

This minibook contains 2 chapters from *On My Honor* as
an aid in studying for the Scouting Heritage Merit Badge
Chapter 3 - Origins of Scouting
Chapter 4 - Scouting Comes to America
with permission of the author, Stephen Henning

ON MY HONOR

The Hawk Mountain Council Story...1908-2010



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
100 YEARS OF SCOUTING



CELEBRATING THE ADVENTURE
CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

ON MY HONOR

The Hawk Mountain Council Story...1908-2010

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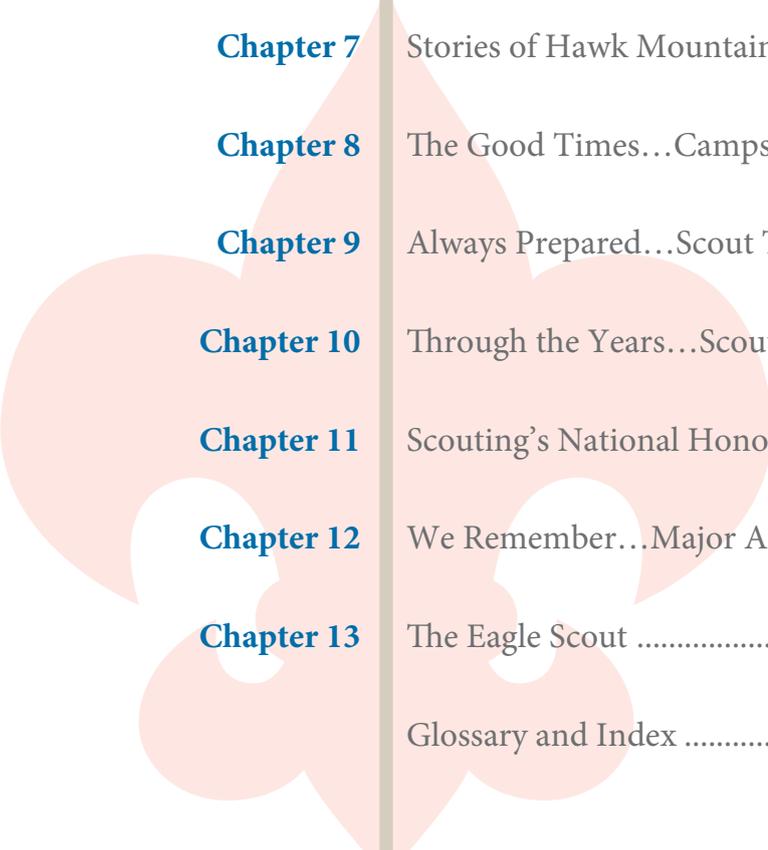
(left) James Marx became Daniel Boone Council's First Eagle Scout in 1921.

(center) Eric Shafer of Wyomissing Post 113 presented the BSA's "Report To The Nation" to President Johnson in 1967. (Courtesy of Eric Shafer)

(right) On behalf of Hawk Mountain Council, Schuylkill Health System President/CEO John E. Simodejka, presents Evan Whildin a plaque stating, "Presented to Evan Whildin, Troop 743, in recognition of becoming the 5000th Eagle Scout in the Hawk Mountain Council, BSA." Dated, April 13, 2009. (Courtesy of Steve Henning)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	Written by Pennsylvania State Senator Michael A. O’Pakev
Introduction	Written by Dan Adams, Scout Executive, Hawk Mountain Council vii
Acknowledgements	Book Committee, Contributors & Referencesix
Chapter 1	Hawk Mountain Council – Who We Are and Where We’re Going1
Chapter 2	Timeline...100 Years of Scouting17
Chapter 3	The Origins of Scouting27
Chapter 4	Scouting is Established in America.....37
Chapter 5	Stories of Appalachian Trail Council...1908-197055
Chapter 6	Stories of Daniel Boone Council...1910-197067
Chapter 7	Stories of Hawk Mountain Council...1970-200985
Chapter 8	The Good Times...Camps and Reservations 103
Chapter 9	Always Prepared...Scout Training and Skills 125
Chapter 10	Through the Years...Scouts and Scouting Activities 139
Chapter 11	Scouting’s National Honor Society...The Order of the Arrow..... 171
Chapter 12	We Remember...Major Awards and Recipients 185
Chapter 13	The Eagle Scout 197
	Glossary and Index 217



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Starting in November of 2008, an appeal was made through all local newspapers and the Council newspaper Herbie Hawk for contributions of articles, pictures, newspaper clippings, and personal stories. Well over 100 individuals responded with nearly 6,000 items. When duplicate items were submitted, the earliest one was used except when a subsequent photo was in better condition. The editor wishes to acknowledge these contributors:

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Since Scouting started in 1907, there have been many excellent books and articles on Scouting and the people who made it happen. In the preparation of this book, the editor used many of these as references, but used a few for significant amounts of information. These books are:

- ✦ Block, Nelson; *A Thing of the Spirit, The Life of E. Urner Goodman*. Boy Scouts of America, 2000
- ✦ Block, Nelson; *The Founding of Wood Badge*, Boy Scouts of America, 1994
- ✦ Boy Scouts of America; *1985 Commemorative Program*, 1985 by Hawk Mountain Council
- ✦ Boy Scouts of America; *A History of the Order of the Arrow*, 1996
- ✦ Boy Scouts of America; *A History of Wood Badge in the United States*, 1988
- ✦ Boy Scouts of America; *History of Cub Scouting*, 1987
- ✦ Boy Scouts of America; *History of The Daniel Boone Council, BSA, 1911-1966*, 1968 by Daniel Boone Council
- ✦ Boy Scouts of America; numerous articles from *Boys' Life Magazine*, various issues
- ✦ Boy Scouts of America; numerous articles from *Scouting Magazine*, various issues
- ✦ Davis, Kenneth P.; *The Brotherhood of Cheerful Service, A History of the Order of the Arrow*, Boy Scouts of America
- ✦ Kittatinny Lodge #5, Order of the Arrow; *History of First 21 Years of Minsi Lodge 5 and Lists of Officers Minsi Lodge 1921-71, Memeu Lodge 1938-71, Kittatinny 1971-87*, March 7, 1987
- ✦ Kutztown Historical Society, *Along the Saucony*, Vol. 14, Sept. 1991, Pp. 30-31.
- ✦ Moynihan, Paul & Lord Baden-Powell; *An Official History of Scouting*, Octopus Publishing Group, 2006
- ✦ Murray, William D.; *Scouting Marches On, The History of the Boy Scouts of America, 1937*, Boy Scouts of America
- ✦ Willis, Chuck; *Boy Scouts of America: A Centennial History Book*, 2008, Boy Scouts of America

The editor of this book is grateful for permission to use many illustrations that are property of the Boy Scouts of America.

We regret that we were unable to include materials submitted past the deadline date.

CHAPTER 3

THE ORIGINS OF SCOUTING

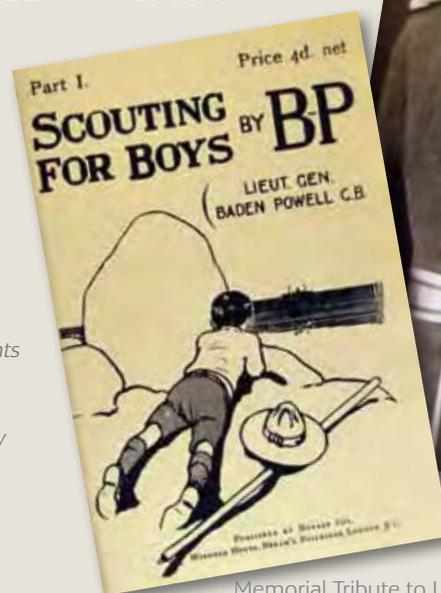
The Boy Scout story is inspiring and unlikely – a testimony to the enduring spirit of adventure and quest for knowledge that has been central to the lives of boys for generations.

The Boy Scout movement officially started in England in 1908 with the publication of the wildly popular “Scouting for Boys,” but the real story of Scouting began in London on Feb. 22, 1857 with the birth of Robert Stephenson Smyth Powell. He was to become Col. Robert Baden-Powell, the World’s Greatest Scout.

A British Army hero who loved the outdoors, he recognized the value of practical skills, and encouraged strong morality and character. He would become central to the Scouting movement, which is present today in 220 countries and territories around the world.

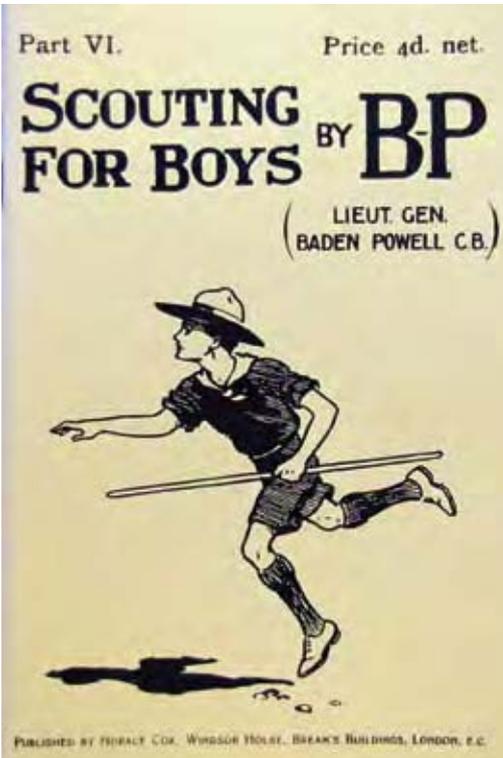
“Scouting For Boys” was Baden-Powell’s first Boy Scout handbook, written as six pamphlets which were released in fortnightly installments in 1908. When put together, they formed a 398 page book. (Courtesy of Steve Henning)

Decorated hero of the Siege of Mafeking, Baden-Powell, in his military uniform. (Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America)





1870 photo of London's prestigious Charterhouse School. (Courtesy of Scout Association)



"Scouting For Boys" part VI. (Courtesy of Steve Henning)

At right, Baden-Powell in his 13th Hussars uniform in 1878. (Courtesy of Scout Association)

An Officer and an Author

Robert Baden-Powell was not only a celebrated military officer, but a prolific author, as well. In 1896 he wrote his first book, *The Downfall of Prempeh*, based on his experiences in Ashanti. During the next 13 years he would write *Pigsticking or Hog Hunting*, a book about boar hunting; *The Matabele Campaign*, about his scouting experiences in Rhodesia; and the famous *Aids to Scouting*, which served to trigger the Boy Scout movement. At the time of his death in 1941 he'd written at least 32 books.

Robert Stephenson Smyth Powell was the eighth of 10 children, and was known to his family as Stephe – pronounced Stevie. His father, the Rev. Baden Powell, a professor of geometry at Oxford University, died when Stephe was just three years old, leaving the family in tenuous financial circumstances. Stephe's mother, Henrietta Grace Smyth Powell, however, was determined that her children would succeed, and was attentive to their education. She also encouraged their interest in nature by accompanying them on long walks in the country, where they became familiar with various plants and animals. And, in honor of her late husband, Henrietta changed the family name to Baden-Powell.

Stephe was awarded a scholarship to London's prestigious Charterhouse School when he was 13, and remained a student there for the rest of his formal schooling. His academic performance may have been a disappointment to his mother, for he did not excel as a student. A grade report once noted that in mathematics class he "to all intents has given up the study," and that in French class he "could do well but has become very lazy and often sleeps in school."

These poor reports most likely indicated a lack of interest in those particular subjects, because Stephe excelled in many other areas, including music, art, debate, acting, writing, shooting, and soccer. He enjoyed playing the piano and the fiddle, was an accomplished amateur artist and actor, and known for his easy manner and sense of humor. Always eager to learn new skills, he practiced bricklaying and other practical trades. Also while at Charterhouse, which two years after he enrolled was relocated from London to Godalming, a town about 40 miles from the city, Stephe became known for his skills in scouting and woodcraft.

Godalming was surrounded by woodland, in which the young man spent many hours tracking and scouting. He would secretly follow others who ventured into the woods, honing his skills in avoiding detection. He learned to catch and roast rabbits over a fire without letting the smoke alert others to his location. Stephe was in his element out of doors, and enjoyed practicing the skills necessary for living there. On holidays he joined his brothers in search of adventure, such as touring the south coast of England in a sailboat and following the Thames to its source by canoe.

BADEN-POWELL'S MILITARY CAREER BEGINS

While Stephe's talents and skills were extensive and impressive, his academic performance continued to be troublesome. He was denied admittance into Balliol College in Oxford, where two of his brothers had been students. This forced the young man to choose another path, which turned out to be the British Army. Baden-Powell, or B-P as he would be known throughout his military career, placed second among 718 applicants for cavalry and fourth for infantry during an open examination for an Army commission, and was assigned to the 13th Hussars as a sub-lieutenant, bypassing the officer training requirements.

Baden-Powell's military performance was undisputedly outstanding. He served in India, Afghanistan, and South Africa with the 13th Hussars, a cavalry regiment with an outstanding reputation and long tradition. B-P was noted for his work in Zululand, South Africa. He also served three years as Assistant Military Secretary in Malta, an island in the Mediterranean that was once a part of the British Empire, and then traveled to Ashanti, Africa, where he led the campaign against the Ashanti King



Prempeh and opened the way to the British defeat of Ashanti, which was incorporated into Britain's Gold Coast colony.

