

Pack 880 Statement of Purpose

Draft 2017-02-03 by Rhett Davis

We the leaders of Cub Scout Pack 880 agree that the purpose of the pack is to encourage elementary school boys to grow into **Men of God**. Our definition of a Man of God is based on the qualities of Jesus that contrast most sharply with Adam. There are four characteristics of a man of God that we will work to instill in our boys (adapted from *A Man and His Design*, copyright 2012 by Fellowship Associates, Inc., itself adapted from the Men's Fraternity material created by Dr. Robert Lewis):

1. They **Act Positively**

Adam was passive in the garden: "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes... she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate." Genesis 3:6 [ESV]

Jesus acted positively: "Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Philippians 2:5-8 [ESV]

2. They **Accept Responsibility**

God gave responsibilities to Adam, which he failed to accept. Jesus accepted these responsibilities, including *obedience* and *work*. "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work." John 4:34 [ESV]

3. They **Lead Courageously**

Adam failed to lead in the garden, but Jesus led by providing direction for others. He told his disciples, "Follow me." Matthew 4:19 [ESV]

Jesus led by providing protection for others. He said "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11 [ESV]

Jesus led by providing life for others: "The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam [Jesus] became a life-giving spirit." 1 Corinthians 15:45 [ESV]

4. They **Invest Eternally**

Adam invested in the temporary, choosing what would satisfy him in the moment. Jesus invested in the eternal. He lived it and taught it. In Matthew 6:19-20, he said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."

We choose to instill these qualities in our boys in the context of a worldly organization. We believe that in doing so, we are teaching our boys the first steps of how to be missionaries in exile.

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” Jeremiah 29:7 [ESV]

We choose the *Cub Scout* program from the *Boy Scouts of America* as the organization for our program. The purpose of the *Cub Scout* program (as stated in leader training materials) is to instill the following 10 characteristics in elementary school boys:

1. Character development
2. Spiritual Growth
3. Good Citizenship
4. Sportsmanship & Fitness
5. Family Understanding
6. Respectful Relationships
7. Personal Achievement
8. Friendly Service
9. Fun and Adventure
10. Preparation for Boy Scouts

Although the Cub Scout characteristics are not the same as the four characteristics of a Man of God, we believe that they are consistent with being a Man of God. We believe that the Cub Scout characteristics are not ends to be pursued, but are instead fruits that flow from the Holy Spirit.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23

Therefore, the mission of Cub Scout Pack 880 is, in part, to testify to other Cub Scout Packs and Boy Scout Troops that faith in Jesus Christ is the purest expression of the spiritual growth that they hope to achieve.

“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.” John 15:26

The Boy Scouts of America organization offers complete freedom to Pack 880 to pursue this mission and offers no opposition to it. Pack 880 is free to define “Duty to God” in any way we choose and to select leaders using any criterion we choose. We choose to select leaders who agree to abide by this statement of purpose.

Our first priority is and will always be to maintain an environment that is safe for our boys, which includes safety from influences that we feel may lead our boys away from faith in Jesus Christ, as defined by our charter organization, the Chapel Hill Bible Church. To date, we have not encountered any requirements from the Boy Scouts of America that might threaten our safe environment or opposes the values of our charter organization. If any opposition is found, we will seek to end our affiliation with the Boy Scouts of America and choose a different parent organization for Pack 880.