

At the Ready - Ceremonies



Through Strength To The Stars Opening

From Guiding In Australia, October 1990
(Submitted by Sylvia Le Marquand, Victoria)

*This was the theme of a trainers' weekend, held in Victoria.
These opening remarks provide food for thought...*

What is a star? The dictionary defines it as: A shining celestial body. A shining celestial body whose form and brightness has been adapted to represent a standard of excellence and achievement. We have seen stars used:

- ★ to credit work well done;
- ★ with significance on flags
- ★ on badges
- ★ to represent the law on the police insignia
- ★ the world itself was navigated by the guidance of the stars
- ★ in the eyes of lovers - young and old - our world revolves on love;
- ★ and a star shone over Bethlehem heralding birth.

All of these things are related to the strength of our Movement our Promise - to do our best - to respect country, flag, the love of mankind and belief in a supreme being.

Man has always studied the stars - intrigued and mystified, endeavouring to unravel the unknown. Modern man has not only studied, but has taken great steps towards reaching the stars.

Modern man has travelled into space - walked on the moon, and pictures have been zoomed back to earth disclosing some of the previously unknown facts of other planets. Armstrong said when he walked on the moon - 'One small step for man - a giant step for mankind' - but the adventure still goes on as man delves even further.

Through strength to the stars:
Douglas Bader reached for the sky, overcoming terrible injuries to fight not only for freedom, but to fly the skies again. He is an example of courage that has been an inspiration to many.





Through strength to the stars:

Peter Hillary attained his stars. He achieved his ambition to stand at the top of Mt Everest, repeating his father's incredible feat - to stand on top of the world.

Through strength to the stars:

Kay Cottee set an example to all women when she achieved her ambition - to be the first woman to solo circumnavigate the world - guided by and in the company of the stars.

Through strength to the stars:

We do not see ourselves as doing great deeds or crossing unknown frontiers - but we do have the opportunity of encouraging stars into the eyes of many young girls and women.

Guiding must always reach for new horizons. We must never stand still or be complacent.

In a world of rapid changes, girls today face pressures that were unheard of when we were young. Social and economic pressures and guiding must be aware and leaders must be prepared to be able to listen, discuss and offer answers. Our Promise and Law give those answers. We must be equipped to show the way with positive and forward thinking which will see guiding well prepared to move ahead towards the rapidly approaching horizon of the next century.



WHY NOT...

- Base your next Leaders Training day / weekend around a star based theme
- Have a program ideas swap day based around Stars
- Hold a leaders networking event at your local observatory
- Inspire the girls to hold a star based camp or pack holiday
- At your next district meeting get everyone to make a star shaped card with their name on the front – then circulate the cards around the team getting everyone to write why they think that person is a star on the back.
- Hold a “reach for the stars” themed workshop with your support group – start with what are your big goals (remember the sky’s the limit), then brainstorm ways to achieve them.