These impressive successes did not go unnoticed or unrewarded. In 1897 Baden-Powell was promoted to command the 5th Dragoon Guards, another cavalry regiment that was to train in India for service in South Africa at the beginning of the South African War, during which time Britain fought to colonize republics there. Baden-Powell was 40 years old at the beginning of the South African War – often called the Boer War because it was fought against the Boer republics – making him the youngest Colonel in the British Army.

B-P brought a different approach to the 5th Dragoon Guards, and was regarded as an outstanding leader. He insisted that troops be capable of demonstrating flexibility, and stressed the need for individual soldiers – not just their leaders – to possess preparedness and skills of scouting, such as how to locate refuge in the outdoors and survive in harsh conditions. He awarded a badge to soldiers who attained certain standards. Based on the north point of the compass, the military badge bears a striking resemblance to the current Scout badge.

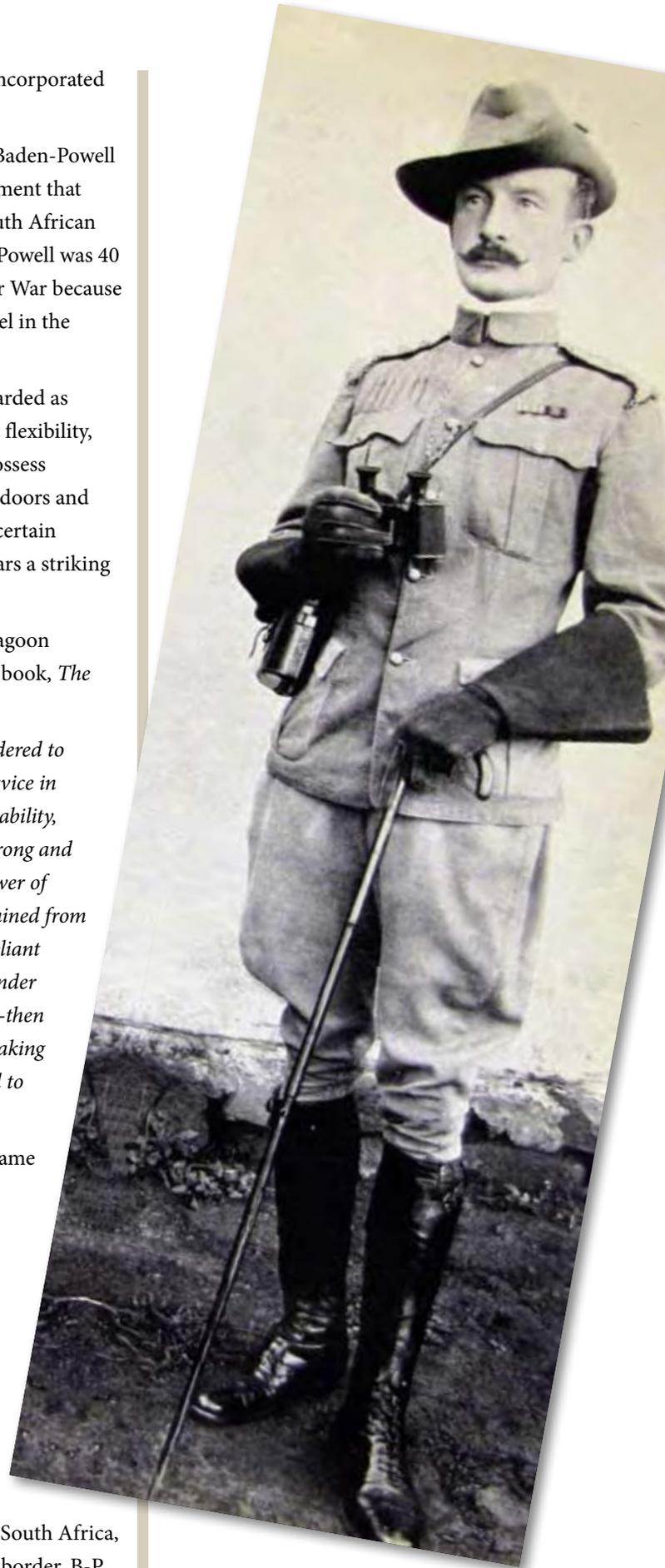
Major-General Roger Evans, who served with Baden-Powell in the 5th Dragoon Guards, included this recollection of B-P as a young commander in Evan's book, *The Story of the Fifth Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards*, published in 1951.

“The 5th Dragoon Guards at the beginning of September, when they were ordered to make ready to join the contingent which was being organized in India for service in South Africa, were commanded by an officer of outstanding personality and ability, Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. Baden-Powell. B-P, as he was always called, held strong and slightly unorthodox ideas on the need for flexibility in cavalry tactics, the power of modern fire-arms as an adjunct to shock-action, and the advantages to be gained from training not only the junior leader but also the individual soldier to be self-reliant and capable of independent action in accordance with a general principle. Under him noncommissioned officers and men were instructed in “personal tactics”-then regarded as a specialized subject-scouting, and taught to use their brains in taking advantage of natural cover as well as in riding knee-to-knee, and encouraged to show initiative.”

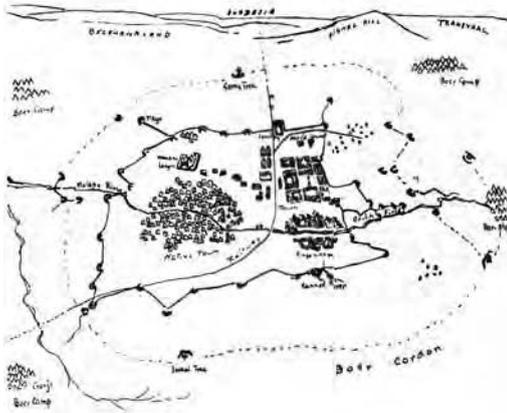
And so, Baden-Powell's reputation as a military leader expanded and his name was increasingly well known and respected. His most noted military feat, however, was yet to come.

BADEN-POWELL BECOMES A HERO WITH THE DEFENSE OF MAFEKING

In 1899 B-P was assigned to a region near Mafeking in the northern part of South Africa. There, he was to raise two regiments of mounted infantry and to organize the defense of the frontier against the Boers in Transvaal, an area which bordered Mafeking. Mafeking was a railroad junction, making it an ideal location to store supplies and prepare for battle. Before Baden-Powell and his troops were fully ready, however, the Boers invaded South Africa, beginning the second Boer War. Because of his proximity to the Transvaal border, B-P was instructed to defend Mafeking and keep the Boers occupied until the British could build up their forces so they'd be strong enough to mount a counter attack.



“The Hero of Mafeking.” A photograph of Baden-Powell taken during the siege in 1899-1900. (Courtesy of Scout Association)



Col. Baden-Powell's sketch of the siege of Mafeking.
(Courtesy of Scout Association)

His task was a difficult one, considering the Boer army consisted of more than 8000 men, compared to 300 men and a few officers under B-P's command. In addition, the Boers possessed a gun that could fire a 94-pound shell at targets up to 11 miles away, creating an additional disadvantage for B-P's men. Knowing he needed to bring in reinforcements, B-P recruited and trained an additional 300 troops from the local population. He also recruited more than 1400 local boys between the ages of 12 and 15 who were trained as cadets to stand guard, carry messages, help in hospitals, and perform other tasks that assured the men would be available for military service.

Knowing he would have to deceive the Boers into thinking that Mafeking was heavily fortified in order to keep it safe, B-P busied his soldiers building trenches and fortification around its borders. Through a series of tricks and deceptions, concluded with a daring attack by railroad car into the heart of the Boer camp, B-P and his men defended Mafeking for 217 days, after which the Boer army decided to discontinue its efforts to seize Mafeking and moved its troops to other locations. During this period B-P spent his extra time writing a military training manuscript that he called *Aids to Scouting*.

The news that Mafeking was safe and the Boers had retreated was met with tremendous joy and enthusiasm in England, where parties and parades spontaneously formed as the word was spread. Queen Victoria herself penned B-P a note as soon as she had heard the news. She wrote: "I and my whole Empire greatly rejoice at the relief of Mafeking after the splendid defence made by you through all these months. I heartily congratulate you and all under you, military and civil, British and native for the heroism and devotion you have shown."

B-P was promoted to Major-General in short order and assigned to organize the South African Constabulary, a force that would police the defeated Boers. The work in South Africa was demanding and kept him occupied in all his waking hours. He did not realize until he finally returned to England in 1903 as the Inspector General of Cavalry that his book, *Aids to Scouting*, had become wildly popular with the civilian population – particularly with boys, among whom B-P was regarded as a great hero. Youth leaders and teachers across the country were using the book as an instructional manual.

While B-P was flattered at the attention, he did not particularly like the fact that young boys were studying a book intended for military training, which included information on how to spy on enemy soldiers, track troop movements, and perform other military feats. He acknowledged, that, while military training was not necessary for the average boy, learning skills such as tracking animals, woodcrafting, exhibiting chivalry, and saving lives certainly was. To that end, Baden-Powell in 1903 began writing a non-military version of *Aids to Scouting*. Around the same time he attended a Boys' Brigade gathering, where Sir William Alexander Smith, the founder of that group, asked him to assist in planning how to better instruct boys in the area of citizenship.

Convinced that he should take time from his military work to rewrite *Aids to Scouting* to make it more suitable for boys, Baden Powell formed a friendship with Ernest Thompson Seton, a Scots-Canadian who had founded an organization called The League of Woodcraft Indians, and had written a handbook called *The Birchbark Rolls of the Woodcraft Indians*. B-P was intrigued with Seton's book and met with him on Oct. 30, 1906 at London's famous Savoy Hotel, where the men shared their thoughts and ideas. Seton and Baden Powell continued to be in contact with one another, and Seton was active in forming the Boy Scouts of America.

Sir William Alexander Smith and the Boys' Brigade

Sir William Alexander Smith founded the Boys' Brigade in Scotland in 1883. The organization is based on the principles of obedience, reverence, discipline, self respect and "all that tends toward a true Christian manliness." Having celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2008, the Boys' Brigade has more than 1500 companies in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

The Meaning and Roles of Scouts

The word "scout" comes from the French verb "escouter," which means "to listen." Armies have long used scouts to gather information about enemies. On the American frontier, scouts remained on guard – always on the lookout for danger. These scouts typically were knowledgeable regarding nature and possessed outdoor skills. This knowledge and these skills also are applicable to those who are Boy Scouts, a term introduced by the organization's founder Col. Robert Baden-Powell.

In 1907 Baden-Powell decided to establish a summer camp where he could try out the new Scouting program he had developed. Gathering a diverse group of 20 adolescents and an adult assistant, Baden-Powell set up camp on Brownsea Island, a 500-acre, windswept tract in Poole Harbor, off England's southern coast. There, the boys learned practical skills such as tracking, signaling, pioneering, and first aid, as well as such abstract topics as loyalty and honor, taught through the telling of stories around campfires. They participated in games and contests, cooked on camp stoves, and slept in army tents.



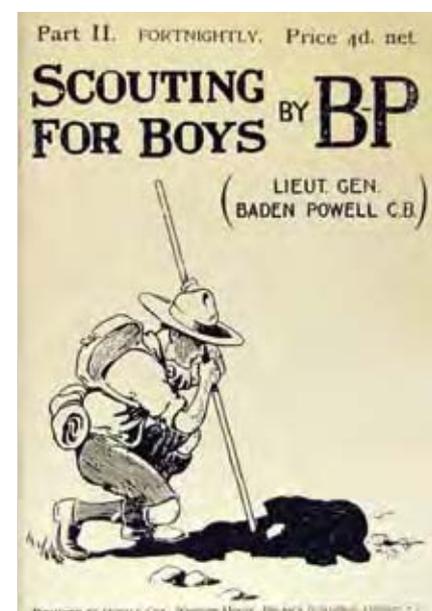
The stone on Brownsea Island commemorating the first Scout Camp in 1907. (Courtesy of Steve Henning)

Participants were divided into small patrols, which Baden-Powell considered useful for training purposes. Each patrol had its own animal name, and members of the different patrols were identified by a pin on their caps and the color of wool streamers pinned onto their left shoulders. The oldest member of each group served as patrol leader, and each patrol shared a sleeping tent. This experiment proved to be a great success, and resulted in the establishment of the patrol system of Scouting.

Sensing that his scouting program was catching on, Baden-Powell finished writing *Scouting for Boys*, which in early 1908 was published in six installments, each two weeks apart. This series of pamphlets, each about 70 pages long, was an instant hit with boys, and soon was published in book form.

The Book that Wouldn't Stop Selling

Scouting for Boys by Lt. Gen. Robert Baden-Powell has been translated into approximately 87 languages worldwide, with an estimated 100 to 150 million copies sold since 1908. The book has seen a decline in sales since the late 1960s, but still holds claim to being the fourth best selling book of the 20th century. (Courtesy of Scout Association)



"Scouting For Boys" part II (Courtesy of Steve Henning)



Scouts at Humshaugh Camp demonstrate the Egongyama chorus from *Scouting for Boys*.
(Courtesy of Scout Association)

A Fortnight in General Baden-Powell's Camp

C. Arthur Pearson, publisher of the popular weekly magazine *The Scout*, convinced Baden Powell to hold a contest for readers called "A Fortnight in General Baden-Powell's Camp."

