

# **THE CAMP READ SONGBOOK**

A Collection of Favorite Tunes from  
Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation  
Brant Lake, NY

First Edition  
Summer 2025

— PUBLISHED BY THE —



**CAMP READ ASSOCIATION**

For generations of scouts, music has played a core part of the experience at Camp Read. From campfire rituals to hiking tunes to dining hall antics, singing passes the time, creates unforgettable memories, and brings us together like no other activity quite can.

As years go by, tastes change, and songs which were once beloved can become obscure or even forgotten. This book is part of an effort to preserve our collective history, and aims to equip the campers and staff with a valuable resource for keeping our songs alive in the years to come.

The fifteen songs included in the following pages of course only scratch the surface of all those which have been sung at camp over the years, and they are printed as a “first version” in the hope that future years will bring the opportunity to set more of our music down in ink for print and digital publication. In making selections for this version, we did try to prioritize those which are rarest and most particular to Camp Read, versus more widespread popular songs, though we were able to include some of both types.

For anyone interested in a more comprehensive and evolving set of resources, including a “master list” of songs, as well as scans of songbooks from years past (typically lyrics only), please visit our website: [campread.org/music](http://campread.org/music) or scan the QR code below. And if you have any interest in camp history, or in contributing to projects like this in the future, please join the Camp Read Association (also through our website)!

Meanwhile, please enjoy these songs and put them to good use. They have a rich past at our Scout camp, and hopefully they have a bright future ahead.

Yours in Scouting,  
Simon E. Langham Riker  
Editor



# WE WELCOME YOU TO OLD CAMP READ

Spirited

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The melody is written in treble clef. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: F, C7, C7, F6, F, Gm7, C7, F, F7, Bb, F, Gm7, C7, F. The lyrics are: 'We wel - come you to old Camp Read, we hope you like it here, We'll send the air re - ver - ber - a - ting with a migh - ty cheer, We'll sing you in, we'll sing you out, And then we'll give a migh - ty shout! Hail, hail, the gang's all here, and you're wel - come to old Camp Read! Hey!' The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

We wel - come you to old Camp Read, we hope you like it here, We'll

send the air re - ver - ber - a - ting with a migh - ty cheer, We'll

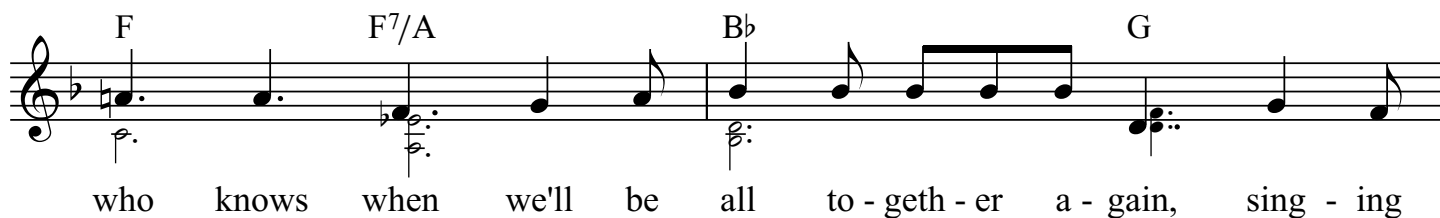
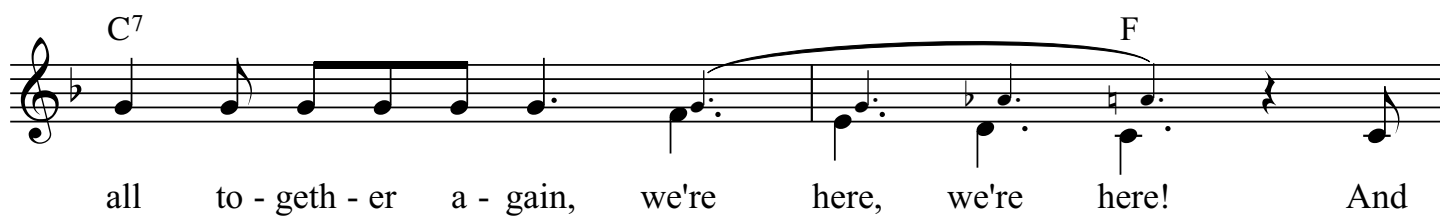
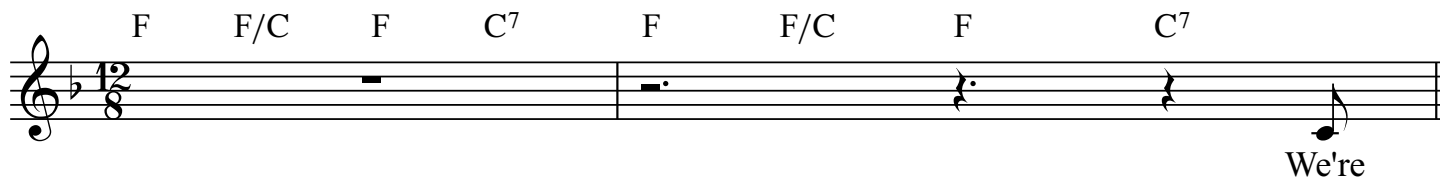
sing you in, we'll sing you out, And then we'll give a migh - ty shout!

