to work together for Him.

Bless This Food

Do any of you say “grace” or thank God before you eat your meals? Do any of you have a “standard” grace you say at home? *Give a few examples.* Why do we say grace? Is it important? Why?

Sometimes we can easily forget to thank the Lord for all He has given to us and a great way to remember is to always pray to Him to thank Him for the food He gives us to eat each day.

Read Psalm 107:1-9

When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, God provided for their needs as well. When they were hungry, God sent quail and manna for them to eat. *You may want to recount the Exodus story – manna and quail are noted in Chapter 16.*

We have lots to be thankful for. Let's not forget to say thank you to God.



**ADVENTURE CORPS
GOOD MANNERS CLUB (sample)**

Please take this chart home and have your parent, guardian or teacher help you each day to “mark your manners.” Your goal is to get a check in as many boxes as possible!

Name: _____

Mind Your Manners Chart	S U N D A Y	M O N D A Y	T U E S D A Y	W E D N E S D A Y	T H U R S D A Y	F R I D A Y	S A T U R D A Y
	Said “Please and Thank You”						
Used Good Table Manners							
Cleaned Up After Himself							
Was Courteous and Respectful							
Obeyed His Parents and Teachers							
Was Helpful							
Was Truthful							
Was Kind to Others							