The prize, of course, was a two-week camp run by B-P in Humshaugh, England. Thirty-six boys attended the camp, where, at the closing campfire Baden Powell left them with these words: "You must never forget that the distinguishing mark of a Scout should be his unselfishness. He should always think of others and try to help them before thinking of himself."

Late 19th century engraving of Crystal Palace from "True Stories of the Reign of Queen Victoria" by Cornelius Brown.

Girl Guides Begin

In 1912 Baden-Powell and his sister, Agnes, wrote the Handbook for Girl Guides and established the Girl Guides as a separate organization, with Agnes as its director. The Girl Guides experienced tremendous growth, and by 1927 its members outnumbered the Boy Scouts in the United Kingdom.

The problem, however, was that, despite Baden-Powell's commitment to and enthusiasm for Scouting, he was still an active soldier, having been assigned to serve in Northumberland, England. This was far from London, which had become the early center of the Scouting movement. Initial requests for Scouting memberships were handled by C. Arthur Pearson & Co., publisher of *Scouting for Boys* and many related publications, including the new weekly Scout magazine, but Baden Powell recognized the need for a more established organization.

It is difficult to fully appreciate the phenomenal appeal of the Scouting movement at this time, and the astonishing rate at which the movement was growing. In September 1908 an office was set up to handle the large number of inquiries that were pouring in. Personnel registered new Scouts, and the first Boy Scout uniform was designed. By the end of 1908, 60,000 boys had joined Scouting, and troops were springing up in British Commonwealth countries across the globe.

In September 1909, just about a year and a half after B-P's *Scouting for Boys* had been published, the Boy Scouts held their first national meeting at the Crystal Palace in London. The meeting attracted 10,000 Scouts, including girls who wore uniforms and called themselves Girl Scouts. That same year, B-P was knighted by King Edward VII, just a year before the King's death. And so, Stephen, known throughout his military career as B-P, became Sir Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell.



BADEN-POWELL FOLLOWS HIS HEART TO FULL TIME SCOUTING

At this point of his military career B-P was the Inspector-General of Cavalry, and looking to advance to the rank of Field Marshal. While he'd enjoyed a stunningly impressive military presence, it was clear that the Scout movement had captured his heart and was of foremost importance to his country. His Majesty, King Edward VII himself, suggested that B-P would be more valuable to his country in the Scout movement than anyone could hope to be as a soldier. As such, B-P retired from the Army in 1910 at the age of 53 to devote his effort, time and money to Scouting. He donated all of the royalties from *Scouting for Boys* back into the movement, which continued to grow and flourish. In 1910, when the first Scout census was conducted, there were more than 100,000 Scouts in the UK. In only three years, Scouting had become a wildly popular and firmly established institution.

Baden-Powell's life changed considerably when he retired from the military in order to direct his enthusiasm and energy to the development of Scouting. He traveled all over the world to promote the movement and to provide the inspiration that could only come from B-P himself. It was during one of these trips, while sailing to America in January 1912 on the SS Arcadian, that B-P, at age 55, encountered Olave St. Clair Soames, the woman he would marry. This encounter was not the couple's first meeting, as they had met briefly two years earlier in London. Despite a 32-year difference in their ages, B-P and Olave found that they were quite compatible and even shared the same birthday. By the time the ship docked in New York they were engaged to be married.

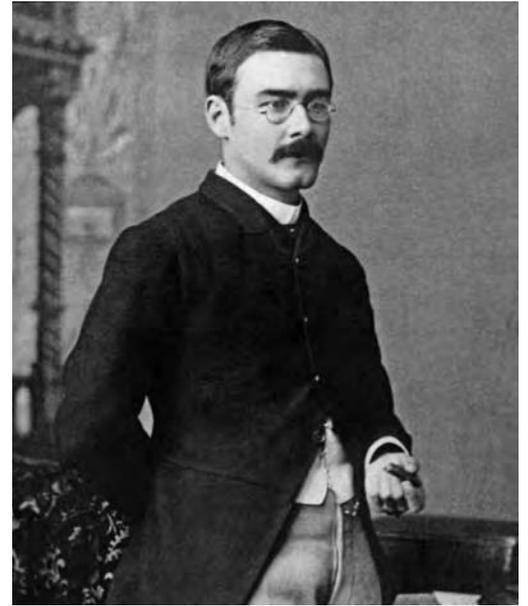
The couple married on October 30, 1912, to the delight of the Boy Scouts in the United Kingdom, who each donated a penny to buy B-P and Olave a wedding present – a car. Olave became B-P's partner both in life and in Scouting, eventually taking over the leadership of the Girl Guides from B-P's sister, Agnes. Olave, or Lady Baden-Powell, as she was called, was very popular and eventually became known as the World Chief Guide of Girl Guides, a title she retained until she died in 1977 at age 88. The couple had three children: Peter, Heather, and Betty.

THE SCOUTING MOVEMENT CONTINUES TO GROW AND PROSPER

The Scout Association officially launched the Wolf Cubs program for boys between the ages of eight and 11 in December 1916. The program was inspired by author Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Books*, which were published in 1894 and 1895. Kipling and B-P had known each other for a long time and were friends, and Kipling's influences appear often in the Scout program. In addition to providing the inspiration for the Wolf Cubs program, Kipling wrote the official Boy Scout song, called "The Scout's Patrol Song." He was the father of a Scout, and later named a commissioner in the British Scouting program. Baden-Powell's hugely popular book, *Scouting for Boys*, contained a shortened version of Kipling's novel *Kim*, considered by some literary critics to be Kipling's finest work. And, in 1924 Kipling attended the Imperial Jamboree in England, at which he watched 6,000 Wolf Cubs participate in activities and rituals that he'd inspired.

Recognizing the need for strong leaders and active boys, Baden-Powell expressed a need for a training center for leaders and a campsite for Scouts. William de Bois Maclaren, a Scottish businessman and Scout commissioner, agreed to donate 7,000 pounds toward procuring property for those purposes. After some searching, a largely abandoned estate called Gilwell Hall was located and found to be for sale for 7,000 pounds. The Scouts purchased the property in January, 1919, and immediately went to work to refurbish, repair and renovate it. Gilwell Park was opened on June 26, 1919, a week later than planned so that Scouts could participate in Europe's official Peace Festival marking the end of World War I. The park became an international camping and training center, and, eventually, the location became the headquarters for the Scout Association.

The first international Scout Jamboree took place from July 30 to August 8, 1920 at Olympia, a large exhibition center in London. That it was billed as an international event is significant, for it signified a gesture of reconciliation following the 1914-1918 Great War, as World War I was then called. Baden-Powell explained his intentions for the event as this: "I should like to explain that the word 'international' has been introduced into the description of Jamboree with the idea of showing that we welcome to it Scouts from all parts of the world, if they can come ... not only those who were our close allies but also those who remained neutral and even those who were for the time being our enemies where they exist."



Author Rudyard Kipling. (Courtesy of Scout Association)

Kim's Game

Author Rudyard Kipling and Lord Baden-Powell were friends who respected and admired one another's work. As a result, many influences from Kipling's writings are evidenced in Boy Scout programs and activities, including a game called Kim's game, which was inspired by a game played by characters in Kipling's book, *Kim*. Intended to promote a person's capacity to observe and remember details, the game was extremely popular among Scouts and played often. Many American Scouters, however, may have forgotten the origins of this simple, fun, and challenging game. The original *American Handbook For Boys* refers to the activity simply as "Kim's game," and lacks the lengthy explanation of the game that appeared in Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys*. The first handbook, however, did include the following instructions for how to play Kim's game:

- Place about twenty or thirty small articles on a tray, or on the table or floor, such as two or three different kinds of buttons, pencils, corks, rags, nuts, stones, knives, string, photos - anything you can find - cover them over with a cloth or a coat.
- Make a list of these, and make a column opposite the list for each boy's replies.
- Uncover the articles for one minute by your watch, or while you count sixty at the rate of "quick march." Then cover them over again.
- Take each boy separately and let him whisper to you each of the articles that he can remember, and mark it off on your scoring sheet.
- The boy who remembers the greatest number wins the game.



Entrance to Gilwell Park. (Courtesy of Steve Henning)



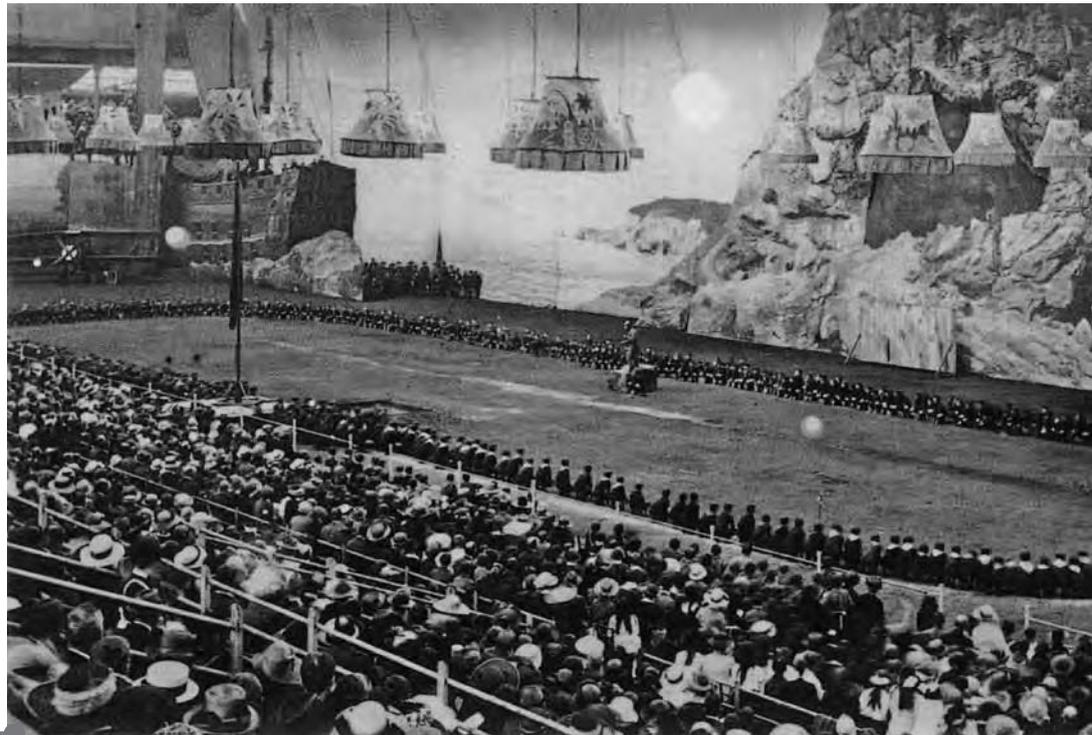
Baden-Powell buys a souvenir program from Scouts volunteers during the 1937 Coronation of King George VI. (Courtesy of Scout Association)

More than 8,000 Scouts from 21 independent countries and 12 British colonies attended the Jamboree, which received very favorable reviews for its ability to peacefully unite so many people from all parts of the world. During the closing ceremony, B-P was acclaimed unanimously as Chief Scout of the World and successive international gatherings, whether of Scouts or Scouters, proved that this was not an honorary title, but that he was truly regarded by all as their Chief. The rousing welcomes he received, and the silence he commanded when he raised his hand proved beyond any doubt that he commanded the respect and had captured the hearts of Scouts and Scouters around the world.

BADEN-POWELL'S LATER YEARS

At the time of the first international Jamboree in 1920, world membership had surpassed one million Scouts. By 1931, the number of Scouts in the world surpassed two million. By that time Scouting was well established in the United States and many other countries, and Baden-Powell was internationally recognized and credited with the success of the organization. In 1929 he was designated as a Baron, and took the title "First Baron Baden-Powell of Gilwell," in order to emphasize the importance of Gilwell Park and the training that Scouters received there. B-P was presented with honorary degrees from the universities of Edinburgh, Toronto, Montreal, Oxford, Liverpool and Cambridge, and 19 foreign Scout awards and 28 foreign orders and decorations were bestowed upon him.

Baden-Powell was getting older, however, and suffered from heart disease. He attended his last International Jamboree in 1937 in Holland, where 28,000 Scouts from 31 nations came together for fellowship and Scout activities. B-P delivered a stirring speech at the conclusion of the Jamboree, during which he acknowledged that, at age 81, he was nearing the end of his life. He ended the speech with the words, "Now good-bye. God bless you all."



