



THE BROWNSEA GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BPSA IN CANADA

NUMBER 3

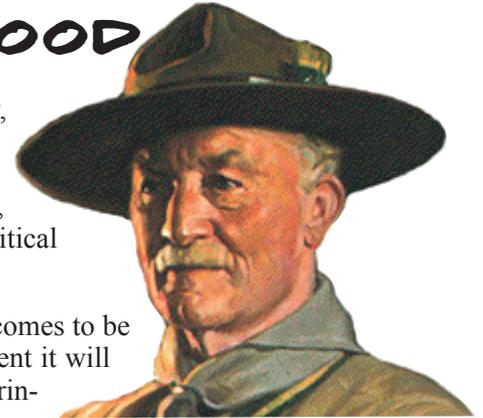
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OUR WORLD-WIDE BROTHERHOOD

The Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movements have spread all over the world. In July, 1939, there were over three million Boy Scouts in some fifty different countries. So if you become a Scout you join a great host of boys of many nationalities and you will have friends in every continent. The number is not, alas, as great as it might be, for some countries have banned Scouts simply because they did not fit into the political scheme of the rulers.

I am sure that when the full story of all that has happened in the occupied countries comes to be told it will be a story you will all be proud of reading, and retelling, for I am confident it will show that Boy Scouts and Girl Guides will have lived up to their training and put our principles into action.



The Jamborees

We can look back, though, to considerable progress in the years before 1939. A series of Jamborees, and other meetings of Scouts from many countries, shows what a firm link the Scout Law is between boys of all colours, races and creeds. We can camp together, go hiking together, and enjoy all the fun of outdoor life, and so help to forge a chain of friendship and not of bondage.

At each of these Jamborees it has been my privilege to try to sun' up the message of the meeting at a final rally. I want to repeat here some of the things I said.

In 1920 the Jamboree was at Olympia, in London. As Chief Scout of the World, I said:—

“Brother Scouts, I ask you to make a solemn choice. Differences exist between the peoples of the world in thought and sentiment, just as they do in language and physique. The War has taught us that if one nation tries to impose its particular will upon others cruel reaction is bound to follow. The Jamboree has taught us that if we exercise mutual forbearance and give and take, then there is sympathy and harmony. If it be your will, let us go forth from here fully determined that we will develop among ourselves and our boys that comradeship, through the world-wide spirit of the Scout Brotherhood, so that we may help to develop peace and happiness in the world and goodwill among men. Brother Scouts, answer me. Will you join in this endeavour?”

In 1929 we celebrated our Coming-of-Age; it was 21 years since the first edition of this book had appeared; what had been an acorn had grown into a mighty oak. The Jamboree was held at Arrowe Park, near Birkenhead. The name of the place suggested that a good symbol of this meeting of Scouts from 41 nations and from 31 parts of the Empire, would be a Golden Arrow. At the final Rally I therefore handed to the various contingents these symbols, and in doing so I used these words:—



“From all corners of the earth you have journeyed to this great gathering of World Fellowship and Brotherhood. To-day I send you out from Arrowe to all the world, bearing my symbol of Peace and Fellowship, each one of you my ambassador; bearing my message of Love and Fellowship on the wings of Sacrifice and Service, to the ends of the earth. From now on the Scout Symbol of peace is the Golden Arrow. Carry it fast and far that all men may know the Brotherhood of Man.”

Four years later we met at Gödöllő, in Hungary. The symbol for this time was a White Stag. My message was:—

“You may look on the White Stag as the pure spirit of Scouting, springing forward and upward, ever leading you onward and upward to leap over difficulties, to face new adventures in your active pursuit of the higher aims of Scouting — aims which bring you happiness.

Those aims are your duty to God, to your country, and to your fellow men by carrying out the Scout Law. In that way, you will, each one of you, bring about God’s kingdom upon earth — the reign of peace and goodwill.

“Therefore, before leaving you, I ask you Scouts this question — Will you do your best to make friends with others and peace in the world?”



Then came the Jamboree in Holland in 1937. The symbol then was the Jacob’s Staff which mariners used in olden times in navigation.