Hail, hail, the gang's all here, and you're wel - come to old Camp Read! Hey!

# WE'RE ALL TOGETHER AGAIN

Fast and Jolly

Traditional



*This classic scouting song was most famously recorded by Burl Ives and featured a choir of scouts singing supporting harmonies. The smaller notes in the score reflect the notes that the boys sang on the record, on the syllable "Ah".*

Historically sung by campers and staff before meals in the dining hall, the graces are a sacred tradition at Camp Read. Based on the melody to the hymn "As With Gladness, Men of Old," this tune took on a life of its own at camp as it was passed down over the decades.

## MORNING GRACE

Musical notation for Morning Grace, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff with lyrics underneath. The first line of music corresponds to the lyrics "Gra-cious giv - er of all good, Thee we thank for rest and food,". The second line of music corresponds to the lyrics "Grant that all we do or say, In thy ser-vice be this day. A - men." and includes the instruction "harmony ad lib." above the final notes.

Gra-cious giv - er of all good, Thee we thank for rest and food,  
Grant that all we do or say, In thy ser-vice be this day. A - men. *harmony ad lib.*

## NOON GRACE

Musical notation for Noon Grace, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff with lyrics underneath. The first line of music corresponds to the lyrics "Fa - ther for this noon-day meal, We would speak the praise we feel,". The second line of music corresponds to the lyrics "Health and strength we have from thee, Help us, Lord, to faith-ful be. A - men." and includes the instruction "harmony ad lib." above the final notes.

Fa - ther for this noon-day meal, We would speak the praise we feel,  
Health and strength we have from thee, Help us, Lord, to faith-ful be. A - men. *harmony ad lib.*

## EVENING GRACE

Musical notation for Evening Grace, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff with lyrics underneath. The first line of music corresponds to the lyrics "Tire - less guar-dian on our way, Thou has kept us well this day,". The second line of music corresponds to the lyrics "While we thank thee, we re-quest, Care con-tin-ued, par-don, rest. A - men." and includes the instruction "harmony ad lib." above the final notes.

Tire - less guar-dian on our way, Thou has kept us well this day,  
While we thank thee, we re-quest, Care con-tin-ued, par-don, rest. A - men. *harmony ad lib.*

# HEAR, HEAR US CHEERING

Brightly

Music and Lyrics by Unknown Scout

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time. The melody is in G major, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. Chords are indicated by letters above the staff: C, G7, F, and Dm. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

C G7

Hear, hear us cheer - ing, Let our voi - ces ring, ring, ring, ring,

G7 C

While we're to - geth - er you can hear us sing, sing, sing, sing,

C A7 Dm

We'll stick to Scout - ing through the rain and through the clear,

F C G7 C

Hear, hear us cheer, The Scouts of Cur - tis Read are here, Ra! Ra! Ra!

## Sing 3 times:

1st time: As written.

2nd time: Staccato (short), leaving out the third "Ra" at the end.

3rd time: Softly up to/including "through the clear," then loudly to the end,  
with one loud Ra at the very end.

These variations are very successful at catching new scouts unaware,  
creating unintentional "solos" as the uninitiated let slip an extra Ra - or two.