The 1920 1st World Scout Jamboree was held at the Olympia exhibition center in London. The main exhibition hall's arena was used for many pageants. (Courtesy of Scout Association)

In 1938 Baden-Powell returned to Africa, of which he had fond memories from the time he'd spent there while serving in the military. He lived there in semi-retirement in a small bungalow in Nyeri, Kenya, where he continued to write, draw, and enjoy music. Sensing that time was short, and wanting to bid farewell to his beloved Scouts while he was still able to do so, Baden-Powell prepared a message, with the stipulation that it be published after his death. The message read:

Dear Scouts - If you have ever seen the play "Peter Pan," you will remember how the pirate chief was always making his dying speech because he was afraid that possibly, when the time came for him to die, he might not have time to get it off his chest. It is much the same with me, and so, although I am not at this moment dying, I shall be doing so one of these days and I want to send you a parting word of goodbye.

Remember, it is the last time you will ever hear from me, so think it over. I have had a most happy life and I want each one of you to have a happy life too.

I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life. Happiness does not come from being rich, nor merely being successful in your career, nor by self-indulgence. One step towards happiness is to make yourself healthy and strong while you are a boy, so that you can be useful and so you can enjoy life when you are a man.

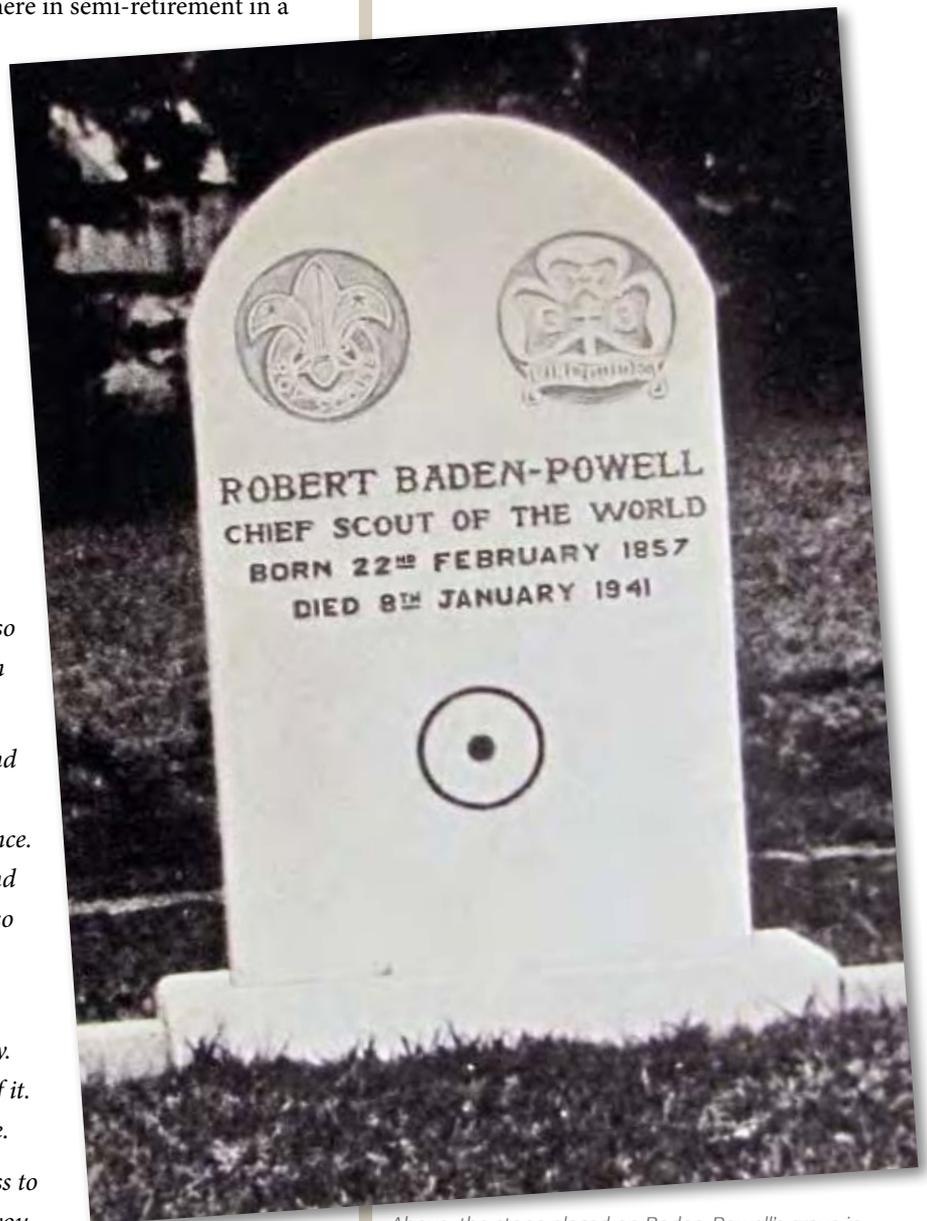
Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one.

But the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try and leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best. 'Be Prepared' in this way, to live happy and to die happy - stick to your Scout Promise always - even after you have ceased to be a boy - and God help you to do it.

Your friend, Baden-Powell of Gilwell

Baden-Powell died on January 8, 1941 at the age of 83. He was buried at Nyeri on the slopes of Mount Kenya. A simple headstone at his grave reads, "Robert Baden-Powell, Chief Scout of the World," and is adorned with the Boy Scout trail symbol that means "I have gone home."

The name Baden-Powell is known and respected throughout the world as that of a man who, in his 83 years of life, devoted himself to the service of his country and his fellow men in two separate and complete lives; one as a soldier fighting for his country, and the other as a worker for peace through the brotherhood of the Scout Movement.



Above, the stone placed on Baden-Powell's grave in Kenya when he died in 1941. (Courtesy of Scout Association)

CHAPTER 4

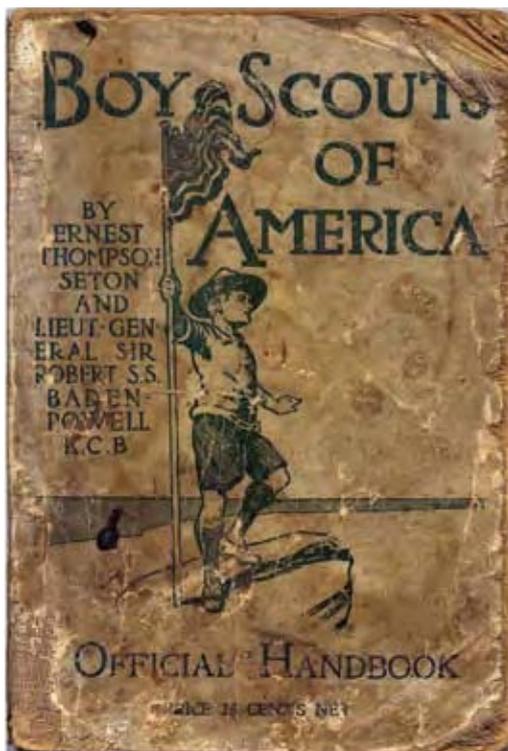
SCOUTING IS ESTABLISHED IN AMERICA

According to Scout legend, the formation of the Boy Scouts of America can be traced back to a foggy night in London in 1909, when Chicago publisher William D. Boyce lost his way on a city street and a Boy Scout came to his aid.

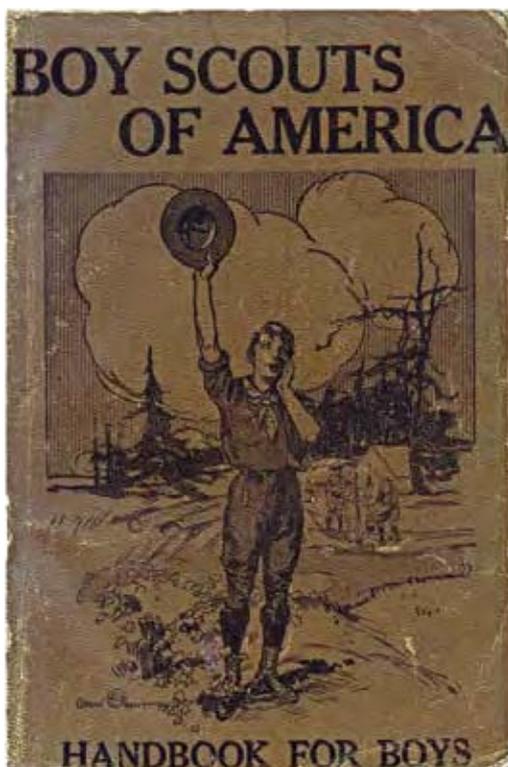
The Scout guided Boyce to his destination, but refused to accept the money Boyce offered as a token of his appreciation. When Boyce questioned him, the young man explained that he was a Boy Scout, and therefore had a duty to be helpful to others. Boyce, as the story goes, was highly impressed with both the Scout and what he learned about the organization and its founder, Lord Robert Baden-Powell. The Chicago businessman, who had made a fortune in the publishing business and was looking for a philanthropic cause to support, decided he wished to establish Boy Scouting in America to benefit the thousands of boys he employed to sell his newspapers.

Norman Rockwell's painting, "The Daily Good Turn," was Boys' Life magazine's cover for February 1919. It depicts the "Unknown Scout" helping an elderly gentleman across a street, and was inspired by William Boyce's experience in London that led to the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. (Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America)





The first official Boy Scouts of America handbook, written by Ernest Thompson Seton in 1910. (Courtesy of Steve Henning)



The 1911 official Boy Scouts of America handbook. (Courtesy of Steve Henning)

Boyce incorporated the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) on February 8, 1910, making it a legal entity. What Boyce may not have realized, however, was that since the publication of Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys* early in 1908, unofficial Scout troops had been springing up almost spontaneously across the United States, some of them in association with local branches of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). Some YMCA camps employed elements of the Scoutcraft skills that were being widely taught and used among British Scouts, and interest in Scouting was spreading quickly.

Edgar M. Robinson, an executive with the YMCA, was very interested, and a little bit concerned, when he learned that Boyce had incorporated the BSA in Chicago. Robinson recognized that the Boy Scout organization would appeal to boys all across the country – not just Boyce's Mid West sales force, and he was anxious to see troops formed, leaders recruited, camps established, and Boy Scout activities made available nationwide. To ease his own concerns, Robinson, who was a seasoned camp director and had charge of YMCA branches in the United States and Canada, traveled from his home in New York to visit Boyce in Chicago.

There, Robinson offered to help Boyce establish the BSA as a national organization by having it join forces with the YMCA. The YMCA would serve as the point organization for establishing Scouting, and would provide leaders for troops and camps until the BSA was firmly established and ready to stand on its own. Boyce agreed to the offer, and committed to giving \$1,000 a month to get Scouting in America on its feet. A one-room BSA national office was opened on June 1, 1910 in New York City, right next to Robinson's office in the YMCA building on East 28th Street, and staffed with a director and a stenographer.

Other organizations for boys, including the Tribe of Woodcraft Indians and the Sons of Daniel Boone, were anxious to join the fledgling BSA organization, and the BSA expanded quickly. The National Council was formed in the fall of 1910 with Colin H. Livingstone as president, and Robinson, who had taken temporary leave from the YMCA, as managing secretary. Ernest Thompson Seton, founder of the Tribe of Woodcraft Indians and author of *The Birchbark Rolls of the Woodcraft Indians*, a handbook that had influenced Baden-Powell when he was writing *Scouting for Boys*, wrote the original *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook*, which combined elements of *The Birchbark Rolls* and *Scouting for Boys*. Seton also served as Chief Scout of the early BSA and as chairman of the BSA's National Committee.

The early years of the BSA were extremely busy for those working to establish the organization. Correspondence from men and boys wanting to start Boy Scout troops poured into the tiny national office, overwhelming the small staff. When, years later, he recalled those early days, Robinson remembered that "unopened letters were at times stacked like cordwood on the floor."

The organization expanded and grew, particularly following the first Boy Scout camp in August 1910, held at Silver Bay, an area of Lake George in the Adirondack Mountains of upper New York. The camp had been organized a year earlier as a demonstration of Woodcraft Indians campcraft for YMCA boys. During the year since the camp had been organized, however, all the leaders had become involved with the BSA movement, and so the camp was held as a Boy Scout function, incorporating the skills of the Woodcraft Indians. This encampment, during which the boys lived in tepees, cooked their own meals, and gathered at night around campfires, is considered to be the first Boy Scout camp in America. Word of the camp spread, spurring even more boys and leaders to form troops. The Boy Scouts of America was firmly established.

