

## LEADER'S MINUTES WITHOUT PROPS 1-10

The examples listed in this section can be adapted and used as a point of reference to inspire Scouts, open their eyes, and/or get them thinking.

### ACHIEVING A GOAL

– Have you ever had an assignment or task that was so large that you were overwhelmed with the size of it and didn't know where to begin? When you are faced with such a task, ask yourself this question, "If you had to eat an elephant, how would you approach it?" The answer is simple: One bite at a time. Just like eating an elephant, you would go about doing the big assignment one bite at a time.

– Whether it's climbing to the top of a mountain or advancing to the next rank in Scouting, when we're faced with large and complicated task, we should plan our action, get started, and take one step at a time. Sure, we can keep our eye on the prize; but we need to remember that when there's such a long path to travel, we can proceed little by little, step by step, one bite at a time. In this way, with persistence and dedication, eventually we'll achieve our goal.

### AIM HIGH

– The greatest waste of our natural resources is the number of people who never achieve their potential. Get out of that slow lane. Shift into the fast lane. If we think we can't, we won't. If we think we can, there's a good chance we will. Just making the effort will make us feel like a new person.

– Reputations are made by searching for things that others say can't be done and doing them. Aim low: boring. Aim high: soaring.

### ASPENS

– Philmont Scout Ranch in northern New Mexico has some of the prettiest and most majestic scenery you'll ever be surrounded by. One outstanding site is hiking near a huge groves of aspen trees. If you've ever seen a grove of aspens wave in a breeze, you have witnessed their strength and beauty. A grove of aspens can withstand the mighty forces of nature because they are tightly bound together, both in their trunks and limbs, and in their root systems. Each tree draws strength from the others. However, one aspen standing alone would soon split or break in the force of a big wind.

– Your patrol is a lot like a grove of aspens. The strength and teamwork of a group of guys can accomplish tasks that would be impossible for individuals working independently. Each patrol member brings skills and talents that compliment the other members of the patrol.

### ATTITUDE

– Words could never adequately convey how great the impact our attitude can have on our lives. In many respects, life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we respond to it.

– I remember, when I was a Scout, peering out from my tent at our patrol leader on a very rainy morning. We had no dining fly, and he was cooking breakfast over a smokey fire. He was sopping wet. I recall noticing how drops of rain were dripping down off his hair as he mixed around the well-done scrambled eggs and water in the frying pan.

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What I also recall was the smile on his face. Cooking away in the smoke and the rain, he was actually cheerful! He could have chosen to be completely upset, but he hadn't, and his marked cheerfulness affected me and our entire patrol.

— One of the most significant decisions we can make on a day-to-day basis is our choice of attitude. Attitude can keep us going or cripple our progress. It's our attitude that either fuels our fire or assaults our hope. When our attitudes are right, there's no barrier too wide, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme, and no challenge too great.

### The BEAR AND THE TWO TRAVELERS

— Two men were traveling together, when a bear suddenly met them on their path. One of them climbed up quickly into a tree and concealed himself in the branches. The other, seeing that he must be attacked, fell flat on the ground, and when the bear came up and felt him with his snout, and smelt him all over, he held his breath, and feigned the appearance of death as much as he could. The bear soon left him, for it is said bears will not touch a dead body.

— When the bear was quite gone, the other Traveler descended from the tree, and jocularly inquired of his friend what it was the bear had whispered in his ear. "He gave me this advice," his companion replied. "Never travel with a friend who deserts you at the approach of danger."

— The moral of this fable is: Misfortune tests the sincerity of friends. (Don't be like Hank Hill's neighbor, Dale, on "King of the Hill," who runs off at the first sign of difficulty. When something goes wrong in our patrol or with our troop, or whatever group we're with, see what we can do to help. A Scout is Loyal.)

### BE LOYAL TO YOUR GOALS

— Don considered himself a musician. He played the tambourine in junior high school, but he wasn't very good. He also thought of himself as a singer, but he couldn't have carried a tune in a bucket.

— Years passed, and when all of his school friends were going to college and pursuing careers, Don nurtured his dream of becoming a singer-songwriter by moving to Nashville, Tennessee. Once there, Don made the most of his limited resources. He bought a used car and slept in it. He took a job working nights so he could visit record companies during the day. He learned to play the guitar. As years passed, he kept writing songs, practicing, and knocking on doors.

— After many years, Don finally got a song on the radio and it made the country hit charts. More time passed and Kenny Rogers recorded one of his songs. "The Gambler" was the title song for one of the best-selling country music albums of that time. Since then, Don Schlitz has had 23 number one songs on the charts and is a member of the Song Writer's Hall of Fame. As a result of his focused determination, the teenage dreamer had become a success.