*In the 1950's, the reservation was divided into two camps: Bucksin, and Tomahawk. Each camp had their own marching songs which helped fuel a healthy rivalry.*

## WE ARE THE SCOUTS OF TOMAHAWK

### Bright March


Based on the Colonel Bogey March (aka "Bridge Over the River Kwai")

B♭ F F<sup>7</sup>




We are the Scouts of Tom - a - hawk, No one, can beat old Tom - a - hawk,

F<sup>7</sup> B♭ G/B F/C C<sup>7</sup> F




There is no one to catch us, no one to match us 'cause we are the best! Da di da da da da

B♭ F F<sup>7</sup>



(whistle)

F<sup>7</sup> B♭ Cm F<sup>7</sup> B♭



# GLOW LITTLE BUCKSKINS

Tune: "Glow Worm" by PAUL LINCKE and JOHNNY MERCER

Jauntily, swung


Lyrics by 1960's Camp Read Staff

G D<sup>7</sup> G



Glow lit-tle Buck-skins, glim-mer, glim-mer, as your hopes grow dim mer, dim mer,

G/B B<sup>b</sup>°<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup>/A Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup> G




If your Scout boots give you blis-ters, you can al-ways wear your sis-ter's!

G D<sup>7</sup> G



Don't be a-fraid of the night time noi-ses, or those big tough Tom-a-hawk boi-ses,

G/B B<sup>b</sup>°<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup> G



Next year come to Tom - a - hawk, and you will be a man!



# BUCKSKIN'S THE CAMP FOR ME

Music: "Honey-Babe" by MAX STEINER and PAUL FRANCIS WEBSTER

Lyrics: 1960's CAMP READ STAFF

Brightly

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of E major (indicated by three sharps: F#, C#, G#), and 4/4 time. The tempo/style is 'Brightly'. The score consists of eight staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. Chord symbols are placed above the staff at various points: E, B7, E, E7, A, Am, A, E, A, E, E7, A, Am, E, B7, and E. The lyrics are: 'What's the best camp in Read? Buck - skin, Buck - skin, Which will be the one to lead? Buck - skin, Buck - skin, We will beat the Tom - a - hawks 'cause all they do is talk, talk talk, Buck - skin's the camp for me! Come a - long, come a - long, Come join our hap - py hik - ing song, We will fight, and when we're done, we will watch the o - thers run, Buck - skin's the camp for me!'. The score ends with a double bar line.