The Building Blocks of the Boy Scouts of America

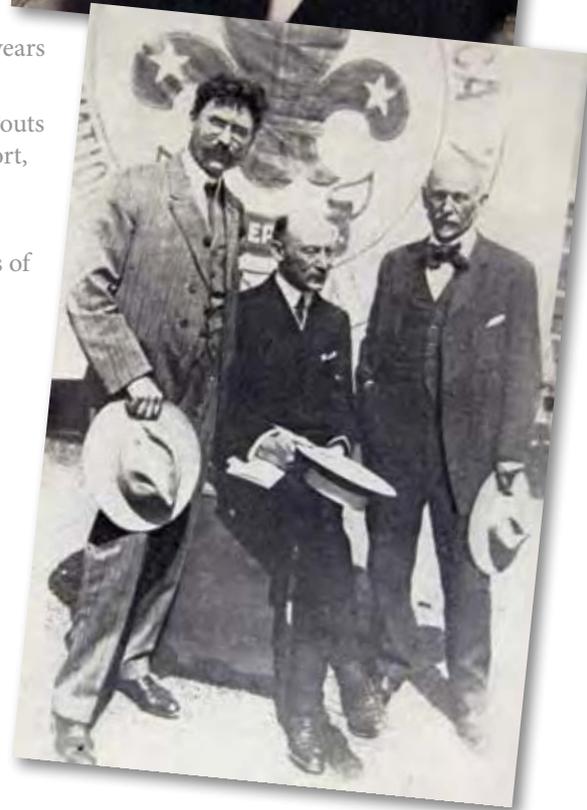
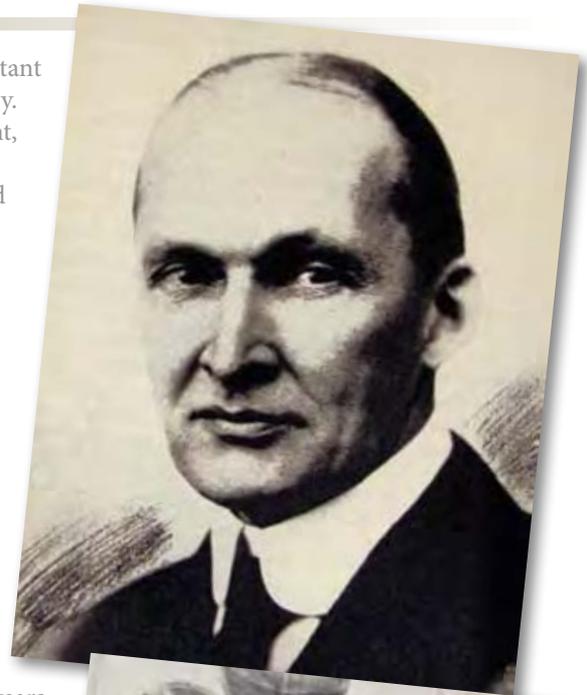
While William D. Boyce is largely credited with bringing Scouting to America, other important figures also must be recognized for their part in establishing the organization in this country. Edgar M. Robinson, who had been associated with the YMCA since he was a college student, was Boys' Work Secretary of the International Committee and had developed numerous programs for the Y, including camping, father and son, sex education, specialized work, and wartime. In 1910 he took the lead in getting the Boy Scouts of America up and running by asking Boyce to join forces with the YMCA.

Once that relationship was established, Robinson approached his friend, Ernest Thompson Seton, who in 1902 had founded the Tribe of Woodcraft Indians and written *The Birchbark Rolls of the Woodcraft Indians*, which was used as the handbook for the organization. Lord Robert Baden-Powell, who founded Scouting in England, consulted with Seton and read the Tribe of Woodcraft Indians handbook several years before he wrote *Scouting for Boys*, which spurred an international interest in Scouting. Seton joined Boyce and Robinson in their efforts to establish the BSA, as did Daniel Carter Beard, who had founded the Sons of Daniel Boone in 1905. Beard served as the BSA's first National Scout Commissioner, a position he held for 30 years, and Robinson was the organization's first Executive Director.

James E. West, a Washington, D.C. lawyer and advocate for underprivileged youth, came on board with the BSA in 1910, when he reluctantly agreed to serve as its first Executive Secretary for a period of no longer than six months. West turned out to be a dynamic and passionate leader. He was named permanent Executive Director in 1911 and served for 32 years before retiring.

Other organizations for boys, including the Boy Scouts of the United States, the National Scouts of America, and the National Highway Patrol Association of Scouts also joined the BSA effort, and, by 1912, Scouts from every state had enrolled in the National Council of the BSA.

The Boy Scout movement in America, as it had in England, took on a life of its own by capturing the imaginations of Scouts and leaders across the country. Within just a few years of its founding, it had become the country's premier organization for boys.



At top, Edgar M. Robinson, a BSA founder.
(Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America)

Pictured above, from left, are: Ernest Thompson Seton, Lord Baden-Powell and Daniel Carter Beard, who inspired the starting of Scouting in America.
(Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America)

At left, James E. West, the first Chief Scout Executive in 1935. (Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America)



The Scout Motto, Scout Oath, and Scout Law

Scouts around the world are expected to adhere to the Scout Motto, Oath, and Law.

The Scout Motto

The Scout Motto, "Be Prepared," appeared in Lord Robert Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys* in 1908. Baden-Powell later expanded the motto to:

Be Prepared in Mind by having disciplined yourself to be obedient to every order, and also by having thought out beforehand any accident or situation that might occur, so that you know the right thing to do at the right moment, and are willing to do it.

Be Prepared in Body by making yourself strong and active and able to do the right thing at the right moment, and do it.

The Scout Oath

The original Scout Promise, sometimes called the Scout Oath, as it appeared in the 1908 edition of *Scouting for Boys*:

*On my honour I promise that I will do my best--
To do my duty to God, and the King.
To help other people at all times.
To obey the Scout Law.*

The Boy Scouts of America in 1911 instituted a Scout Oath that read as follows:

On my honor I will do my best:

1. To do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law.
2. To help other people at all times.
3. To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

The Scout Law

The first nine Scout laws appeared in *Scouting for Boys* in 1908. The tenth law was added in 1912.

1. A Scout's honour is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal to the King, and to his officers, and his country, and to his employers.
3. A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.
4. A Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout, no matter what social class the other belongs.
5. A Scout is courteous.
6. A Scout is a friend to animals.
7. A Scout obeys orders of his patrol leader or Scout master without question.
8. A Scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances.
9. A Scout is thrifty, that is he saves every penny he can and puts it in the bank.
10. A Scout is clean in thought, word, and deed.

The Boy Scouts of America adapted the Scout Law to read as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A Scout is Trustworthy | 7. A Scout is Obedient |
| 2. A Scout is Loyal | 8. A Scout is Cheerful |
| 3. A Scout is Helpful | 9. A Scout is Thrifty |
| 4. A Scout is Friendly | 10. A Scout is Brave |
| 5. A Scout is Courteous | 11. A Scout is Clean |
| 6. A Scout is Kind | 12. A Scout is Reverent |

THE EARLY YEARS OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

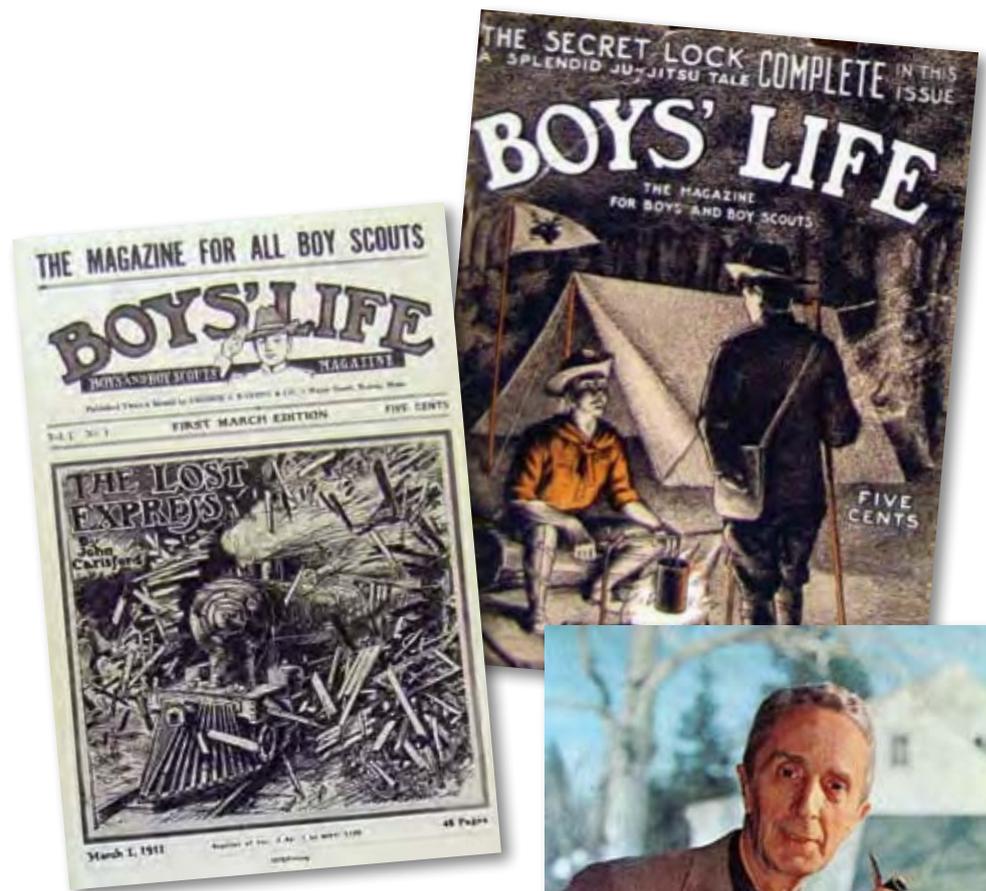
While Scouting in America quickly became immensely popular, like many organizations, the BSA was not immune to conflict and problems.

James E. West, a Washington, D.C. lawyer and advocate for children's rights, was named Executive Director in 1910, and his status changed to permanent in 1911. West was a visionary leader, but many of his decisions rankled other leaders and resulted in conflict. While West's leadership is, in retrospect, admirable and served the BSA well, he often found himself at odds with Seton, Beard and Boyce.

In 1911, West added three new rules to the Scout Law: A Scout is Brave, A Scout is Clean, and A Scout is Reverent. West was particularly adamant about the last law, affirming his belief that religious instruction was central to education.

"I felt . . . that there is nothing more essential in the education of youth than to give them religious instruction," West said.

That same year, *Boys' Life* magazine began publication as the Boys' and Boy Scouts' magazine. It was published twice a month and sold for 5 cents a copy. The magazine was, and remains popular for its varied articles and lively reading, but was especially known in its early years for its covers, many of which featured Norman Rockwell paintings. Rockwell had a long relationship with the Scouts, during which he created 11 *Boys' Life* covers and served as the magazine's art director. Rockwell eventually received the Silver Buffalo Award – Scouting's highest honor for distinguished service to youth.



Artist Norman Rockwell, at right, started his professional career at *Boys' Life* Magazine in 1913, and became well known for their covers. He also provided artwork for the Boy Scout calendar until 1976, two years before his death. (Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America)



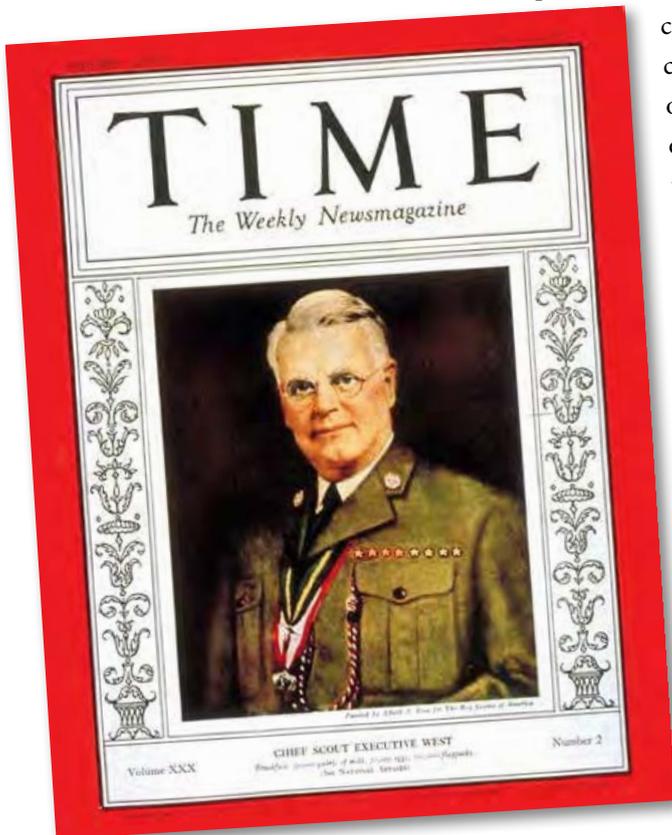
While most Protestant churches agreed with West and jumped aboard the Scouting movement during its early days, many Roman Catholic congregations held back, citing the influence that the YMCA, a predominantly Protestant organization, had on the BSA. Rumors that Catholics were excluded from leadership positions within the BSA began to spread in 1912, causing West to state his position and put a halt to the gossip. West firmly ascertained that Catholics were in positions of top leadership within the BSA and that many Catholics, including priests, were Scoutmasters. The rift subsided, and the Catholic Church and BSA were working closely together by 1913.

West may have been a controversial figure at times, but his commitment to the BSA was unflinching. He lobbied the U.S. Congress to get a charter granting the BSA exclusive rights to the name “Boy Scout,” its distinctive emblems and distinctive uniform. Congress granted the BSA its Congressional Charter on June 15, 1916, mandating that an annual report of the organization be made to Congress and, as tradition mandates, presented to the President of the United States.

In 1935, West joined U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt and BSA President Walter W. Head in a coast-to-coast radio address as part of the Silver Jubilee of Scouting

celebration. West made it clear that, in his opinion, one of most important aspects of Scouting was its ability to impart to its members “the capacity to care about others,” which West felt was a cornerstone in social and personal development.

