

# HONESTY



EISENHOWER LEADERSHIP PATCH  
Cub Scouts – Character



Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1902

**DEFINITION:** An **HONEST** person is truthful and does not lie, cheat, or steal. Because he is truthful, others learn to trust him.

**DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER:** “I never ceased feeling grateful to my father and to the people who recognized the virtue of simple **HONESTY** in all his dealings.”

**A LESSON IN HONESTY:** Dwight D. Eisenhower, along with his five brothers, grew up in Abilene, Kansas, 100 years ago. It was a time and place that demanded—and enforced!—a strict code of good values to live by. **HONESTY** topped the list. His parents, Ida and David Eisenhower—along with Grandfather Jacob, a River Brethren minister—insisted on scrupulous **HONESTY** in all dealings. School textbooks of the era further underscored these beliefs with morality-based stories, and religious teaching was a regular part of the school day. Adults in the community supported a code of good behavior by casting a watchful eye over impressionable young people. When General Dwight D. Eisenhower returned to a hero’s welcome in his hometown of Abilene, Kansas, in June of 1945, he gave a speech. Today we call it the “Homecoming Speech.” In it he credits his parents, neighbors, and the community at large with instilling in him, and in his brothers, solid values and good character, not the least of which was an absolute belief in the core trait of **HONESTY**.

“Through this world it has been my fortune or misfortune to wander at considerable distance; never has this town been outside my heart and memory. . . Here are men that helped me start my own career. . . Here are people that are lifelong friends of my mother and my late father . . . They raised six boys and they made sure that each had an upbringing at home and an education that equipped him to gain a respectable place in his own profession . . . . They and their families are the products of the loving care, labor and work of my father and mother; just another average Abilene family.”

**VISIT THE EISENHOWER MUSEUM:** The first gallery of the museum, the Introductory Gallery, houses artifacts, photographs, and information about Dwight D. Eisenhower's boyhood years in Abilene, Kansas. The first large display case provides brief histories of the Eisenhower family, from Pennsylvania, and the Stover family, from Virginia. Dwight's parents met at Lane University, Leocompton, Kansas, pictured here. Study the photographs of young David Eisenhower and Ida Stover. The second large display case explores the life of the Eisenhower family in Abilene, Kansas. Note the children's toys, everyday household items, school books, and photographs of family, friends, and classmates. Read the letter from George Sterl to Senator Bristow and the letter of reply that Senator Bristow wrote to Mr. Sterl. What do these men have to say about the character of young Dwight D. Eisenhower? Finally, note the large paintings of David and Ida Eisenhower, commissioned for their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Study the portrait and biographical information for each of the six Eisenhower boys. What do you think they have in common?

**LESSONS ON HONESTY:** What are the three most important lessons you have learned about **HONESTY** from your study of the life of young Dwight D. Eisenhower?

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

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- 2.

**YOUR EISENHOWER LEADERSHIP PATCH AND ROCKERS:** When you have completed this handout, you have earned the **EISENHOWER LEADERSHIP PATCH** and the **HONESTY** rocker. If you have already earned the patch, completion of this activity 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.

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\*To learn more about this chapter of Dwight D. Eisenhower's life, read pages 64 - 92 from his book, *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*.