What's the best camp in Read? Buck - skin, Buck - skin,

Which will be the one to lead? Buck - skin, Buck - skin,

We will beat the Tom - a - hawks 'cause all they do is talk, talk talk,

Buck - skin's the camp for me! Come a -

long, come a - long, Come

join our hap - py hik - ing song, We will

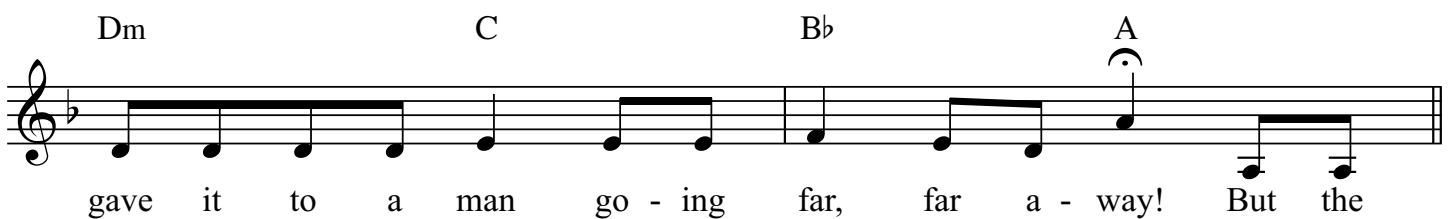
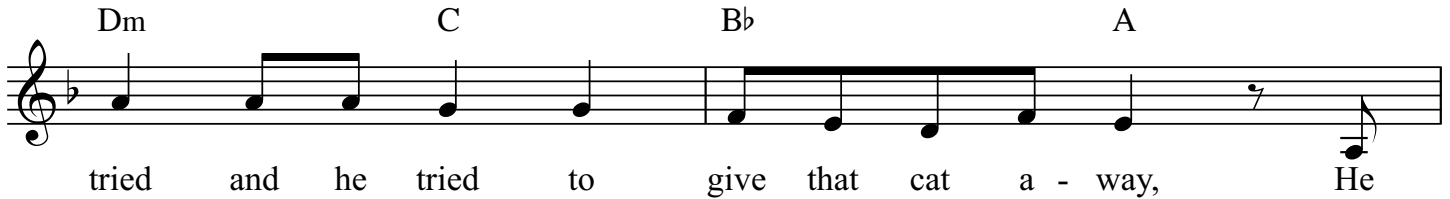
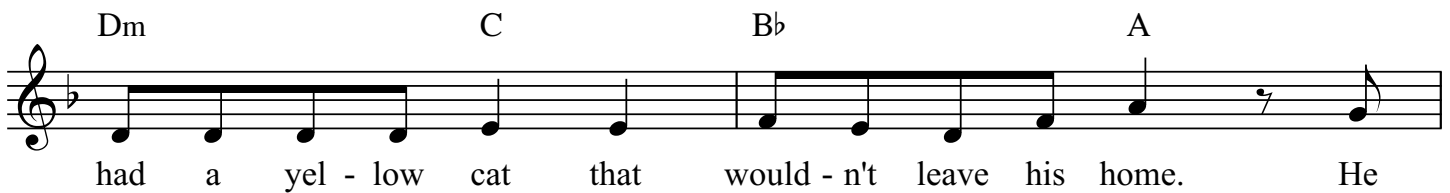
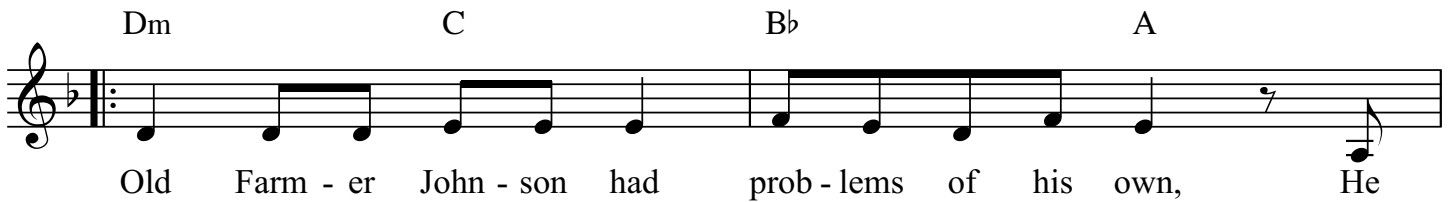
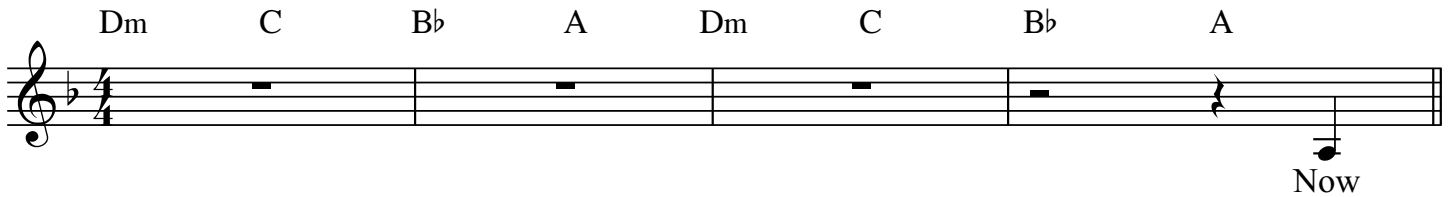
fight, and when we're done, we will watch the o - thers run,

Buck - skin's the camp for me!

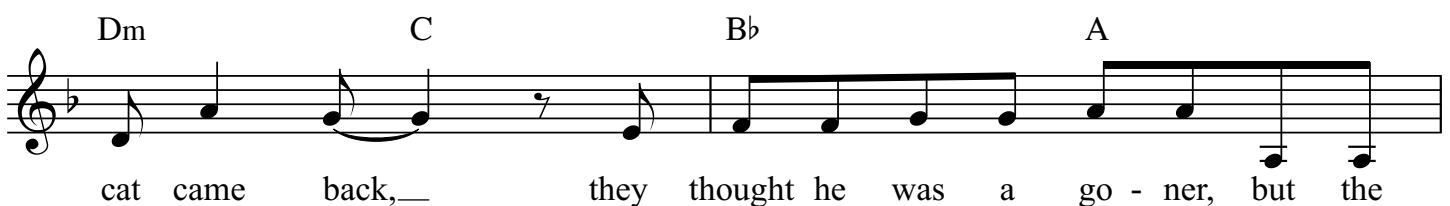
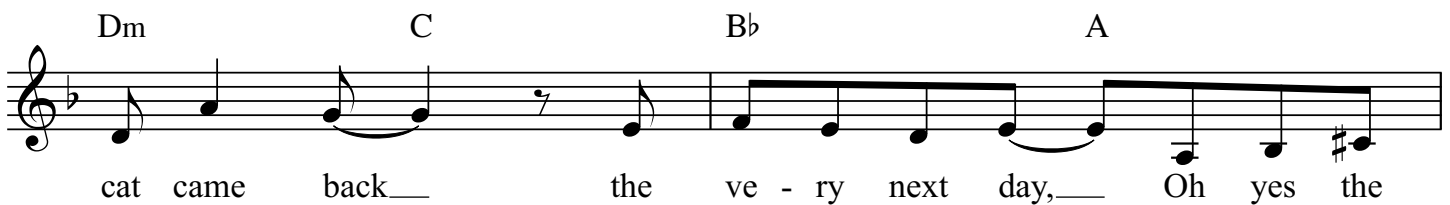
# THE CAT CAME BACK