The BSA celebrated West’s 25th year as Chief Scout Executive in 1937 by commissioning a portrait by the popular artist Albert A. Rose. The portrait appeared on the cover of Time magazine in observance of the first national Scout jamboree, held in Washington, D.C.



BASICS OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

In the years since its founding in 1910, the Boy Scouts of America has divided the Scouting program into three segments: Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing.

Cub Scouting wasn’t started until 1930, following years of disagreement among BSA leaders regarding the value of a program for younger boys. Baden-Powell had introduced Wolf Cubs, a Scouting program for boys who were too young to join the Boy Scouts in England in 1916. Although it was clear that there was a demand for a similar program in America, the BSA organization resisted starting a Cub Scout program because some leaders, particularly West, thought it would detract from the primary Boy Scout program.

Scouting for Catholic Youth

Once it came on board with the Boy Scouts in 1913, the Roman Catholic Church became one of the largest subscribers to the organization. Today, about one-third of the parishes in the United States are affiliated with Scouting and there are more than 330,000 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers organized under Catholic sponsorship. The National Catholic Committee on Scouting serves as a liaison between the Church and the BSA, and the Scouting program is promoted as a vital aspect of youth ministry.

BSA Founding Father Visits Reading

Daniel Carter Beard, who founded the Sons of Daniel Boone in 1905 and served as the BSA’s first National Scout Commissioner, visited Reading on Sept. 22, 1922, at which time he presented a speech in the auditorium of the Boys’ High School, located at the corner of Eighth and Washington streets, in what is now Reading’s City Hall. His lecture included stories of the early American West during the days of pioneers, and was preceded by a parade on Washington Street. West’s visit to Reading was highly appropriate, as Daniel Boone was born in Berks County, in which Reading is located.



The original Cub Scout uniform included knickers, shorts, a heavy collared shirt, and a light V-neck shirt. (Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America)

Lone Scouting

Since its inception in 1910, the Boy Scouts organization has been concerned with extending the Scouting program to boys in isolated areas or those who find it impossible for other reasons to join a nearby Scouting unit. To that end, the Lone Scout program was established.

William D. Boyce, the Chicago publisher who helped organize the Boy Scouts of America in 1910, was responsible for organizing the Lone Scouts of America in 1915. He enlisted all the boys who delivered the newspapers he published to join, published a special magazine for Lone Scouts and set up an advancement program for them to follow.

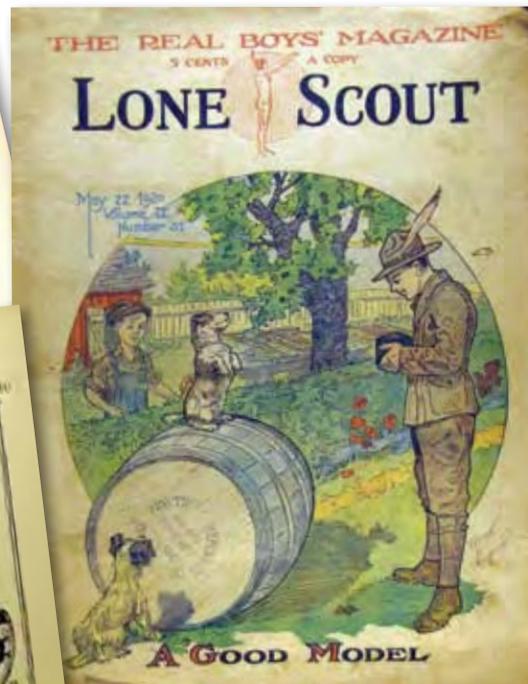
Everyone registered as a Lone Scout must have an adult to serve as his Lone Scout friend and counselor. This counselor often is a boy's own parent, but could be a guardian, minister, teacher, 4-H Club leader, or an experienced Scouter who lives nearby. The counselor encourages, instructs, examines, and reviews the boy on all steps toward Scouting advancement, and helps the Lone Scout to participate in local council activities. Although a Lone Scout carries on many activities at home and in his community, he also may participate in local district and council activities along with boys from local Scouting units. These activities might include camporees, Scouting shows, and service projects, as well as Scout camp.

Lone Scouts have included such personalities as Burl Ives, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, U.S. Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans, writer and novelist Lucien W. Emerson, Chief Scout executives Joseph A. Brunton and Harvey L. Price, and many others. Alumni of the Lone Scouts of America have formed a fellowship called the Lone Scout Foundation.

Charles S. Adams, a prominent figure in local Scouting and the Berks County community, began his Scouting career as a Lone Scout in 1916 – just six years after the incorporation of the BSA. The very next year he organized Troop No. 1 in St. Lawrence and became its first Scoutmaster. Subsequently, he served as a Troop Committeeman, Scoutmaster, and Chairman of the Court of Honor. He assisted in the development of two area camps – Indiandale and Shikellamy.

Having served the Berks County community as a county agricultural agent and a county commissioner, Adams was a well-known and popular figure. He was a past president of the Reading Rotary Club and served as a vice president of the county's Sunday School Association.

Extremely active in Scouting throughout his life, Adams served two terms as Daniel Boone Council President and two terms as Council Commissioner. He received Scouting's Silver Beaver Award in 1937, and, in 1946 Adams was the first recipient of the Daniel Boone Council's Silver Antelope Award, recognizing distinguished service to boyhood. He also chaired a committee that produced the commemorative book, *The History of the Daniel Boone Council, 1911-1966*.



Pictured are covers from the popular Lone Scout Magazine. (Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America and Ron Beard)

West finally was convinced to introduce Cub Scouting, and it became extremely popular with boys in first through fifth grade, and remains so today. Cub Scouts are organized into dens, typically of seven or eight boys in the same grade, and local dens from the different grades make up one Cub pack. Each pack is lead by a Cubmaster. First grade boys are called Tiger Cubs; second graders,

Wolf Cubs; third graders, Bear Cubs; and boys in fourth and fifth grades are known as Webelos. Cubbing first started in Berks County in 1932 when Dr. H. K. Willits headed a committee formed to oversee the activity. By 1934, the first four packs in Daniel Boone Council began with 68 Cub Scouts. After 1954, the number of Cub Scouts had surpassed the number of Boy Scouts every year except for 1965.

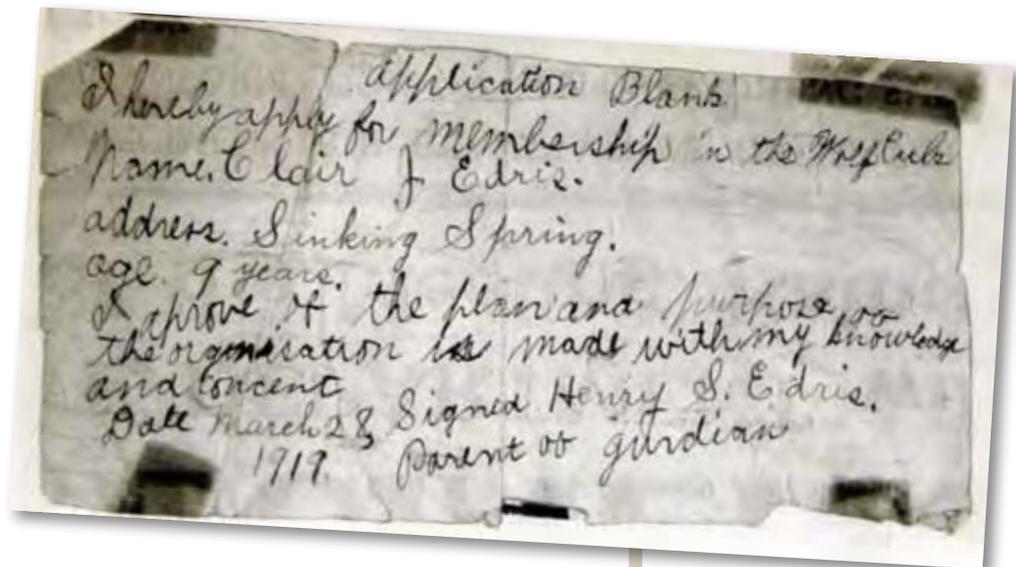
Boy Scouting, which started in 1910, encompasses boys from sixth grade through 17 years of age. Boy Scouts are organized into patrols, which are “natural gangs” of boys of various ages, and several patrols form a troop. Each troop is led by a Scoutmaster.

Venturing, which started in 1935 as Senior Scouting and later was known as Exploring, is open to young adults from 14 through 20 years of age. Each Venturing crew pursues an interest such as a sport, hobby, or other type of activity, and participates in activities intended to help them mature and become responsible, caring adults. Each crew is led by youth officers under the direction of an Advisor, and activities are meant to address ethical issues while providing adventure and challenge. Today, the Exploring program falls under the Learning for Life division of BSA. It pertains to career education for young men and women 14 through 20 years old. The program became co-ed in 1971, marking the first time that girls were able to join the Boy Scouts of America.

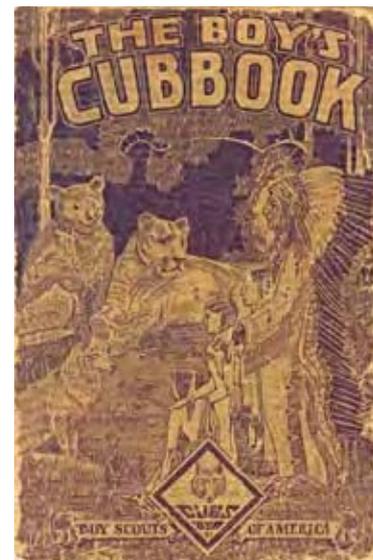
Within the organization of the Boy Scouts of America are specialized segments such as Sea Scouting, which was started in 1912 by Robert Baden-Powell and his brother, Warrington, both of whom were very interested in seamanship and boat travel. Sea Scouting became extremely popular after 1920, when the Sea Scout manual was published and distinctive Sea Scout uniforms became available.

Rural Scouting was expanded in 1926 in an effort to reach boys in areas where Scouting groups were not readily available. Outreach efforts today are overseen by the Scoutreach Division, which addresses the opportunity for Scouting in rural and urban areas in an effort to assure that opportunities are available to all young people, regardless of ethnic or socioeconomic backgrounds. Scoutreach examines special issues pertaining to several focus groups: African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American, and Rural, and works to incorporate more boys from those groups into Scouting programs.

Also affiliated with the BSA are many groups that focus on specific groups and communities. There are, for instances, organizations that work with the BSA on behalf of Presbyterian Scouts; Lutheran Scouts, Catholic Scouts; homeschooled Scouts; the Buddhist, Islamic, and Jewish communities; and others.



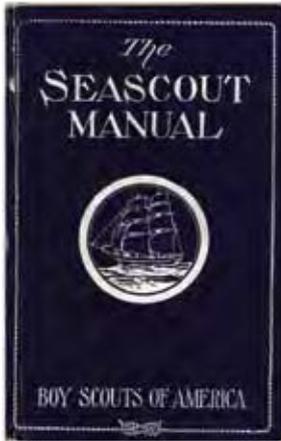
Above, an application for membership in the 1919 Wolf Cub Pack in Sinking Spring. (Courtesy of Hawk Mountain Council)



The first official BSA Cubbing Handbook, written in 1930. (Courtesy of Steve Henning)



The first official BSA Explorer Scout Manual, written in 1946. (Courtesy of Steve Henning)



The 1925 official BSA Sea Scout Manual.
(Courtesy of Steve Henning)



The 1942 official BSA Air Scout Manual.
(Courtesy of Steve Henning)

Below, the 1934-1935 Boy Scouts of America Membership Card of J. Albert Wiley, Tenderfoot Scout in Troop 124, Schuylkill Haven. (Courtesy of David Fry)



In 1923, programs for Scouts with disabilities were established, a natural step considering that James West, the BSA's first Chief Executive, was partially disabled from tuberculosis and suffered from debilitating hip pain throughout most of his life. Although Scouts with disabilities are encouraged to participate as much as possible in mainstream Scout activities, accommodations are made when necessary. There are many groups of similarly disabled Scouts across the country, such as visually impaired Boy Scouts or hearing impaired Cub Scouts.

Scouting is unique in that the units – the troops, packs, posts and crews – are chartered to other organizations. Since 1919, the BSA has required that a church or civic organization charter all Troops and other Scouting units. A particular organization “owns” the unit, and agrees to use the Boy Scouts of America program and abide by its rules. Typically, churches sponsor troops as part of their youth ministries, but allow boys of all faiths to join. Some believe it is this ability of other organizations to use the Boy Scouts of America programs that allowed Scouting to grow rapidly in the United States and become a leader among youth oriented organizations. Religious bodies are still the leaders among chartered organizations, accounting for 61 percent of troops, packs, and Venturing crews.

The basics of the Boy Scouts have remained constant for 100 years. By fulfilling specific requirements, a Boy Scout advances through the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. When those ranks have been attained, Scouts may earn merit badges to qualify for the ranks of Star Scout, Life Scout, and eventually Eagle Scout. Also, other awards are given for outstanding achievements, such as Eagle palms for merit badges earned beyond the Eagle requirements. Order of the Arrow is the national brotherhood of Boy Scout campers. The Medal of Merit, presented for outstanding acts of service, usually life saving, and the Medal of Honor, Scouting's highest award, are presented by Scouting's National Court of Honor. The Medal of Honor is bestowed upon Scouts who save, or attempt to save lives at the risk of their own.

