The Ten Commandments of Unit Service

1. A unit leader is the most important person in Scouting.
2. Unit leaders are not dependent on us; we are dependent on them.
3. Units are not interruptions of our work; they are the purpose of it.
4. Unit adults do us a favor when they call.
5. A unit Scouter is central to our team—not an outsider.
6. Unit leaders are not cold statistics; they are human beings with feelings and emotions like our own.
7. A unit leader is not someone to argue or match wits with.
8. Unit adults bring us their needs; it is our job to help meet those needs.
9. Unit volunteers are deserving of the most courteous treatment we can give them.
10. A unit is the lifeblood of this and every other council.

(Present the above on a flip chart, overhead projector, or PowerPoint. Invite discussion. Distribute as a handout.)

A Parable

This parable is told of a farmer who owned an old mule.

The mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule "praying" or whatever mules do when they fall into wells.

After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, but decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving.

Instead, he called his neighbors together, told them what had happened, and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery.

Initially, the old mule was hysterical! But as the farmer and his neighbors continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back, a thought struck him. It dawned on him that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back, HE COULD SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP! This he did, blow after blow. "Shake it off and step up . . . shake it off and step up . . . shake it off and step up!" he repeated to encourage himself.

No matter how painful the blows or how distressing the situation seemed, the old mule fought panic and just kept right on SHAKING IT OFF AND STEPPING UP!

It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, STEPPED TRIUMPHANTLY OVER THE WALL OF THAT WELL! What seemingly would bury him actually helped him . . . all because of the manner in which he handled his adversity.

THAT'S LIFE! If we face our problems and respond to them positively, and refuse to give in to panic, bitterness, or self-pity, THE PROBLEMS THAT COME ALONG TO BURY US USUALLY HAVE WITHIN THEM THE VERY POTENTIAL TO BENEFIT US . . . AND BENEFIT SCOUTING, TOO!

(Distribute the above. Have participants read. Invite three persons to each share a one-minute implication for commissioners.)