



Scouting Around the World

January 2016

National Capital Area Council International Committee

Committee Chair: Chuck Davidson
703-339-5349 chuck.nita@cox.net

Staff Advisor: Don Durbin
301-214-9188 don.durbin@scouting.org

http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/open_rosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=17085&orgkey=1988

The International Committee meets the third Thursday, every other month at the Marriott Scout Service Center, 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Upcoming meeting date: January 21, 2016

Newsletter editor: John Scheirer, Scouter8@verizon.net

B-P Bits:

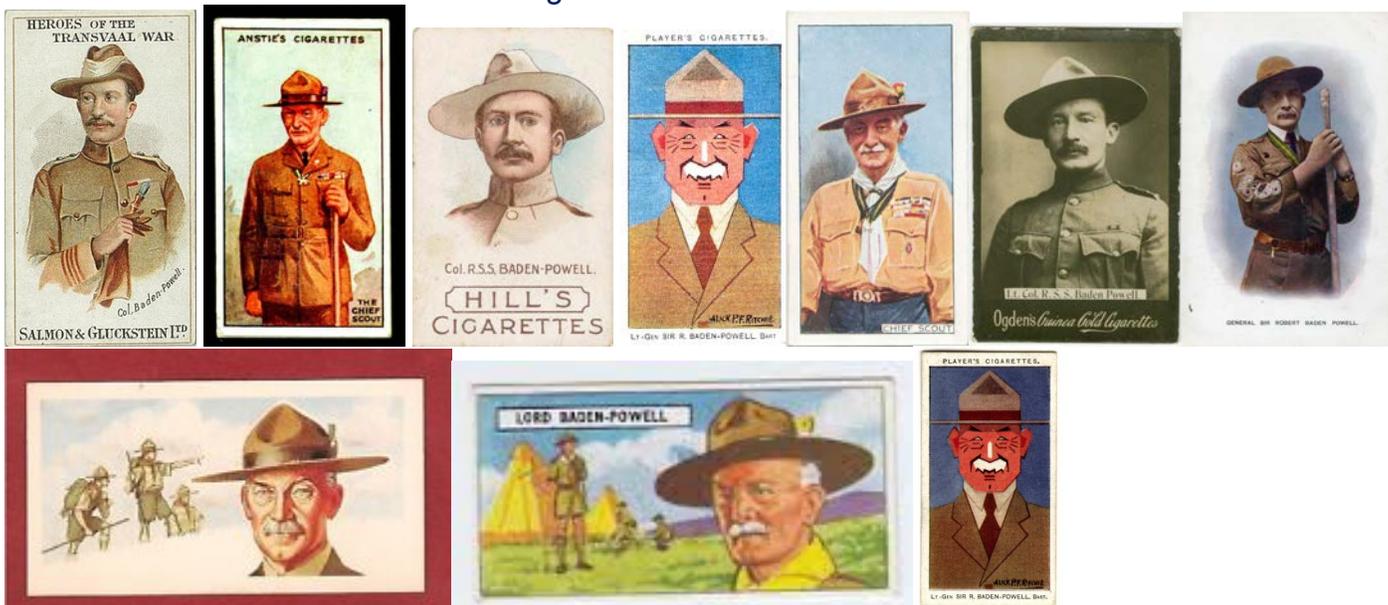


1933 World Jamboree

The origin of “jamboree”: B-P wanted to gather all the Scouts of the World in 1918 at what he called a jamboree. A friend said “You can’t use that term, have you looked it up in the dictionary?” It said: “a boisterous carousal; a drunken spree.” B-P said “Well it doesn’t look too dignified but what else would you call it?”

B-P considered other terms but he just liked jamboree, so he said “Let’s try it.” Now if you look up jamboree in the dictionary, one of the main definitions says: “A National or International Boy Scout gathering.”

Collectors’ Corner: Baden-Powell Cigarette Cards



Afghan Scouts of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Services for Afghanistan (PARSA) receive recognition from the Minister of Education and Youth for PARSA’s work over the last six years reigniting the Scouting program in the country. PARSA hopes to become recognized by WOSM and expand Scouting to all 34 provinces through school and community-based programs. Presently, PARSA’s work is evident in 12 provinces with 1,600 Scouts. PARSA is a non-government organization that partners with WOSM/Asia-Pacific to conduct Scout training in orphanages in Kabul and in some provinces of Afghanistan.

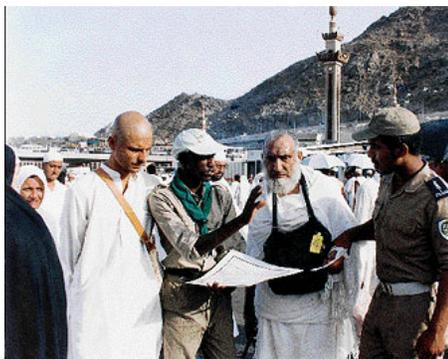
Scouting in Saudi Arabia:



Current version of the Saudi National Scout Emblem



Older version of the Saudi National Scout Emblem



Helping Hajj pilgrims

In the early 1950s, a few groups of Scouts were loosely organized through some of the local schools under the direction of adult volunteers. In 1961, a royal decree was issued formally establishing the Saudi Arabian Scouts Association. Close to 50,000 young Saudis are active members of the Saudi Arabian Scouts Association. The Association is an independent group, but many of its activities are supported by a number of different government agencies. Because the local Scout troops are organized through the schools, the Ministry of Education maintains a prominent presence in the organization's activities.

The Scouts have become active participants in the campaign against drugs, taking part in parades and educational programs in an attempt to educate their peers on the dangers of drug use. Another aspect of the Scouts' focus on community is their commitment to Road Safety Week, when they distribute information on safe driving in an attempt to reduce the numbers of automobile accidents and potential injuries. In recent years, the Saudi Scouts have worked tirelessly for the environment through educational programs and hands-on activities. Every year on Arbor Day, the Scouts organize a tree-planting campaign to emphasize the need to renew the environment, and regular "clean-up" days are held when Scouts devote their time to beautifying their neighborhoods and communities.

Undoubtedly the most significant contribution the Saudi Scouts have made to the community is their continued involvement in the annual Hajj, pilgrimage to Makkah. For over 35 years, the Scouts have cooperated with the various government agencies that work together annually to ensure a safe and comfortable visit for more than two million pilgrims who travel to Makkah from around the Kingdom and the world. Volunteers take part in a ten-day comprehensive training course during which they visit the many sites throughout the area in order to familiarize themselves with the locations. Any pilgrim who is in need of medical attention will be escorted by a Scout to the nearest health center or hospital. Additionally, the volunteers distribute books and informational pamphlets to the pilgrims to keep them informed of the Hajj schedule. Many Scouts find themselves in the position of guides, willing to answer questions and identify points of interest and sites of historical significance.

The Scouts stand as a shining example of young Saudis making a difference in the world today. Striving to serve their communities and country, the Scouts learn valuable lessons about cooperation, helping others and taking action.