WOMEN IN SCOUTING

Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster positions were for many years limited to men, with the intention of providing male role models for boys. Since 1987, women have been permitted to volunteer as Boy Scout leaders, and more than 400,000 have stepped up to serve in registered positions as volunteers at all levels of Scouting.

Women have been active in Cub Scouts for many years, with den mothers being the first registered women leaders in the Scout program. The first Cub Scout leaders, however, were Boy Scouts who were called den chiefs. There were no registered positions for women at the beginning of Cubbing in America, although mothers were expected to help the boys in the den. Cubmasters were required to be men, based on the American Indian traditions that formed the foundation for Cubbing. Den mothers were given the option of becoming registered leaders in 1936, making them the first registered women leaders in Scouting. In 1948, registration of den mothers became mandatory.

It wasn't until 1967, however, that the title "den mother" was changed to den leader to include both male and female leaders. Up until this time only women could be den leaders. The new position, den leader coach, was created and was also open to men and women. However, Cubmasters and assistant Cubmasters were still limited to men.

Since 1931, the Silver Beaver had been awarded to men to honor them for "distinguished service to boyhood." The Silver Fawn award was introduced in 1971 to honor women for the same service. Nationally, a total of 2,455 Silver Fawns were awarded to outstanding women for support of Cub Scouting before the award was discontinued in 1974 and women became eligible to receive the Silver Beaver award.

Beginning in 1973, women were permitted to serve in all pack positions except Cubmaster, assistant Cubmaster, Webelos den leader, and assistant Webelos den leader. Women also could serve as Cub Scout roundtable commissioners and Cub Scout unit commissioners. In 1987, the BSA National Executive Board removed gender restrictions from all adult volunteer leadership positions. The February 19, 1987, edition of the *Reading Eagle* announced that women could be Scoutmasters or hold any other leadership position, and were eligible for election to the Order of the Arrow.

To accommodate this change, the requirement was established that at least one man must accompany boys on all overnight trips, while at least one woman must be present on every overnight trip in which girls are involved. This regulation is part of the BSA's two deep leadership requirement.



S. Elizabeth Laudenslager.
(Courtesy of Hawk Mountain Council)

Local Women were Early Recipients of Silver Fawn and Silver Beaver Awards

Locally, S. Elizabeth Laudenslager of Berks County and Grace M. Meck of Schuylkill County were awarded the first Silver Fawn awards in 1971. Laudenslager, along with her husband, Richard E. Laudenslager, was involved with Scouting for many years, beginning as a den mother in 1955. She was active in training other leaders, and was one of the first women to attend a training session at the BSA's national training center. She also served as den mother to Pack 407, which was chartered to the Berks County Chapter for Retarded Children and offered a Cub Scout experience to mentally handicapped children.

Also active in many other community organizations, in 1968 Laudenslager was presented the Benjamin Rush Award by the Berks County Medical Society in recognition of her civic service.

Another notable woman involved in local Scouting for more than 40 years was Anne Marie Halcovage, a recipient of the Silver Beaver award, the Bishop's Award for Catholic Scouting, and the Monsignor Campbell Award for Catholic Scouting. Halcovage was instrumental in recruiting leaders and Scouts. She served as a unit commissioner with Hawk Mountain Council BSA, and was a member of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Diocese of Allentown Catholic Committee on Scouting.

Grace Meck served with Earl Moyer, left, and William Lengel to coordinate the Hawk Mountain Council's first University of Scouting in 1970, offering training for all Scout leaders. (Courtesy of Ron Beard)



A merit badge sash from the 1970's.
(Courtesy of Carl Ganster)

106 Merit Badges as illustrated in the 1942 Boy Scout Handbook. (Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America)

MERIT BADGES

Scouting merit badges are designed to emphasize the ability “to do” rather than simply gaining knowledge. They were designed to “introduce a boy to life,” including careers, hobbies, and other skills. Of the 121 current merit badges, 27 remain from the group of 57 original badges introduced in 1911. Ninety-four of the current badges have been introduced since 1911, and an additional 88 merit badges were created after 1911, but subsequently dropped. In all, there have been a total of 239 different merit badges.

The most popular merit badges are those required for the Eagle Scout rank, with approximately 50,000 of these earned nationally each year. Other popular merit badges include camp handicrafts such as leatherwork and carving; popular camp activities such as archery, rifle shooting, canoeing, Indian lore, and wilderness survival; and others that are frequently earned as a troop, such as fingerprinting.



Camping Merit Badge.

Citizenship In The Nation Merit Badge.

Swimming Merit Badge.

First Aid Merit Badge.

From the list of earned merit badges, some general conclusions can be drawn. More Scouts are involved in music than in sports – 15,114 for music compared to 10,968 for sports. There is much interest in the classic Scouting skills of first aid, swimming, lifesaving, cooking, climbing, and nature study. In fact, environmental science, mammal study, fishing, geology, nature, weather, forestry, soil and water conservation, and reptile study- all aspects of nature study- account for 10 of the most popular merit badges. Hiking, once one of the most popular badges, has dropped to the middle of the pack along with cycling, scholarship and reading.



In 2007, the most popular merit badges were: first aid, swimming, environmental science, citizenship in the world, camping, citizenship in the nation, communications, personal fitness, family life, leatherwork, personal management, citizenship in the community, archery, rifle shooting, wood carving, emergency preparedness, canoeing, wilderness survival, fingerprinting and Indian lore. The least popular badges in 2007 were: American business, bugling, fly fishing, plant science, electricity, stamp collecting, American labor, journalism, surveying, entrepreneurship, public health, drafting, insect study, landscape architecture, gardening, theater, farm mechanics, architecture, model design and building and American cultures.

THE EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

The Eagle Scout award – Scouting’s highest rank, began as the organization’s top merit badge, representing what the *Handbook for Boys* described as “the all-round perfect Scout.” The Eagle merit badge was awarded to First Class Scouts who earned 21 additional merit badges, including first aid, athletics, lifesaving, personal health, and public health.



The First Eagle Scout

The BSA’s first Eagle badge was awarded to 17-year-old Arthur R. Eldred from Troop 1 in Oceanside, New York on Labor Day in 1912 – just about a year and a half after the BSA’s founding. Eldred underwent what some believe was the most rigorous review in Scouting history. Serving on his board of review were the BSA’s three leaders: Chief Scout Executive James E. West, Chief Scout Ernest Thompson Seton, and National Scout Commissioner Daniel Carter Beard.

By the end of 1912, 22 additional Scouts had earned the Eagle badge and, in 1982 – 70 years later – 13-year-old Alexander Holsinger of Normal, Illinois was recognized as the one millionth Eagle Scout. More than one and a half million Scouts have achieved Scouting’s highest rank during BSA’s first 100 years.

At left, the Eagle Scout Award medal and the Eagle Scout Award patch. (Courtesy of Steve Henning)

Today the requirements for Eagle Scout are:

Age: all requirements must be completed before the 18th birthday. Scouts with disabilities may work past their 18th birthday.

Tenure: the Scout must be active in his Troop or Crew at least six months after he achieves the rank of Life Scout.

References: the Scout must submit the names of 6 references who can attest that the Scout lives by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law.

Merit Badges: the Scout must complete 21 merit badges including: camping, citizenship in the community, citizenship in the nation, citizenship in the world, communications, emergency preparedness or lifesaving, environmental science, first aid, cycling or swimming or hiking, personal managements, personal fitness, and family life.

Position of Responsibility: after achieving Life Scout, the Scout must actively serve in an approved position of responsibility for six months.

Service Project: while a Life Scout, the Scout must plan, develop and give leadership to others in an approved service project which helps a religious institution, school or the community, but not Scouting.

Requirement 6: the Scout must participate in a Scoutmaster conference and prepare a written statement of his future ambitions and life purpose. He must include a list of positions held demonstrating leadership skills and awards received in religious institutions, at school, at camp, in the community and in other organizations.



Above, a sketch of the Boy Scout uniform from the 1917 *Boy Scouts of America Handbook for Boys*. (Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America)

The sketch of a Scout with a neckerchief, at right, taken from the cover of Commodore W. E. Longfellow's 1927 BSA booklet describing 60 different uses for a neckerchief. (Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America)



The Boy Scout uniform in 1929. (Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America)

THE SCOUT UNIFORM, NECKERCHIEF AND HANDCLASP

While uniforms were important to the early Scouts in England, there was no official uniform when Scouting came to America in 1910. The BSA's first Official Handbook contained this information regarding uniforms – or the lack of them:

If your patrol doesn't belong to any uniformed corps, it should dress as nearly as possible thus:

HAT–Khaki color, flat brim and chin strap.

NECKERCHIEF–Of the colors of your patrol; the neckerchief is worn knotted at the throat and also at the ends, and is tied loosely round the neck.

SHIRT–Flannel–blue, khaki, or gray. In winter a jersey or sweater of the same color if preferred.

BREECHES–Short khaki, gray or blue, with braid or cord on the seam.

BELT–Brown leather, two swivels, coat strap–pouch optional. Buckles, etc., should be dull metal.

STOCKINGS–Dark color or khaki, preferably turned down below the knee.

When James E. West was named permanent Chief Scout Executive in 1911, one of his top priorities was to create a uniform for the Boy Scouts of America. The first uniform in the 1911 *Handbook for Boys* was modeled after the U.S. Army uniform, consisting of a khaki campaign hat; a five-button, choke-collar tunic; knee breeches; and canvas leggings.

By 1917, resistance to the military look of the original uniform led to some changes. The choke-collar tunic was replaced with a loose khaki shirt and neckerchief, and a four-button coat with a conventional, comfortable collar was available. This uniform was more comfortable for boys to wear, and detracted from the military look. In addition, due to the neckerchief, it more resembled the British Scout uniform that Baden-Powell had introduced.

The BSA didn't adopt shorts with its uniform until 1920, even though they were closely associated with Scouting in other countries. Social mores caused some boys to wear long pants as they traveled to and from camp, but they changed into shorts to wear at camp and in the wilderness. World War II also led to some changes in the uniform, introducing the "flight caps" or "overseas caps" and breeches.

Major changes to the uniform occurred in 1980, however, when the BSA secured noted designer Oscar de la Renta to come up with a complete redesign of all its uniforms. Boy Scouts could then choose long or short-sleeved khaki shirts with red epaulets. They also had a choice of long or short olive green pants with handy utility pockets. The neckerchief was still part of the uniform, but wearing it was optional.

The BSA neckerchief has an interesting history, and is valued as far more than just a decorative part of the uniform. Ever since the neckerchief was added to the BSA uniform, Scouts have been coming up with innovative uses for it. It could be used as a face mask in the event of smoke, snow or dust; for Semaphore signaling; or as a belt, shoulder sling, bandana, sweat band, blindfold, napkin, bandage, or tourniquet. In fact, the Scout neckerchief is very similar to the triangular bandage, which has long been employed in military settings.



An article discussing possible uses for the neckerchief was printed in *Boys' Life* magazine in the early 1920s, and, by the end of that decade a BSA booklet had been written, describing 60 different uses for the neckerchief.

Once the neckerchief was adopted as part of the BSA uniform, the carving of neckerchief slides became a major activity. *Boys' Life* began a feature called "Slide of the Month," and Scouts and leaders across the country began carving in earnest.

In time, the Cub Scouts adopted a distinctive yellow neckerchief and added the Webelos neckerchief. Wood Badge training has two neckerchiefs, the course neckerchief and the traditional Wood Badge neckerchief featuring the Maclaren tartan. The Boy Scout neckerchief, however, was never standardized. Troops decide if the neckerchief will be part of their uniform, and, if so, are allowed to design their own individual neckerchiefs. The color of the neckerchief indicates the troop, district or council according to local traditions.

Another unique aspect of Scouting is the left-handed handshake, based on African tradition and originated in England by Baden-Powell, whose 1908 edition of *Scouting For Boys* contained the following: "If a stranger makes the Scout's sign to you, you should acknowledge it at once by making the sign back to him and then shake hands with the LEFT HAND."

The BSA called for a right-handed handshake for a time, with instructions in the 1915 BSA Handbook reading as follows:

"Scout Handclasp: The Boy Scout handclasp is made with the right hand, the fingers in the same relative position as in making the Scout sign. The three fingers extended represent the three parts of the Scout oath; and the bent position of the thumb and the little finger represents the knot or tie that binds these parts together into a strong unity. One Scout shakes hand with another by a good warm handclasp with the three middle fingers extended in a straight line along the other's wrist, and with the thumb and little finger clasped around the other's fingers."