We little knew then what agony was to come to that gallant country and to many others before many years passed. At the final rally I said:

“This Brotherhood of Scouting is in many respects similar to a Crusade. You Scouts have assembled from all parts of the world as ambassadors of goodwill, and you have been making friends, breaking down any barriers of race, of creed, or of class. That surely is a great Crusade. I advise you now to continue that good work, for soon you will be men, and if quarrels should arise between any nations it is upon you that the burden of responsibility will fall.

“If you are friends you will not want to be in dispute, and by cultivating these friendships such as have been cemented at this great Jamboree, you are preparing the way for solutions of international problems by discussion of a peaceful character. This will have a vital and very far-reaching effect throughout the world in the cause of peace, and so pledge all of you here in this great assembly of Youth, to do your utmost to establish friendship among Scouts of all nations.”



The Coming of War

When war came in September, 1939, it looked at first as though we had failed. But there was another side of the picture. The wonderful way in which all members of the Boy Scouts offered themselves for service to their countries; the courage shown even by the youngest, and the heroism displayed by many a boy, give us hope. If only the same spirit can animate us during peace, we can face the future with confidence.

It is the spirit that matters. Our Scout Law and Promise, when we really put them into practice, take away all occasion for wars and strife between nations.

So let us all do our part. Those who are Scouts now should determine to be better Scouts, not only in backwoodsmanship and camping, but in sticking to the Law and carrying it out. If you are not a Scout, come along and join this happy Brotherhood; there are great times ahead, and we shall need you!

Finally

I hope I have been able in this book [*Scouting For Boys*] to show you something of the appeal that lies in Scouting for all of us. I want you to feel that you are really Scouts out in the wilds, able to work things out for yourselves, and not just Scouts in a Troop carefully looked after by Patrol Leaders and Scouters. I know that you want to be up and doing things for yourselves; that these old explorers and frontiersmen appeal to the spirit of adventure in you; that, despite all the modern inventions of the cinema, wireless, motorcycles, etc., you want to get out on your own, fending for yourselves, pitting yourselves against the forces of nature, exercising yourselves with games, enjoying the freedom of the open air.

I have just tried to suggest to you some ways of doing this and of helping yourselves to become real men.

Scouting is a fine game, if we put our backs into it and tackle it well; and no game is any good to anyone unless he works up some kind of enthusiasm about it. As with other games, too, we will find that we gain strength of body, mind, and spirit from the playing of it. But remember ! it is a game for the open air, so whenever the opportunity occurs get out into the open, and good luck and good camping go with you.

Robert S.S. Baden-Powell, Chief Scout of the World

*Campfire Yarn No.28,
from the 1940 revised edition of Scouting For Boys*

Editors' Notebook

The month of February holds a special place on the Scouting calendar. It is the month in which we celebrate Scouting and Guiding Week, in honour of our Founder Robert Baden-Powell. It is the month in which we pause to evaluate our own contributions to the Scouting and Guiding Movement and to appreciate the legacy and traditions passed on to us by those Scouts and Guides who had come before us.

Many groups in our Movements celebrate Scouting and Guiding Week in different ways. Some hold special banquets for their families to which they often invite those from outside of our Movement to be thanked and honoured for their support of our Movement. Other groups chose to devote the week to increased service to their communities by taking on various civic projects. Others may hold special meetings to renew their Promise or to promote the Movement by public displays.



As the Editors of the Brownsea Gazette, we have also decided to mark the Scouting and Guiding Week by a special edition of the magazine. What better way to carry on the work of our predecessors than to promote one of the main themes of our Great Game — *Peace amongst nations through the Brotherhood of Scouts*.

Some of us will live that World Brotherhood later this year by attending the 3rd WFIS World Jamboree in Puebla, Mexico. For those who may not be able to join us, we have asked our brothers and sisters from around the world, to share with us their experiences, their achievements and their local ways of playing the Game of Scouting.

We hope that their contributions will help us to get to know them better and inspire us to more cooperation and understanding

amongst Traditional Scouting.

Yours in Scouting, The Editors

COMMISSIONER'S DESK

Well Christmas has come and gone and can Spring and Easter be far away?

