

Ceremony of Campfire Ashes

These ashes symbolize the World Brotherhood of Scouting, and come from campfires dating back to 1907. Scouts and Scouters have carried them around the world to and from nearly every country. Now they are yours. You may stash them with memorabilia as an occasional reminder of your pledge as a Scout or for Scouting memories; or you may pass them on as living fire to Scouting friends for memories, for inspiration, for the Spirit of Scouting in years to come.

By tradition, campfire ashes are collected from a Scouting event and carried to subsequent events where they are sprinkled into flames of succeeding fires. If more than one Scout brings ashes to the same campfire, the histories of the ashes are pooled into a common list showing the dates, events and places represented. It is also tradition that only those present at the campfire may be given ashes from that fire. In this way, the fellowship and spirit of past campfires are passed on. The intent of this list is to commemorate places and dates. To preserve the virtue of the list, personal names should not be included.

There are many scripts on the WEB that can be used for the ceremony of campfire ashes. When you add your ashes to a campfire, you may use one of those scripts or say something to this effect:

With these ashes, we carry friendship from many campfires, with many comrades, in many lands, over many years. It is especially appropriate that we take this moment to rededicate ourselves to the spirit of the Scouting program which has kept the ideals of Scouting and those of the founder, Lord Baden-Powell, alive and well in the hearts and minds of millions of Scouts and Scouters over the years. May the joining of these ashes with leaping flames of this fire strengthen the unbroken chain of fellowship and friendship that binds us together in the World Brotherhood of Scouting. With greetings from our Brothers and Sisters around the world, I add these ashes to our campfire.