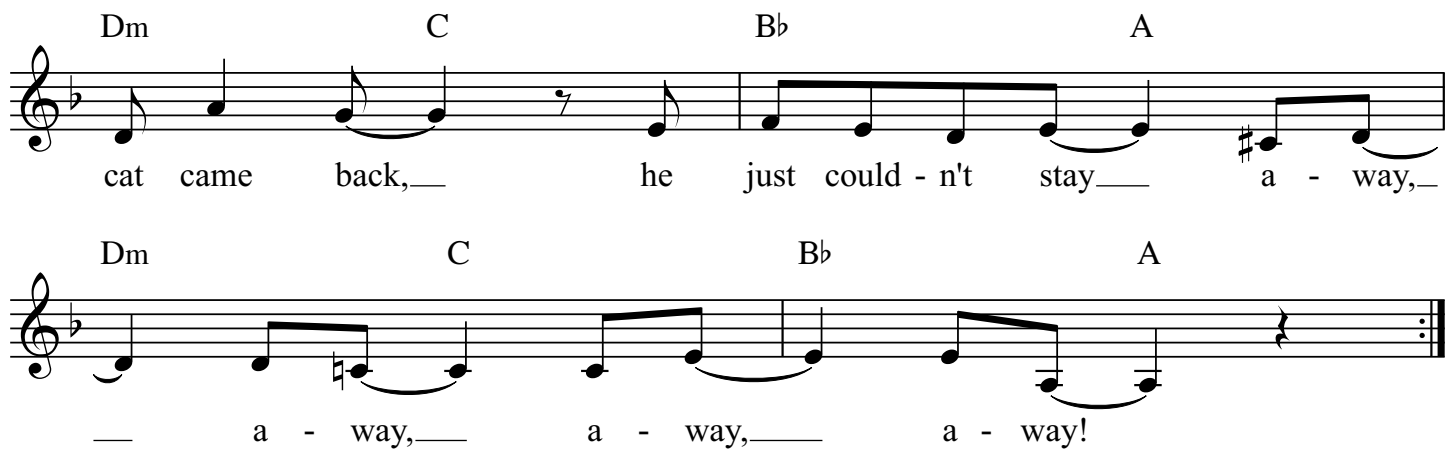
Shuffle swing

Music and Lyrics by HARRY S. MILLER



## CHORUS:





2. Old Farmer Johnson swore he'd shoot that cat on sight,  
He loaded up his shotgun with nails and dynamite.  
He waited and waited for that cat to come around,  
And ninety-eight pieces of skin were all that they found.

3. He gave it to a boy with a dollar note,  
Told him for to take it up the river in a boat.  
Tied a rock around his neck, it must have weighed a pound,  
And now they drag the river for the little boy that drowned.

4. Gave it to a man going up in a balloon,  
Told him for to give it to the man in the moon.  
Balloon came down about ninety miles away,  
But where that man is today we dare not say.

5. Gave it to a man going way out West,  
Told him for to give it to the one he loved the best.  
First the train hit the curve, then it jumped the rail,  
And not a soul's alive today to tell the gruesome tale.

6. On a telegraph wire the birds were sitting in a bunch,  
The cat saw an even number, said he'd eat them for his lunch.  
Climbed softly up the pole until he'd reached the top,  
Put his foot upon the 'lectric wire, it tied him in a knot.

7. The A-bomb fell just the other day.  
The H-Bomb fell in the very same way.  
England went (ooh), Russia went (ooh), then the USA.  
The human race was destroyed... without a chance to pray.

