

# Family Life Emblem



## **Family Tree – Requirement #1**

1. Send a note home to parents at least one week prior to starting the family tree project. This is a must! A youth will be bored if he has to create a family tree and does not know any information. Also, this gives an opportunity for the parents and Explorer to work at home together.
2. Give clear, specific instructions and allow as much independence as possible. Remember that the first and second grade boys will need a lot of help. It would be highly recommended to invite several adults to assist with this project.
3. It is always helpful to have a sample ready so the boys have something to refer to if needed.

Another idea is to have the boys plant a seed in a flowerpot. Each boy can then take the flowerpot home. The plants/flowers would represent the growth of families. Explain to the boys that families start out from a central point and then branch off as the family gets larger, much like a flower.

## **Discover Your Heritage – Requirement #2**

In order for youth to obtain complete information, the following ideas are suggested:

1. Spend one day in the library so the boys can find information regarding their heritage.
2. Or you can ask the youth, a week in advance, what their ethnic background is. Then, go to the library and pick up all the books for them by the next meeting.
3. Bring the boys to the library and go online. Teach them about their background and how to use a computer.

As mentioned in the handbook, on page 77, it would be a great idea to have a heritage night for your boys. This night would not just teach youth about their own heritage, but also teach them about the heritage of other people as well. During this night the following items are suggested:

1. Bring in international music that can be played throughout the night.
2. Bring in several special guests that can tell about their heritage.
3. Serve food from other countries.
4. Participate in games that are played in other countries.

### **Explore Family Traditions – Requirement #3**

Each Adventure Corps member will have his own tradition regarding holidays. It is always important to remember your family tradition, but it is just as interesting to learn new traditions. Starting this year, have an annual Adventure Corps Christmas party with your troop. Ask your troop to help plan the party. After having this Christmas party each year you will have created a new “tradition.”



### **My Family – Requirement #4**

To make more of this requirement, bring in photos of your family members. Then add together the questions you answered on page 78 in your Handbook and create a family scrapbook. You may also add the following questions to your scrapbook as well:

1. Do you have any siblings? What are their names?
2. Do you have any cousins?
3. What are some fun things that you have done with your family?
4. Have you ever been on vacation with your family? Where to?
5. Which family members do you enjoy visiting? (grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.)

Ask each child to invite one family member to Adventure Corps for next week.

### **The Prodigal Son – Requirement #5**

After telling the story of the Prodigal Son please be sure to tell the boys about the importance of having a family. Have the boys introduce their “special guest” in a show and tell type format. After the “show and tell” time, have snacks ready so that everyone can fellowship together and meet everyone’s family members.

## **Devotionals**

### **Devotional #1**

A block of wood is something that has been taken from a living tree. If you look at the wood really close, you can see lines running through it. These lines are called grains and show how old the tree is.

A tree grows twice a year, in the spring and summer. In the spring, when the tree grows, it forms soft wood. In the summer, a tree forms hard wood. It is due to these two different growing times that causes the tree to form the grains. When we examine a tree trunk, we can find out the age of the tree by counting the rings (grains).

Now, let us take a moment to see how we grow as people. We know that we were all babies at one time, and grew up to be kids, and someday we will be adults. In order to grow we need to eat and drink properly, get plenty of exercise, and rest daily.

The Bible teaches us of a different kind of growth, Christian growth. If we are studying the Bible, and find out what is wrong and right, we will make better choices in the future. Just as plants, people need food to grow, and so do Christians. Christians need to remember that reading your Bible and praying each day are essential in becoming a better Christian. Finish by singing "Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day."

### **Genesis 1:31**

The penguin differs from many other birds. One thing is that they cannot fly. Penguins are one of few birds that can live in 100 below zero temperature. They swim underwater with webbed feet and their mode of transportation is very strange. Penguins have very short legs, so they can only slowly wobble from place to place. To make up for their slow movement, penguins have the ability to glide down ice and snow on their stomachs.

Sometimes when we think about the word "heritage" we think of someone being different. Although we all have different forms of food, clothing, and traditions, no one heritage is better than another. In Genesis 1:31 it tells us that "God saw all that he created and it was good." Like the penguin each of our heritages are unique and special.

### **Devotional #3**

Traditions are great. What are some of the traditions that you and your family do each year? (Give time for answers.) Three Holidays where tradition is seen often are Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. It's fun to continue tradition. Many times it feels odd if a tradition is forgotten or skipped. Why is that? (Give time for answers.)

Sometimes we think too much about tradition and forget about the real meanings of some holidays. There are times when we spend too much time thinking about having "ham or turkey" or "what time to open the gifts."

Take a minute with your troop and talk about what the following holidays mean to them:

- Christmas
- Easter
- Thanksgiving
- 4th of July

How can we think more about the “holiday” as opposed to the “tradition?”

### **Luke 8: 19-24**

Have you ever thought for a second about how large your family actually is? If you include all of your cousins, aunts, uncles, and other distant members of the family, you would have too many people to count.

Did you know that you have a family that is even larger than that? You are a part of the family of God. You have countless numbers of Christian brothers and sisters. Do you keep that in mind throughout the day? Do you treat each of your Christian brothers and sisters with the same respect and love that you show your own siblings and parents?

Close with The Adventure Corps Prayer.