— Don had done five things essential to success, without even knowing it. They are the following:

1. Define your goals. Set a goal and picture yourself accomplishing that goal.
2. Seek out those who know more than you do. Model your efforts on theirs, adjusting and improving as you go.

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3. Pursue your vision with determination. Successful people don't quit. The biggest difference between those who are successful and those who aren't is usually not talent, but persistence.
4. Make an emotional commitment. You will sometimes want to quit after too many losses, but you have to pull yourself together with enthusiasm and commitment.
5. Review and renew your goals. As you reach your goals, set new ones. Go to the next level.

### BE PREPARED FOR WHAT?

- What are the two words inscribed upon the Second Class Badge? “Be prepared.” Our motto. There is a story of a Scout in Oklahoma. His younger sister went too near a gas heater and instantly her clothes were in flames. The father and this 13-year-old Scout rushed up the stairs to try to help. Remembering his first-aid work, the Scout knew what to do and he did it immediately. He grabbed a small rug and rolled the screaming child in it. He had been prepared. In a moment he had smothered the flames and prevented serious injury to his sister.
- “Thank God my son is a Scout,” the boy's father told the Scoutmaster. “He knew what to do while I stood confused.”
- That's what it means to be prepared. Once someone asked Baden-Powell, “Be prepared— for what?” “Why, for any old thing!” he replied.

### BRAVERY

- Actor and martial arts expert Chuck Norris knows that might does not always mean right. He explains:  
Not long ago, after a day of filming my television series, I went alone to a small Texas cafe. As I sat in a corner booth, a large man towered over me and said with an edge to his voice that I was sitting in his booth. I didn't like his tone or his implicit threat, but I said nothing and moved to another booth. A few minutes later, though, the big fellow was headed back in my direction. Here he comes, I thought, a local tough out to make a name for himself by taking on Chuck Norris in a fight. When he arrived at my new booth, he looked directly at me.
- “You're Chuck Norris,” he said. I nodded.
- “You could have whipped me good back there a few minutes ago,” he said. “Why didn't you?”
- “What would it have proved?” I asked. He thought that over for a moment and then offered me his hand. “No hard feelings?” he said.
- “None,” I said, and shook his hand. I had avoided a confrontation and made a friend. I had won by losing.
- The confidence and contentment we feel regarding our own capabilities shouldn't depend on showing them off. Just because we have a skill, doesn't mean we have to prove it to others, and it's often preferable not to.

### The BULLFROG

- Once there was a very large green bullfrog who lived in a modest sized pond. Even though many other animals and fish lived around this pond the bullfrog didn't have any

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friends. You see, the friends he once had were gone. They were tired of his boasting and tried to stay out of his way.

– This situation changed when the geese began to migrate through the area. Two geese actually became his friends. They spent many a long day visiting, swimming and doing the things friends do. Then one day the two geese told the frog it was time for them to continue their migration. The frog was sad and asked if they could take him with them. He suggested that they let him climb on one of their backs and hang onto their neck. Both geese agreed that he was entirely too fat for one goose to carry.

– Further saddened, the frog began to think and finally came up with an idea. “Listen,” he said, “how about we take a string and each of you take hold of a end with your mouth and bite down hard, then I will bite in the middle of the string and you can fly me between you.” The geese pondered the idea and decided to give it a try.

– All were ready and the geese began to flap and run. The frog hopped along with the string in his mouth until he was lifted from the ground and was airborne. “Oh, what a feeling!” thought the frog. Onward they flew for days on end until they flew over a farmer out in his field.

– The farmer looked up and upon seeing the geese and frog remarked, “My, my, a flying frog! I wonder who taught those geese to fly such a big frog?” Hearing this the frog said, “I DID!!!” That night the farmer feasted on very large succulent frog legs.

– We should check our ego, and not let it get so far out of control that we lose our friends or worse yet, end up on someone's dinner plate.

### BULL'S-EYE

– Many years ago a young man traveling through the countryside noticed that on many of the barns was a large bull's-eye painted on it with an arrow squarely in the center of the target. He thought he would like to meet the great archer, and asked around until he found out the name of the man, who lived in a nearby village. He introduced himself, and asked the archer for a demonstration of his great skills. “Sure,” said the archer, and they walked to the outskirts of town to a barn. He carried his bow and a quiver of arrows and several buckets of paint and some brushes. He selected a barn site, carefully took aim at the barn, and hit it squarely in the middle. Then he walked up to the arrow, and carefully painted the bull's-eye around the arrow. He then proudly stood back and admired his work.

– Often, things are not as they seem. We need to be careful with our assumptions and not be misled by things as they sometimes appear.