# CAMP READ HYMN

Music remembered by PETER SCOTT OBERDORF

Lyrics remembered by JOSEPH R. COOKE

**Steadily, with Purpose**



The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff at the beginning of each measure or group of measures. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm. The lyrics are: "Camp Cur - tis Read, we hon - or thee for joys we'll ne'er for - get, We love the lakes, we love the hills where mem - 'ries lin - ger yet, In for - est green we'll take our stand where-e'er the trail may lead, We'll all u - nite and sing a - gain in praise of old Camp Read."

D G D G D

Camp Cur - tis Read, we hon - or thee for joys we'll ne'er for - get, We

G A<sup>7</sup> F<sup>#</sup>m Bm G Em A

love the lakes, we love the hills where mem - 'ries lin - ger yet, In

D G D Bm F<sup>#</sup>

for - est green we'll take our stand where-e'er the trail may lead, We'll

Em A F<sup>#</sup>m Bm G A D

all u - nite and sing a - gain in praise of old Camp Read.

# FOR EVER AND EVER

Music remembered by PETER SCOTT OBERDORF

Lyrics remembered by JOSEPH R. COOKE

Arranged by SIMON RIKER

Lilting

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 12/8 time. The tempo/style is 'Lilting'. The score consists of eight staves of music. Chords are indicated above the staff: D, A7/E, D/F# on the first staff; G, B7, Em (melody on bottom) on the second; A, A7, D, D#°, A7/E on the third; D, A7/E, D/F#, G, B7, Em on the fourth; A, A7, D, G, D on the fifth; D on the sixth; A, A7, D, Em7, D7/F# on the seventh; G, D, Bm on the eighth; and A7, D, G, D on the ninth. The lyrics are: 'For e-ver and e - ver our hearts will be true, Camp Cur - tis Read we're all for you, The joys that we share here will al - ways re - turn, Camp Cur - tis Read with you we'll laugh and live and learn, Let's al - ways be good Scouts for e - ver, in this land of li - ber - ty, And let's tell the world of our life here, so free, And good cam - pers may we al - ways be.'

D A<sup>7</sup>/E D/F# G B<sup>7</sup> Em (*melody on bottom*)

For e-ver and e - ver our hearts will be true, Camp Cur - tis

A A<sup>7</sup> D D<sup>#°</sup> A<sup>7</sup>/E

Read we're all for you, The joys that we

D A<sup>7</sup>/E D/F# G B<sup>7</sup> Em

share here will al - ways re - turn, Camp Cur - tis

A A<sup>7</sup> D G D

Read with you we'll laugh and live and learn, Let's

D

al - ways be good Scouts for e - ver,

A A<sup>7</sup> D Em<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup>/F#

in this land of li - ber - ty, And

G D Bm

let's tell the world of our life here, so free, And

A<sup>7</sup> D G D

good cam - pers may we al - ways be.

# SCOUT VESPERS

Gently

Traditional

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and gentle, with lyrics written below each staff. Chords are indicated above the staff lines.

Staff 1: D A<sup>7</sup> D Em A<sup>7</sup> D  
Soft - ly falls the light of day, as our camp - fire fades a - way,

Staff 2: D A<sup>7</sup> D Em A<sup>7</sup> D  
Si - lent-ly each Scout should ask, "Have I done my dai - ly task?

Staff 3: D Em A<sup>7</sup> D  
Have I kept my hon - or bright? Can I guilt - less sleep to night?

Staff 4: D A Bm Em A<sup>7</sup> D  
Have I done and have I dared ev - 'ry - thing to be pre - pared?"

Sung to the melody of "O Christmas Tree," which itself is the English version of a German carol, "O Tannenbaum."

Vespers (from Latin vesper, "evening") is the evening prayer service in the Catholic liturgy of the canonical hours.

Most often sung at the end of a campfire, leading straight into "Taps".

# TAPS

Slowly and Freely

Music by GENERAL DANIEL BUTTERFIELD  
Lyrics by HORACE LORENZO TRIM

Day is done, gone the sun, from the

lake, from the hills, from the sky, all is

well, safe - ly rest, God is nigh.

# ON MY HONOR

Music by HARRY BARTELT  
Arranged by ROBERT KELLY

**Moderately**

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time, featuring a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked 'Moderately'. The score consists of five staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. Chord symbols (F, C, C7, G, A, Bb, Gm) are placed above the staff to indicate harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'On my hon - or I'll do my best to do my du - ty to God, On my hon - or I'll do my best to serve my coun - try as I may, On my hon - or I'll do my best to do my Good Turn each day, To keep my bo - dy strength - ened and keep my mind a - wak - ened, To fol - low paths of right - eous - ness. On my hon - or I'll do my best.'

