

RESPONSIBILITY



Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1902



EISENHOWER LEADERSHIP PATCH
Cub Scouts – Character

DEFINITION: A **RESPONSIBLE** person is reliable, dependable, and accountable for his behavior. He demonstrates a willingness to accept duty to others and to the common good before personal desires.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER: “No one who does not have to bear the specific and direct **RESPONSIBILITY** of making the final decision as to what to do can understand the intensity of these burdens.”*

A LESSON IN RESPONSIBILITY: On June 6, 1944, Allied forces launched Operation OVERLORD to liberate Europe and defeat the Nazis. As Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower was responsible for its success or its failure. Once the military operation had begun, General Eisenhower sat down and wrote a note, accepting full **RESPONSIBILITY** should it fail. Today we call this document the “In Case of Failure” message. It reads as follows:

“Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air and the navy did all that Bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone.”

OVERLORD **was** a success, and General Eisenhower never had to release his statement. We are grateful to the military aide who saved it from almost certain destruction. Today, more than 60 years later, we can study it to learn more about Dwight D. Eisenhower and the depth of his good character.

*This is a reference to how difficult it was to make the decision to launch the D-Day invasion.

VISIT THE EISENHOWER MUSEUM: Walk through the various galleries of the museum until you arrive at the gallery called, “D-Day to VE-Day.” Continue walking through this gallery until you cross over the “landing craft.” On your right, you will find a museum case that contains the “In Case of Failure” message. Next to it is a copy of the “Message of the Day” for June 6, 1944, and the front page of the *Daily News*, announcing the Allied landings on the coast of Normandy, France. Take your time reading and observing what is contained in this part of the exhibit. It will help you to understand the great **RESPONSIBILITY** that was entrusted to General Eisenhower. If you have time, cross back over the landing craft. On your left is a television monitor. View “Planning the War” for more details about planning Operation OVERLORD. Watching “Let’s go!” will allow you to witness film footage of the actual D-Day landings.

LESSONS ON RESPONSIBILITY: What are the three most important lessons you have learned about **RESPONSIBILITY** from your study of Dwight D. Eisenhower and his “In Case of Failure” message?

SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED: With whom will you share what you have learned about **RESPONSIBILITY**? 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 **RESPONSIBILITY** 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 273 – 275 from his book, *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*.