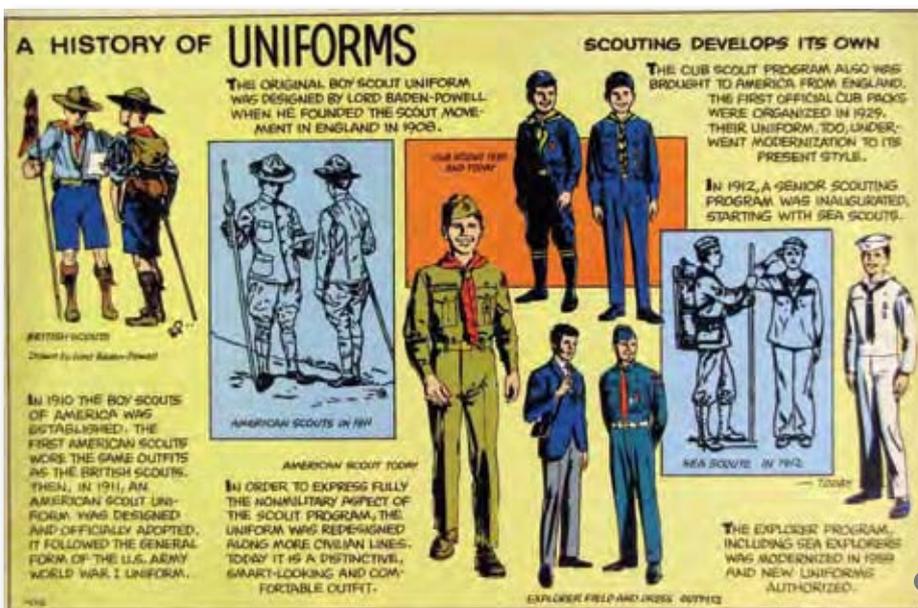
In 1927 the BSA Scout Handshake was changed to a left handed handshake in a show of solidarity with Scouts around the world, and has remained so since.



George Hasker holding his carving of the Boy's Life male burro, Pedro. (Courtesy of George Hasker)

An All-Round Scout, Scouter and Neckerchief Slide Carver

George M. Hasker is seasoned and well versed in everything Scouting. In addition, he is known for his extraordinary collection of neckerchief slides. A 66-year Scouting veteran, Hasker has received the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver Award, Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow, and the Lamb Award. He has served at jamborees, and has held a variety of positions within Scouting, including Cubmaster and Webelos leader, Post Advisor, Scoutmaster, and Commissioner. He has served as a handicraft director, Campmaster, National Camp School Scoutmaster, and Space Camp Scoutmaster. Hasker also is a member of the Over The Hill Gang of experienced Scoutmasters.



At left, a history of the Boy Scout uniform as of 1971. (Courtesy of Jeffrey Hannahoe)



George M. Jones Recognized as Berks County's First Scouter

George M. Jones started out as a Lone Scout in 1911, and led the way for Scouting in Reading and other Berks County communities. He organized and became Scoutmaster of Troop No. 4 at the Second Reformed Church in Reading, and also devoted a considerable amount of time leading meetings in rural areas. Jones prepared a collection of slides, which he showed at meetings promoting Scouting. During the second annual Meeting of Scoutmasters, held in Reading, Jones used his slides to present illustrated lectures.

When the Reading Council was chartered in 1916, Jones was elected its first president and served for two years. He served as Council Commissioner from 1921 until 1935, forming many new troops and promoting Scouting in Berks County.

A notable meeting of the Council occurred during the annual meeting in 1932, at which two Region Three officials from the National Office of the Boy Scouts of America – Urner Goodwin, Assistant Regional Executive, and Roy Seymour, Regional Executive – were present. Seymour presented Silver Beaver awards, the first in the Council, to Jones and Frank Howard. He also announced that the Reading-Berks County Council had been awarded the National Standard for attaining special standards during the previous year.

Jones' Silver Beaver Award said in part, "His unswerving integrity as a businessman and citizen, his exemplary conduct as a scout, has raised him to the highest pedestal in the hearts of the more than 7000 boys and men who have



Above, the Boy Scout Leader uniform in 1929. (Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America)

At right, the first Boy Scouts of America five-button high collar coat. (Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America)

THE ESSENTIALS OF SCOUTING

Since the inception of Scouting for boys, Scouts have been urged to “do a good turn daily,” and the Boys Scouts of America has a tradition of offering good turns at a national level. These good turns have included promoting a “safe and sane Fourth of July” in 1913; collecting clothing, household furnishings, and food for the distressed during the Great Depression; a get-out-the-vote campaign in 1952; and “Scouting for Food” to support local food banks. Scouts also have participated in National Park Service programs, and addressed hunger, homelessness and poor health through a “Good Turn for America” program.

Scouts distributed coal and wood for heating during World War I. During World War II, the Boy Scouts of America responded to a national mobilization by distributing posters and selling defense bonds and stamps, collecting aluminum and waste paper, growing victory gardens, distributing air-raid warning posters, working with the American Red Cross, and serving with the Office of Civil Defense as messengers, assistants on emergency medical crews and firewatchers.

In 1950, as part of its 40th Anniversary celebration, the BSA launched its “Strengthen the Arm of Liberty” campaign, during which Scouts distributed more than 200 eight-foot-tall replicas of the Statue of Liberty, known as “Little Sisters of Liberty.” Scouts across America contribute millions of hours of community service every year.

Scouting in America changed course for a short time during the 1970s, when Senior Scouting within the troop was replaced with the Leadership Corps, and the new Scout Handbook de-emphasized many Scout skills, such as signaling. Under the new program, a Scout could earn the rank of First Class without ever going hiking, or camping or cooking over a fire, and the skill award program supplemented the regular advancement program to provide more frequent recognition.

After just a few years, however, declining membership spurred the introduction of “All Out for Scouting,” a back-to-basics program developed by William “Green Bar Bill” Hillcourt, who came out of retirement to write the 1979 Boy Scout Handbook. That handbook restored traditional Scoutcraft skills to the program, and Scouts were once again required to participate in outdoor activities and learn traditional Scout skills. The Leadership Corps was phased out, and the skill award program was dropped.

Scouting in the United States is the story of many people, including Edgar M. Robinson of the YMCA, Ernest Thompson Seton of the Woodcraft Indians, Dan Beard of the Sons of Daniel Boone, and James E. West, who drew the best from these Scouting pioneers and guided the movement to be a strong influence on young men’s lives in America.



In 1952, the Boy Scouts of America conducted a national get-out-the-vote campaign using door hangers provided by the Freedoms Foundation. (Courtesy of Dorsen Berger)



A sampling of skill awards.

The Ideal Scout Statue – a Tribute to Scouts and Scouting

The life-sized Ideal Scout statue, sculpted in 1937 by Dr. Robert Tait McKenzie, stands before more than 30 Boy Scout centers across the nation, including at the entrance to the Paul R. Roedel Science and Technology Center at Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation. The original life-sized statue resides at the Cradle of Liberty Council Building in Philadelphia. Based on a composite of five Scouts who served as models between 1914 and 1937, the statue portrays the vigor and strength of youth, and is a tribute to all Scouts and the Scouting movement.

Dr. Robert Tait McKenzie was born in 1867 in Lanark County, Ontario, Canada. The son of a minister of the Free Church of Scotland, he was the third of four children. After graduating from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, he served on the McGill Medical School faculty for 13 years.

McKenzie joined the staff of the University of Pennsylvania in 1904, where he headed the newly formed Physical Education Department. In addition to a surgeon and physical educator, McKenzie was an artist, sculptor, soldier, teacher and author. He was a full professor on the medical faculty at University of Pennsylvania, as well as one of the men responsible for the success of the Pennsylvania Relays, held each April. He also became famous as one of America's most brilliant sculptors through his fine detail depicting the muscular coordination and build of the human form.

In 1911 McKenzie became a member of the Philadelphia Council Executive Board, a position he held until 1938. Not long after joining the Council, he presented it with an original model of the Ideal Scout statuette, an 18-inch bronze figure. McKenzie included a certificate of copyright registration, "to have and to hold, to use and to defend, as may seem to your judgment wise and proper."

Ten people, each of whom had contributed \$100 to help defray the cost of making and casting the mold for the stature, received a bronze replica of The Boy Scout, with the understanding that no more would be produced. Each copy was numbered and the name of the person to whom it was given stamped in the base. Among those receiving copies were Sir Robert Baden-Powell; baseball great Connie Mack; George D. Porter, Philadelphia's first Scout Commissioner; and later pilot Charles A. Lindbergh.

Although no more bronze copies were made, 18-inch-tall plaster copies with green, bronze and ivory finish were produced. Sales of the statues were profitable for the Philadelphia Council, which held the copyright and received a royalty on each statue sold. The plaster version of the statue turned out to be problematic, however, as they didn't hold up during shipping.

The Philadelphia Council then arranged with the National Council in 1934 for the production of an eight-inch, "desk-sized" model, finished in bronze or silver. These small statues were produced by the Medallion Art Company, America's oldest and largest private mint. In keeping with McKenzie's wishes, the Philadelphia Council reserved the right to have a representative inspect statues at any time to make sure they retained the desired quality.

In 1950 an even smaller statue – this one just four inches high – was introduced. The Scout statues proved to be very popular, and were thought to advance the cause of Scouting by increasing its visibility.





When the Philadelphia Council moved into its building on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in 1920, the expectation was that McKenzie would provide a new, life-sized statue to be placed in front of it. McKenzie agreed and sculpted the statue, based on the features of five different Scout models. He presented the statue in front of Philadelphia Council headquarters on June 12, 1937.

“We are met here today to dedicate a statue, in bronze, as a symbol of one of the greatest impulses for good, put into practical operation by a band of devoted men, that has ever come to American boyhood,” McKenzie said during his presentation speech.

Also during that speech, McKenzie explained to the audience that the intent of sculpting the Ideal Scout Statue was to produce something tangible that would represent the product of the Boy Scouts of America – something that would stand as a symbol of the essence and purpose of Scouting.

It was McKenzie’s desire to make the statue available to any community that wished to buy one, providing that it was properly erected, suitably landscaped and well maintained. A duplicate was made and shipped to Ottawa, Illinois to be placed facing the grave of William D. Boyce, who incorporated the Boy Scouts of America in 1910.

No additional life-sized statues were cast until 1954, when the Philadelphia Scouts and Scouters presented one to the National Council Headquarters in New Brunswick, New Jersey. A copy of the life-sized statue was unveiled in front of the National Headquarters of the Boy Scouts of Canada in Ottawa, Ontario in 1963, presented by Scouts and Scouters of Philadelphia as a token of friendship and good will.

The life-sized statues, each of which weighs about 500 pounds and stands 6-feet tall, are individually cast by the Modern Art Foundry in Astoria, New York. This is a time-consuming process and requires considerable effort and skill. Each statue can take up to six months to complete.



Life-sized Ideal Scout statues are placed in locations throughout the country and abroad, including in front of the Paul R. Roedel Science and Technology Center, at left; in Gilwell Park, London, above; and at 22nd and Winter streets, Philadelphia. (Courtesy of Stephen Henning, Tom Warren and Bruce Anderson)



Index

A

Aids to Scouting 28, 30

B

Back-to-Basics 51

Baden-Powell 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 48, 49, 52

Beard, Daniel Carter 39, 41, 47, 51

Boy Scout Handbook 27, 46, 51

Boy Scouting 37, 41, 43

Boyce, William D. 37, 39, 42, 53

Boys' Life Magazine 37, 40, 49

Brownsea Island 31

C

Congressional Charter 41

Cubbing 19, 43, 45

D

Disabled Scouts 44

E

Eagle Scout 44, 46, 47

Exploring 43

G

Gilwell Park 33, 34, 53

Girl guides 32, 33

H

Hillcourt, William 51

Howard, Frank H. 50

Humshaugh Camp 32

I

"Ideal Scout" Statue 52, 53

Incorporation 42

J

Jamboree 33, 34, 41

K

Kipling, Rudyard 33

L

Little Sisters of Liberty 51

Livingstone, Colin H. 38

Lone Scouts 42

Lord Baden-Powell 27, 33, 39 [also see Baden-Powell]

M

Mckenzie, R Tait 52

Merit Badges 44, 46, 47

N

National Council 38, 39, 52, 53

Neckerchief 48, 49

O

Official Handbook 38, 48

R

Robinson, Edgar M. 38, 39, 51

Rockwell, Norman 37, 40

Roosevelt, Franklin D. 122, 182

Roosevelt, Theodore 41, 69, 187

Rural Scouting 43

S

Scout Handshake 49

Scout Law 40

Scout Motto 40

Scout Oath 25, 40, 47, 49

Scouting for Boys 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 38, 39, 40, 49, 51

Scouting for Food 51

Scoutreach 43

Sea Scouting 43

Senior Scouting 43, 51

Seton, Ernest Thompson 30, 38, 39, 47, 51

Siege of Mafeking 27, 30

Silver Bay 38

Silver Beaver Award 42, 45, 49, 50

Silver Buffalo award 40

Skill Awards 51

Summer Camp 31

T

Tiger Cubs 43

U

Uniform 27, 28, 32, 41, 47, 48, 49, 50

Unknown Scout 37

V

Venturing 41, 43, 44

Vigil Honor 49

W

Webelos 43, 45, 49

West, James E. 39, 40, 44, 47, 48, 51

Wolf Cubs 33, 41, 43

Women in Scouting 45

Wood Badge 49

World War I 33, 51

World War II 48, 51

Y

YMCA 38, 39, 41, 51