

COURAGE



Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1902



EISENHOWER LEADERSHIP PATCH
Cub Scouts – Character

DEFINITION: **COURAGE** is the act of facing one's fears despite difficult and challenging situations. **COURAGE** is also the ability to accept great disappointment and to move forward despite it.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER: "The qualities of a great man are vision, integrity, **COURAGE**, understanding, the power of articulation, and profundity of character."

A LESSON IN COURAGE: In December 1920, Dwight, "Ike," and Mamie Eisenhower were happy and living at Camp Meade, an army post in Maryland. The joy of their lives was their three-year-old son, Doud Dwight, nicknamed "Icky" by his grandmother. As Christmastime approached, Icky became sick. He did not get better, so he was admitted to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with scarlet fever—a very serious disease before the discovery of penicillin in 1928. Icky's condition worsened, and he died on January 2, 1921. Many years later, Ike recalled his and Mamie's complete and utter devastation.

"This was the greatest disappointment and disaster in my life, the one I have never been able to forget completely. Today when I think of it, even now as I write of it, the keenness of our loss comes back to me as fresh and terrible as it was in that long dark day soon after Christmas, 1920. My wife and I have arranged that when it comes our time to be buried . . . we shall have him with us."

It is hard to imagine the depths of Ike and Mamie Eisenhower's inconsolable grief. Though they felt they could never be happy again, they did not give up on life. It took many years for the pain of their loss to lessen, but, despite it, they made a great effort to move forward with their lives. Their example is a lesson in great **COURAGE** in the face of overwhelming despair.

In September of 1922, the birth of their son, John Sheldon Doud, brought them new joy. Icky’s memory, however, would be with them for the rest of their lives. Each year, on the anniversary of Icky’s birth, Ike sent Mamie a bouquet of yellow roses. Yellow had been Icky’s favorite color.

VISIT THE EISENHOWER MUSEUM: Walk through the introductory gallery of the museum, just past the West Point exhibit, until you arrive at the display case labeled “1916 – 1917 Fort Sam Houston.” There you will see Icky’s baby cup. The next display case to your left, “1919-1922 Camp Meade,” features a photograph of Icky. Study the artifacts and read the labels to better understand Dwight D. Eisenhower’s life at this time. Next, walk to the last display case in the First Lady’s gallery. There you will find one more artifact associated with Icky—his highchair on your left. Icky is interred between his parents in the Place of Meditation, a chapel, here on the grounds of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum. You may wish to visit this burial site.*

LESSONS ON COURAGE: What is the most important lesson you have learned about **COURAGE** from your study of Dwight D. Eisenhower and the loss of his first child?

SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED: With whom will you share what you have learned about **COURAGE**? List them below.

- 1.
- 2.

YOUR EISENHOWER LEADERSHIP PATCH AND ROCKERS: When you have completed this handout, you have earned the **EISENHOWER LEADERSHIP PATCH** and the **COURAGE** rocker. If you have already earned the patch, completion signifies that you have earned the rocker. These items are available at the Visitors Center and Presidential Gift Shop. There are six rockers for the Cub Scout level. Cub Scouts may earn up to two rockers per museum visit.

*To learn more about this chapter of Dwight D. Eisenhower’s life, read pages 180 – 192 from his book, *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*.