

Campfire Openings

Cree Indian Opening

Waconda Day Doo Wah Poh Ah Me Ah Ah Ton Ah Hey [The translation of this: Great Heavenly Spirit, we thank Thee for Thy Creations, bless our council for the night.]

Here soon will be ashes that once were trees

In Spring, they gave us delight
In Summer, shade
In Autumn, the colours of their falling leaves
In Winter, the beauty of their bare branches
May our lives like the trees be lives of service
I declare this campfire open.

Sparks that upwards fly
So may our hearts be young
And spirits high.

As the flames point upwards
So be our aims
As the red logs glow

So be our sympathies
As the grey ash fades

So be our errors
As the good fire warms the circle

So may our Ideals warm the world
[General Godfrey Faussett]

As fuel is brought to the fire
So I propose to bring My strength, My ambition, My heart's desire, my joy, and my sorrow
To the fire of Humankind
For I will tend as my fathers have tended
And my fathers' fathers since time began
The love of man for man - the love of man for God.

The North Wind brings the cold that builds endurance
The South Wind brings the warmth of friendship
The East Wind brings the light of day
The West Wind from the direction where the Sun sinks brings night and the stars.

[This could be done by four Scouts bringing in a flaming torch from each of the four corners and perhaps adding the words "brings greetings to this campfire circle"]

Oh Fire Maker bring forth the Sacred Fire from the wood of the forest

so that we may have light

that we may have warmth

that we may sit in this council tonight.

Oh Fire Maker light now our Council fire.

From the North From the South From the East And from the West May Good luck come to you. Brother Scouts, the campfire is open.

First a curl of birch bark
As dry as it can be
then some twigs of soft wood
Dead from off a tree
Last of all some Pine knots to make a kettle foam
And there's a fine to make you think you're sitting right at home.

Scouts of the World wherever you be
God shed his blessed grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From Sea to Shining Sea.
[John Thurman]

A little bit of kindness to each other now and then
A little bit of blindness to the faults of other men
A little bit of happiness - A lively Wolf Cub's smile
And then as on through life we go - We'll find it's all worth while

It ain't no use to grumble and complain
It's just as cheap and easy to rejoice
When God sort out the weather and sends rain
Why - Rain's my choice
[J. W. Riley]

No breathless hush in the close tonight
it's wind on the heath and in tent withal
It's cold and it's damp, so we'll pack in tight
So our hearts shall keep warm; weather befall.

Onward and upward; straight is the course, and narrow the way, but others before us, the
path have trod and the top of the hill is the Heart of God.

Oh ye of the East be with us
Oh ye of the dawn and day
Oh ye of the West behold us
Oh ye of the storm and night
Oh ye of the South be with us
Oh ye of the path of the Sun
Oh ye of the North behold us
Oh ye of the Mother of Day.

Who hath smelt woodsmoke at twilight?
Who hath heard the birch log burning?
Who is quick to read the noises of the night?
Let him follow with the others
For the young men's feet are turning
To the camps of proved desire and known delight.

[Rudyard Kipling]

Campfire Closings

Glory to thee my God, this night
For all the blessings of thy light
Keep us this night, oh King of Kings
Beneath thine own Almighty wings.
I declare this Campfire closed.

We came as strangers. We part as brothers. May the spirit of the Nekanetah [substitute the
name of your camp] be with you always.
Nekanetah was the campsite of the Elgin, Ontario, Canada, District Campsite.

My friends the coals of the Council fire burn low.
Our Council is nearly ended.
Let the smoke of the dying embers carry our prayers to the One Great Spirit.
Our Council is now ended.

Now as we come to our last Campfire
Let's pause for a moment and praise
The Almighty God who saw fit to inspire
Our Founder who gave us these days.

Almighty God, help us to face life bravely
When we are faced with difficulties.
Help us to make them stepping stones to success,
Not excuses for failure.
Help us to be greater than our limitations.

Comes the last day of many days
The last Campfire of all too few
Last but not lost. In the years ahead
These times our memories shall renew

May the road rise to greet you
May the Wind be always at your back
May the sunshine warm your face
May the rains fall soft upon your fields
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.