

## Troop 94 – Scout's Own Service

### BRAVE

*Troop assembles for Scout's Own Service....once everyone is seated begin the program*

**Greeting:** We would like to welcome you all to today's Scout's Own Service.

*Instruct everyone to remove their hats.....they may remain seated*

**Prayer:** *Please bow your heads...*

For this time and this place,  
For your goodness and grace,  
For each friend we embrace,  
We thank thee, O Lord.

Amen

*Ask Everyone to please stand for the Scout Oath and Scout Law*

**Scout Oath – Scout Sign....Please recite the Scout Oath with me**

**Scout Law - Please say Scout Law ....Two**

*Ask Everyone to please have a seat*

### **Today's Message: Bravery Stands Alone**

Sometimes riding the school bus can be very dangerous. One day, in seventh grade, changed my life when my ride home on the bus, ended badly.

Back then, I had two good friends who lived in my neighborhood, and we rode the bus together. We had been friends since the first grade, and we played sports and video games together.

Usually, we would sit right in the middle of the bus, talk and eat snacks. Unfortunately, that day, we kept getting interrupted. The class bully kept messing with my friends about dumb stuff and for no reason.

Overall, I remember thinking that the bully must have gotten left back like three times because he had facial hair and was twice as big as the tall kids.

He was sitting across the aisle from my friends and calling them names, cursing and saying how he was going to beat them up. They kept ignoring him and so we just kept talking.

The bus came to our stop, and we prepared to exit the bus. We couldn't expect to catch a break, since the bully lived in our neighborhood too and got off the bus with us. He ramped up his teasing and got really loud to draw attention to himself.

My friends were kind of shaken by all of this and were growing more and more fearful as kids started gathering around us and the bully. Things got tense as the bully threatened, to punch my friends lights out if they didn't face him.

As he kept running his mouth, the more I couldn't take it anymore. It just didn't seem right for me to stand there and do nothing while this kid kept harassing my friends. If they weren't going to say something, I would.

So, I said, "Dude, just quit! They weren't bothering you!"

As soon as I said that the bully really put on an act for the small crowd that was forming and acted like he wanted me to be part of his stupid little show.

"Well, well – what do you know about it Batman? So what, are you here to save the day or something?", he said and laughed.

We didn't want any trouble. We just wanted to walk home in peace. I really wasn't trying to fight this guy. He was built like a pro wrestler or football player, and I was just a regular seventh grader. So, I just kept walking after I told him to stop bothering my friends.

He just wouldn't stop, and he walked up on me and shoved my book bag that I had on my back. "What, are you scared?" He went on and on pushing me and cursing; while making a big scene. The kids who were watching started hooting and saying "Ohhhhh, there's gonna be a fight!"

I started sweating and I could actually hear my heart beating loudly. My feet felt like lead. My friends didn't say a word or tell the bully to move on. They just stood there like they were in shock with their eyes wide open.

Knowing that this guy wasn't going to leave us alone, I turned around to say something and he just sneaked in a left hook. I went down hard and hit the ground. The right side of my face was burning and felt like my cheek exploded.

The kids went wild and all I could hear was a bunch of chatter. I knew that I couldn't just jump up and fight this guy so I stayed on the ground and did a sweep kick and quickly spun around in a circle and kicked the back of his legs.

He was so busy posing for the crowd of kids after knocking me to the ground, that my sweep kick caught him by surprise, and he fell backwards to the ground. That shut him up and ended the show.

The bully never messed with me or my friends after that. He never apologized but, he never said anything to me. He would just see me around and just look at me then keep going about his business.

That day, I learned a lot. While I was a little disappointed that my friends just froze; I knew someone had to do something. In that moment, I realized that I had the courage to stand up for what was right although I was also a little fearful of the possibility getting into a fight.

As I got older, I approached difficult situations knowing that I had to be firm in doing the right thing. I learned that you have to pick and choose when to step up. Sometimes bravery stands alone.

**Reflection:** Ask yourself what you would have done in this situation? What does bravery look like for you?

***Ask Everyone to please stand***

**Benediction:** May you walk in Peace. Live with Love, work with Joy, and May the Great Scoutmaster go with you.

**Closing:** Thank you for attending our Scout's Own Service. Let's close by singing the Scout Vespers

**Scout Vespers :** *Second verse optional.....Scouts may hum the tune as they exit quietly*

Softly falls the light of day,  
While our campfire fades away.  
Silently each Scout should ask  
Have I done my daily task?  
Have I kept my honor bright?  
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?  
Have I done and have I dared  
Everything to be prepared?

**Second verse**  
Quietly we now will part,  
Pledging ever in our heart,  
To strive to do our best each day,  
As we travel down life's way.  
Happiness we'll try to give,  
Trying a better life to live,  
'Till all the world be joined in love,  
and with peace under skies above.