This month we have an opportunity to celebrate the birth of our founder, Lord Baden-Powell. He was born on February 22nd 1857. He attained the rank of Lt General in the British Army. Upon graduating from Charterhouse School, Baden-Powell served in the British Army from 1876 until 1910 in India and Africa. In 1899 during the Boer War, Baden-Powell successfully defended Mafeking during the siege.

Several of his military books written for military reconnaissance and scout training in his African Years were also read by boys. Based on those earlier books, BP wrote *Scouting for Boys*, published in 1908.

During the writing he tested his ideas through a camping trip to Brownsea Island with the local Boys' Brigade and his sons which began on Aug 1st 1907. Which is now seen as the beginning of Scouting.

After his marriage to Olave St Clair Soames, Baden-Powell, his sister Agnes Baden-Powell and notably his wife actively gave guidance to the Scouting Movement and the Girl Guides Movement.

Baden-Powell lived his last years in Nyeri, Kenya where he died and was buried in 1941.

It is important that we let our youth know all we can about our founder, Lord Baden-Powell and what the Scouting Movement is all about. Lots of information can be gleaned from google merely by typing in Baden-Powell.

As we celebrate Founder's Day by wearing our uniforms to school and work, lets take advantage of this time of year to teach all we can to our youth about Baden-Powell.

Until next time, Happy Scouting,



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Click on the item of choice

Mike Maloney, Commissioner
BPSA British Columbia



PAW REQUIREMENTS

Planning a schedule for the Otter Raft isn't always easy, but using the Badge and Paw requirements as a guide can really help, except when you run into a requirement that can't be met.

For example, the Tan Paw has a requirement of visiting a petting zoo. What if you don't have one in your area? Or how about the Green Paw requirement to "Plant and take care of a tree for at least a year?"

This is where you need a little imagination and the "spirit and intent" of the requirement. For the Green Paw, our Raft found out that our City had planted 75 trees for the 75th anniversary several years ago. While out on one of our day camps, we noticed half the trees were dead so we decided to replant the dead trees and to go back at least once every year to make sure that the ones we planted survived and there were no other dead trees. Our local silviculture company donated the seedlings and one of the parents gave direction on how to plant them properly. So, as a Raft, we met and continue to meet the requirement.

The Tan Paw has a requirement to "Collect 25 stamps and mount them in a book". Is the requirement met if the Otter has a collection of hockey cards and has them nicely presented in plastic holders? Of course it does. Almost every Otter should have some form of collection. Have a "Collectors Night" and encourage them to bring their own collection and you be the judge if it meets the intent.

"Helping set up the meeting hall" for the Red Paw could be two Otters each week setting up the flags and preparing everything for opening. Don't have an Old Folks Home in your area? Make arrangements for some grandparents to visit - most likely they will have been scouts or guides in their youth and can tell all sorts of stories. That could work well for B.-P.'s birthday!

The whole purpose of the badge program in Otters is to encourage the youth to do something useful and to reward them for their efforts. As long as you are consistent and fair, you are playing the game.



A GAME FOR OTTERS.

Squirrel in the Tree

The leader divides the group into threes. In each group of three, two Otters join hands and form a tree for the third Otter (the squirrel), who will stand between them. The leader calls, "Squirrels change trees." Then all the trees raise their arms while the squirrels run to find a new tree. If there are extra squirrels the challenge is to get to a free tree.



CUERPO DE EXPLORADORES PANAMEÑOS

BADEN POWELL SCOUTS ASSOCIATION - PANAMA

We are a traditional Scouting Association that reappears on November 8, 2008 after an old dream and exactly on the date that we celebrated 94 years since Teacher Jose Mercedes Villamil Benalcazar, founded Scouting in Panama in the beginning of the Republic. Our vision and mission is to develop informal education to transform today's youth into good citizens of Panama in the 21st Century, through the Scout Method and Program designed by Lord Baden-Powell, same that in a successful way helped to form thousands of Panamanian citizens in the 20th Century.



To achieve our goal we based on the books written by Baden-Powell, *Scouting for Boys*, *The Wolf Cub's Handbook*, *Rovering to Success* and all his large literature, according to the original Scout Promise and Law. In the four years since the foundation we count with four Brigades in Panama City: N° 2, 4, 8 and 19 near the Panama Canal, Brigade N° 9 in Arraiján Municipality; near the Cerro Cabra Volcano and Brigade n° 55, in David City near the Baru Volcano.

