

CHAPTER IV

All Star Consecration Service

One of the most impressive experiences in the life of an All Star is the Consecration Service. This is the time when he or she is selected from the group of young people attending Club Week. Katherine Baker Bromley, a charter member of the Maryland All Stars, gives a vivid picture of the first Consecration Service: "I remember a lovely sunset service near the old flag pole, and I can see the fine group of West Virginia folks standing against the horizon, larger and stronger than I. I can remember the beautiful Consecration Service in the gymnasium. We dressed in white, and oh, the feeling of anticipation, solemnness, and quiet as the Scout Eagle went round and round and picked the new members out of the circle! We were each given a red rose, and how I shed tears of happiness that night! I felt as though I had received a solemn pledge to go forth and show my little light and be of service."

Through the years little change has taken place in the procedure described by Katherine. When the weather had permitted it, the Consecration Service was held out of doors on the University of Maryland Campus. The remaining times it had been held in the University of Maryland gymnasium.

Until 1941, the entire group attending Club Week was seated in a large circle and upon the dimming of the lights, the All Stars entered the circle in single file carrying lighted candles and singing "Follow the Gleam." The girls always dressed in white while the boys wore dark coats and white trousers. All members wore white roses and each scout who was to bring in a new member wore an additional red rose to give to the new All Star. The All Stars arranged themselves in a smaller circle within the circle of the boys and girls, and the Consecration Service was then started by the Chief.

Due to the rapid growth of 4-H Club work after World War II, the first postwar Consecration Service, at Club Week in 1946, was held in the new armory following the Friday night musical. The All Stars entered the main floor of the armory in two lines from the steps of the lounge. The All Stars formed a circle around the seated Club Week audience with the Big Chief, Scout, and Scribe on the speaker's platform to perform the ceremony as the individual members were selected from the Club Week members.

The following Consecration Service, accepted from the West Virginia All Stars in 1921, is the first used by the Maryland Chapter:

ALL STAR CONSECRATION SERVICE

Regalia: Suitable robe and head-dress with All Star pin and 4-H emblem in felt.
Roses—White for old members and red for new members.

(Chief leads procession, forming small circle in center of large circle formed by club members.)

CHIEF: Scout, have all the worthy members arrived?

SCOUT: They all stand in the circle, Most Noble Chief.

CHIEF: Let our worthy Scribe read the message which calls us here.

SCRIBE: To the Most Worthy All Stars,

Another year has gone. The tribes of farm boys and girls who are striving to attain achievement through the development of the head, hand, health, and heart are assembling for their Annual State Meeting. Let us gather together then, O Worthy members, that we may search through this group of ambitious boys and girls and see if perchance there is any who by rendering service to others and by his attainments merits admission into this most high and noble Order. Come then on the eve of the _____ day of the month of the thunder moon and let us form our circle at the accustomed place.

CHIEF: Is it then the desire of the worthy All Stars here assembled that we send forth our great Scout Eagle to search through this great company of boys and girls to find and bring before us any that may seem worthy of admission into this high Order?

ALL STARS: Send forth the Scout, O Chief.

CHIEF: Most Noble Scout Eagle, come.

(Scout steps out facing Chief.)

O Most Worthy Excellent Scout Eagle, hear well these words.

The All Stars desire that you pass through this great company of boys and girls and see if perchance there may be any who have so "increased in stature and wisdom and in favor with God and man," that they are worthy of admission into this our noble Order of All Stars. Go forth and guard well thy choice.

(Scout goes out and brings in a boy or girl.)
Scout Eagle, whom bring you here?

SCOUT: _____ of _____ County.

CHIEF: What prompted you to bring this person here?

SCOUT: His (or her) record of service O Chief.

CHIEF: Noble Scribe, read the record so that all may hear.

SCRIBE: (reads record of the boy or girl brought in)

CHIEF: The record is worthy, let him (or her) remain within our circle. (The Scout is sent after others, and the record of each is read, until all electives have been brought in.)

CHIEF: Will all the worthy ones who have been chosen from this great body of boys and girls and brought within our Circle please kneel facing me? (They kneel as requested.) O Worthy All Stars, you have heard the record of service of those who bow before us. Shall they be received into this great and noble Order of All Stars? Think well, then answer me, O Worthy Members.

ALL STARS: Noon-way (Meaning "It is Well.")

CHIEF: O Worthy Ones who bow before us, you have heard this most earnest desire of the All Stars. Listen then while I speak the message of the All Stars: "Our Motto is 'Service.' Remember you have your mind to continually train, your health to ever guard, your hands to always use, and your heart to keep you right at all times. Forget not either your Head, your Health, your Hand, or your Heart. Use them all to render service so that the world may be better because of your having lived in it." Let the most beautiful of flowers be placed upon these worthy ones as a token of our appreciation for their services, and extend to them the hand of welcome.

(Each member takes the one kneeling before him by the hand and assists him to his feet, and places a red rose on his breast.)

Just as the Great Fire Chief goes to His berth in the West tomorrow evening you will meet with us again and we shall instruct you in the secret work of our Order. We will now turn with our faces to the world and the many problems that confront us, and receive the benediction.

(All turn as suggested with up-raised palms, tribal benediction in silence.)

I now declare the 19..... Annual Consecration Service of the All Stars closed.