F C C<sup>7</sup> F

On my hon - or I'll do my best to do my du - ty to God, On my

F C G C

hon - or I'll do my best to serve my coun - try as I may, On my

F C C<sup>7</sup> F

hon - or I'll do my best to do my Good Turn each day, To

A G C F

keep my bo - dy strength - ened and keep my mind a - wak - ened, To

B<sup>b</sup> F G<sup>m</sup> C<sup>7</sup> F

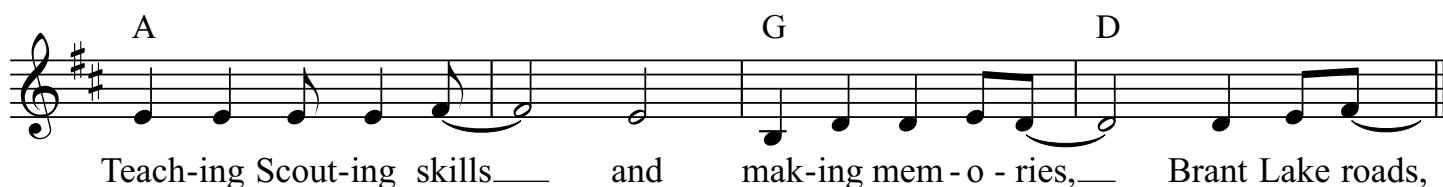
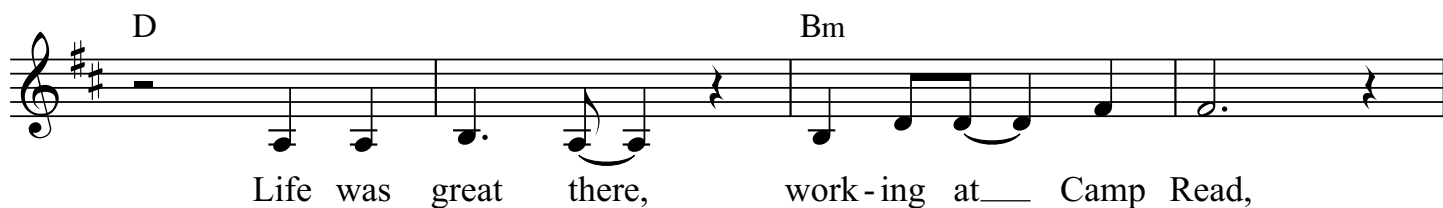
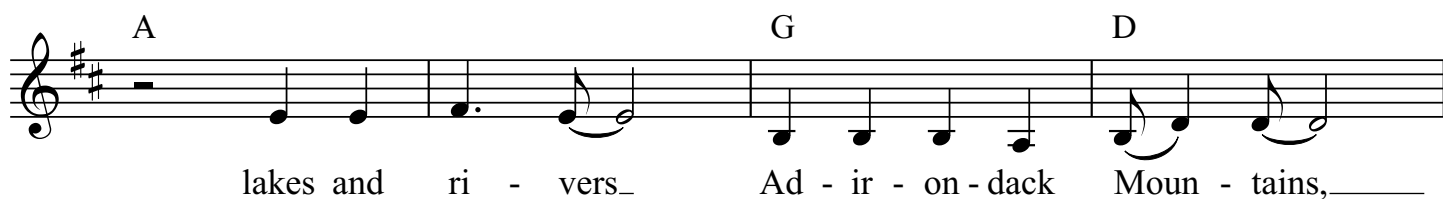
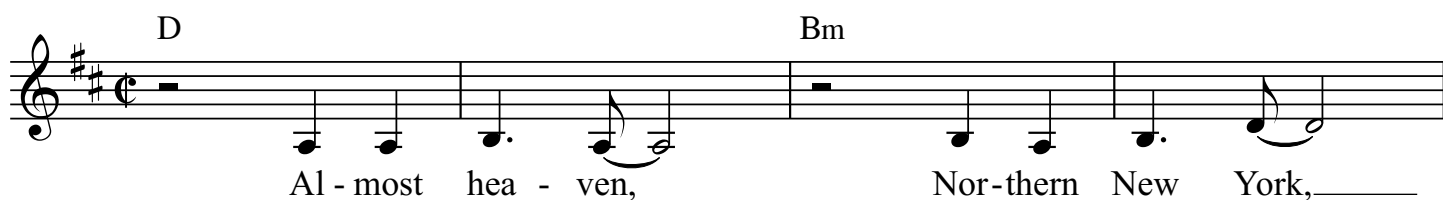
fol - low paths of right - eous - ness. On my hon - or I'll do my best.