Panama offers a variety of landcapes cosmopolitan cities, colonial cities and Indian villages, duty free malls, banking center, natural landscapes like beautiful beaches on the Atlantic and Pacific shores, ranges and mountains with large areas of forests and jungles.

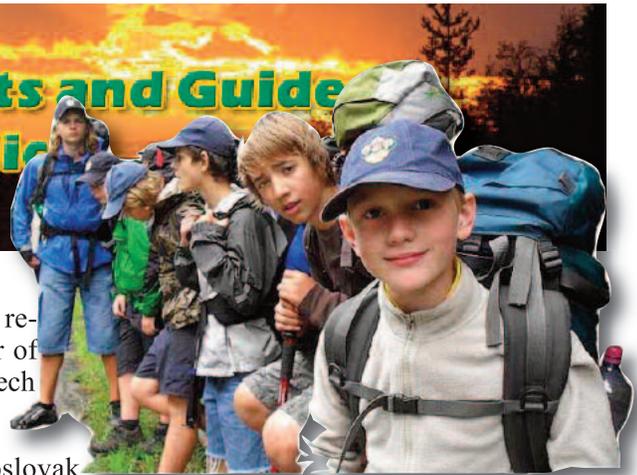
We invite you to participate in the Scout exchange programs through the agreement of Brotherhood Amongst The Baden Powell Scouts Associations for which you can contact National Chief Scout: Scouter Manuel Miranda G. <mjmirandag@yahoo.com> or the President of our National Council Roberto Ordoñez <rordonez@cwpanama.net>

Scouter Manuel J. Miranda G.
National Chief Scout





Association of Scouts and Guides of The Czech Republic



Association of Scouts and Guides of The Czech Republic (SSS CR) respects the basic principles of Scouting, as established by the Founder of the worldwide Scouting Movement Robert Baden-Powell and by his Czech follower Antonín B. Svojsík.

SSS CR continues the traditions and policies of the original Czechoslovak Scout Association, which was founded after the formation of the Czechoslovak Republic on 7th June 1919.

In my city - Jevíčko the Scouting beginnings reach back to 1922 when a secondary school teacher Jindřich Malec, the founder of 1st scouts troop in Jevíčko, discovered the Scout ideals. The first meeting was on March 27, 1922 – here we passed the first scout examinations too. The first summer camp was in 1923. As for the 1st Guide Company, it came into existence in 1925.



The Association had to disband at the beginning of World War Two, when our country was occupied by the Nazis who outlawed Scouting. Scouting was briefly restarted in May 1945 at the end of WWII.

However, in a few short years, Scouting was outlawed for the second time, this time by the Communist regime that grabbed power in most of Eastern Europe. Under that government, the only youth organizations allowed to exist were in so-called "united federation of Czech youth (SČM)" which was entirely subservient to the Communist government.

After the fall of the Communist regime the Scout Movement was renewed in Jevíčko too. Group activities are mainly described in summer camps in years 1990 - 2010... 37 summer camps (all of them non-coeducational – and it's rarity among other Czech Scout associations) + 6 international camps + 1 woodbadge course for Scout leaders + 3 woodbadge courses for Scout leader assistants.

By the end of the year 2000 our Group Committee unanimously decided to change our group affiliation to the Association of Scouts and Guides of the Czech republic (SSS CR) and follow the traditional ways of Scouting that had served us so well in the past.

Our main activities: weekly patrol meetings; camps; expeditions; weekend hikes; gatherings; work to on maintenance of our camp-sites; courses; Bethlehem Light of Peace. We are proud to advise that last month the WFIS General Assembly has accepted our Association as the newest member of WFIS.

*Petr (Ferda) Votroubek, Chief Scout,
Association of Scouts and Guides of The Czech Republic*



CALL OF NATURE

TRACKING

A friend suggested tracking as the topic for this edition's *Call of Nature*. With all the snow we've had across the country this year, it is I think, a most appropriate choice. In the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, where snow is not very common, we can always do our tracking on the sandy beaches or muddy trails.

