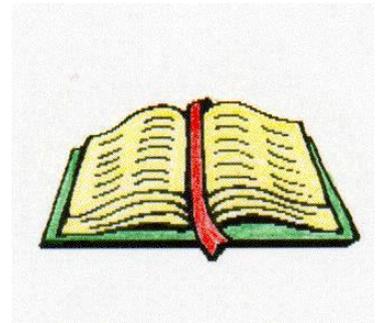


## *Guides Own – some thoughts*

Guides' Own is a reflection on our Promise. A memorable Guides' Own can often be that special something that leaders and guides remember for a long time to come. A quiet time sitting under tall gum trees, watching the sun rise, lying under the stars in the glow of the dying campfire - the chance to reflect on our spiritual beliefs in the company of friends.

Questions to ask yourself or the Guides when planning a Guides Own:

- ♣ How do we choose prayers and readings that will be relevant?
- ♣ How can a Guides' Own be truly owned by the Guides?
- ♣ How can everyone become involved - even someone who dislikes speaking or acting in public?
- ♣ What will make a Guides' Own a personal experience for everyone?
- ♣ What is a good setting for a Guides' Own?
- ♣ How can the girls be encouraged to think of innovative way's to share their beliefs?



Guides'-Own is a reflection on our commitment to our Promise. Spiritual beliefs may mean a different thing for each person. This personal commitment to be true to ourselves and develop our beliefs is important; as it means something unique and recognises that it is an on- going process for each of us. In Guides Own we need to recognise and consider others' faith and belief as well as our own.

Although the majority of Australians claim a Christian faith in some form we have representatives of most other world faiths in Guiding. We also have many who are not aligned with a particular faith group. We need to recognise this in the content of a Guides Own.

- ♣ What are the main concepts behind each of the major faiths?
- ♣ Within Christianity, what problems are likely to arise when organizing Guiding events?
- ♣ Some concepts are common to everyone - for example the Idea 'Love thy neighbour'. How can this be used with Guides to explore other faiths?
- ♣ Are there sacred scripts, sacred places and rites and rituals that are important to people of particular faiths?
- ♣ Is it always appropriate to use the rituals or symbols of other faith traditions?
- ♣ What can guides do to recognize the aboriginal culture and its beliefs?

The nature of the Guides' Own is a reflection of your personal understanding of the Promise and Law, including your commitment to develop your beliefs. Be true to yourself. Sharing a true belief with others is important.

The activities and ideas in a Guides Own are limitless and the content is what makes it unique.

POSSIBLE FORMATS:

- Music to call everyone together
- Opening reading to set the theme
- A prayer
- An activity to get everyone involved
- A story
- A reading to summarize the story
- A song
- A collection of short sayings to share with everyone
- A prayer
- A closing song
- Music to leave by



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- Setting – over looking a valley
- Music in the background throughout, quiet enough to hear the birds above it
- Enter in silence
- Pass round various special objects – let everyone have plenty of time to look at each
- ♣ shell   ♣ feather   ♣ gumnut   ♣ Promise badge   ♣ World badge etc...
- Prayer
- Leave in silence

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- Reading
- Song
- Reading
- Prayer
- Song

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PowerPoint slide show of pictures of the wonders of God's world accompanied by poems, reading and songs