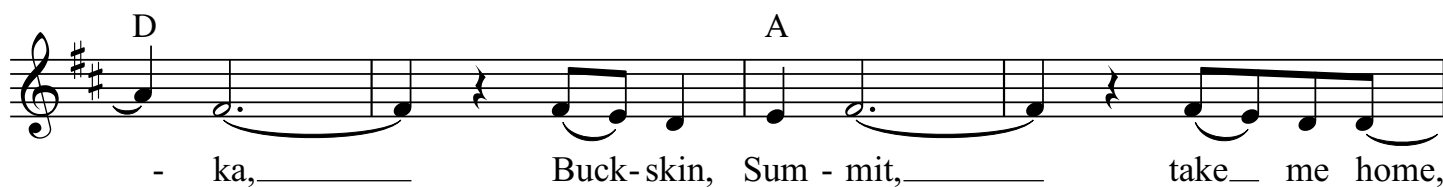
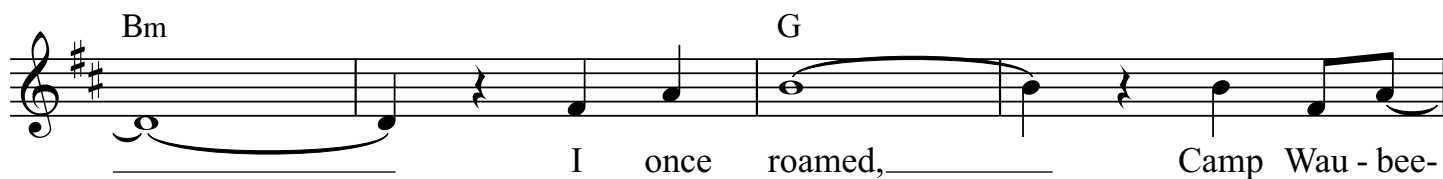
# CAMP READ ROAD

Moderate ♩ = 82

Lyrics by RICH LUTOMSKI and TOM DIETZ  
To the tune of "Take Me Home, Country Roads" by JOHN DENVER



## CHORUS



1.

D Bm

I re - mem - ber\_ hik - ing through the Gap, to ma -

A G D

jes - tic des - tin - a - tions with a full pack on my back, A -

D Bm

pa - che - dotte and Whor - tle - ber - ry, Phar - oh Lake too, To the

A G D D.S. (to chorus)

top of Phar - oh moun - tain, Oh, what a view!\_ Brant Lake roads,

2.

D Bm

Old Camp Tom - a - hawk, for - ev - er in our hearts, re -

A G D

si - ded at road's end where in for - ty nine\_ Read starts,

D Bm

Din - ing hall a - cou - stics\_ made speech and song re - sound, un -

A G D D.S. (to chorus)

til the howl - ing March winds blew the whole thing down. Brant Lake roads,

3.

D Bm

All my mem - 'ries\_ ga - ther 'round\_ me,\_\_\_

A G D

Les - ter Lodge and\_ rem-nants of a race\_ track,\_\_\_

D Bm

Up at dawn and raise our flag up high,

A G D D.S. al Fine (to final chorus)

ne-ver bored or i - dle un - der Camp Read skies, Brant Lake roads,

# HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU

Swing

Music and Lyrics by DALE EVANS

D D#° A7

Hap-py trails to you, un - til we meet a - gain, Hap-py

A+7 D

trails to you, Keep smi - lin' un - til then, Who

D7 G

cares a - bout the clouds when we're to - geth - er? Just

B7 E9 A7

sing a song and bring the sun - ny wea - ther, Hap - py

D Am/C B7 E9 A7 D

trails to you, 'til we meet a - gain.



But wait - there's more! For 250+ song titles and scans of vintage songbooks, visit [campread.org/music](http://campread.org/music)

And while you're there, feel free to look around and enjoy our historical photo archive, our collection of camp stories, and more.

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## JOIN US!

Love Camp Read? Join the Camp Read Association! We're a passionate network of alumni committed to supporting the vitality and values of Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation. Membership is free and open to anyone who shares our mission.

Members are automatically added to the mailing list and can stay up-to-date on our annual events, including reunions, work weekends and fall hikes on the reservation. Scan the QR code below or visit [campread.org/join](http://campread.org/join).