In the original service as adopted by the Maryland All Stars in 1921, the Scout Eagle was responsible for leaving the circle of All Stars and selecting

changes and the Scouts were not only responsible for bringing new members into the circle but also observing and becoming acquainted with them during the Club Week, thus making it easier to recognize them in the outer circle during the Consecration Service. At this time it was decided to discontinue the practice of reading the "record of service" of the new All Stars. A committee, headed by Stanley Sutton was appointed to revise the Consecration Service to conform to these changes. The revised service was submitted to the group and accepted August 9, 1930.

On August 4, 1931, a new Consecration Service was proposed to the All Star group. It was presented as a result of the recommendation "that the Ritual of the Consecration Service be the same in all chapters," which came as a result of the Inter-State All Star Conference held at Jackson's Mill, West Virginia, June 12 to 14, 1931. All chapters were represented at this meeting. This service has remained essentially the same throughout the past eighteen years.

The following Consecration Service has been used by the Chapter since 1931:

ALL STAR CONSECRATION SERVICE

(All Stars carrying lighted candles, led by Chief, singing "Follow the Gleam." They form a circle.)

CHIEF: Scout, are all the worthy members assembled?

SCOUT: They stand within the circle, O Chief.

CHIEF: Let our Scribe read the message which calls us here.

SCRIBE: The many 4-H boys and girls who are striving to make their lives richer through the development of the head, hands, heart and health have met together. Let us search then, and see if perchance there are any who by rendering service to others and by their character merit admission into this Order.

CHIEF: Is it then the desire of the All Stars here assembled that we send forth our Scout to bring before us any who may seem worthy of admission into this high Order?

ALL STARS: Send forth the Scout, O Chief.

CHIEF: Scout Eagle, come. (Scout steps out of circle and faces Chief.) Hear well these words: The All Stars desire that you pass through this company of boys and girls and see if perchance there may be any who have so "increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man" that they are worthy of admission into this, our noble Order of All Stars. Go forth and guard well thy choice.

(Scout goes out and brings in a boy or girl to stand before the Chief.)

CHIEF: Scout Eagle, whom bring you here?

SCOUT:of.....County.

CHIEF: What prompted you to bring.....here?

SCOUT: His (or her) record of service, O Chief.

CHIEF: Noble Scribe, is the record of the chosen one worthy?

SCRIBE: It is, O Chief.

CHIEF: He (or she) may remain within our Circle.

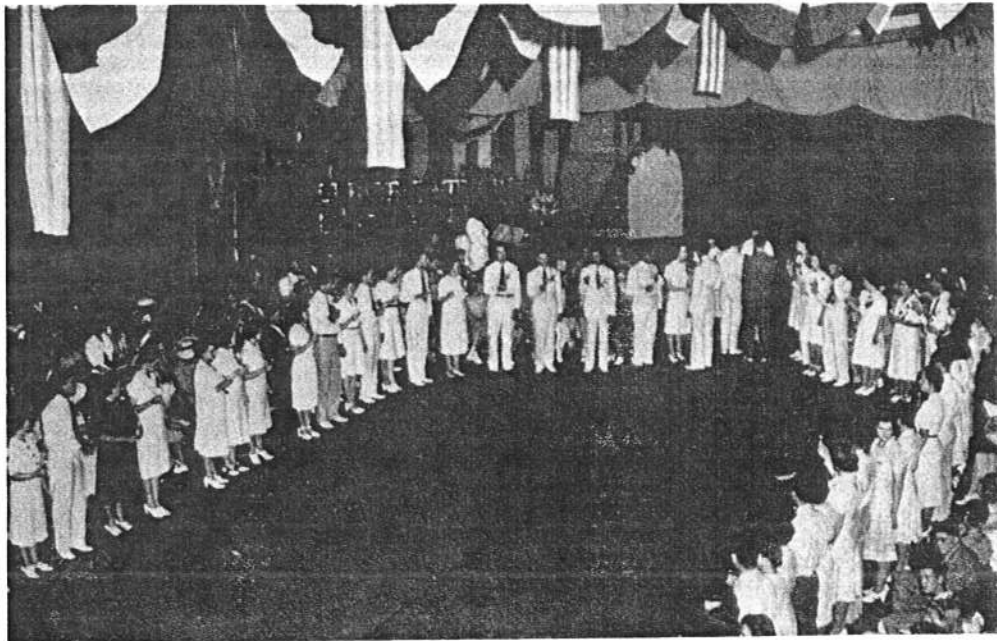
CHIEF: Are there others, O Scout?

SCOUT: There are no others at this time, O Chief.

Probably the most significant portion of the Consecration Service deleted or revised as a result of the change in 1931, is the revision of the message read by the Big Chief to all members selected from the Club Week group. The change reflects the basic idea of being chosen to serve, rather than being selected for performance of outstanding deeds. The message as quoted from the 1928 Consecration Service is as follows:

"Let the most beautiful of flowers be placed upon these worthy ones as a token of our appreciation for their services and of our trust we impose upon them. Extend to them the hand of brotherhood and welcome. Later you will meet with us again when we will instruct you in the principals of our order which are not secret, but which we hold as our private affairs."

For many All Stars, the Consecration Service, whether conducted in accordance with the pattern of present thinking or the thinking of 1921, has opened a new era of fellowship and love in their hearts and minds. This is particularly noticeable during the actual performance of the Service and during the anxious moments that the various scouts are seeking out the new candidates from the Club Week group. More than any one thing, the Consecration Service has maintained the ideals of All Stars at an unapproachable standard; forever building and forever "following the gleam."



All Star Consecration Service, 1941