From Scouting point of view, tracking, stalking or as B-P would call it 'sporing' had been a fundamental Scouting skill right from the very beginning. At the first experimental camp on Brownsea Isle in the Summer of 1907, observation and tracking were on the program right on the second day, and a tracking game was one of the most popular games of the camp.

Donald Baden-Powell, the Chief's nephew who attended the Brownsea Isle camp as a boy later wrote:

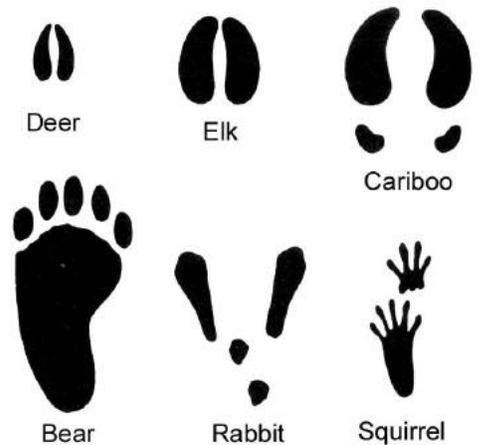
"Among the first things we did was tracking for which the sand was especially good. We learned to distinguish the track of a man running from those of a man walking, and also those of various animals and birds."

What's the use?

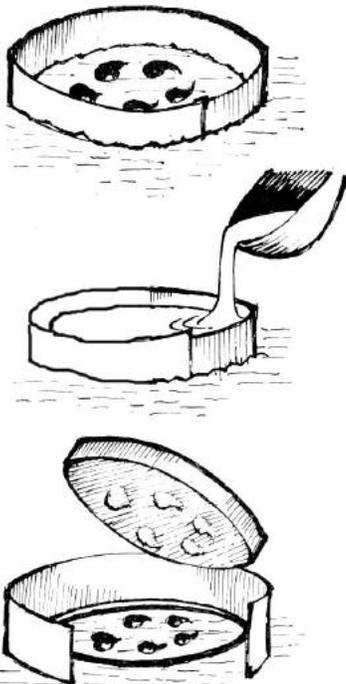
Naturally, every bright Scout will first ask the question: "Why should I know about tracking? What's the use?" At least I would hope that you would be asking such questions. In my mind, first of all it is fun. It is good entertainment to be able to read "the snow newspaper", as B-P called it in the *Wolf Cub's Handbook*. But it does go much further than that. Ability to recognize that a bear passed this trail with her young not too long ago, may for example help you avoid an unpleasant encounter with a mama bear protecting her cubs.

Have you ever seen the police investigating a scene of a traffic crash? They carefully observe and measure all the tracks and debris left on the pavement and from that determine what had happened.

Knowing which animal leaves behind what kind of track may help you find such an animal in the woods and observe its behaviour, or take a fantastic picture. There are many other practical examples of the uses of the art of tracking.



A few sample tracks



Making casts

Make a collar of a strip of thin cardboard about 3-5 cm (1½ -2 inches wide). For smaller foot prints, you can also cut rounds from a large plastic bottle or jug. Mix plaster of Paris into water until it has consistency of thick cream, about 2 parts of plaster to 1 part of water. Pour this mixture slowly into the track, occasionally gently tapping the cardboard collar to release any bubbles of air that may be trapped in the plaster mixture.

Let set for at least half an hour. You can make other casts in the mean time. When your cast has hardened, gently lift it, brush off any sand or mud that may be stuck to it. Handle your cast very gently as it will need at least another 24 hours to cure properly.

How can you learn tracking?

A good place to start are your basic Scouting Handbooks. For Explorers it is *Scouting For Boys, Camp fire Yarn No. 12 on Sporing* <<http://scoutinglibrary.orgfree.com/pdf/s4b.pdf>>. And the Timber Wolves will find the *Wolf Cub's Handbook, Eighth Bite* <<http://scoutinglibrary.orgfree.com/pdf/wolfcubshandbook.pdf>> very helpful.

Track casting is explained at <http://www.bear-tracker.com/plastertracks.html> or <http://www.suite101.com/content/how-to-cast-animal-tracks-a82440>



Yours in Scouting, Skip

THE RUSSIAN UNION OF SCOUTS

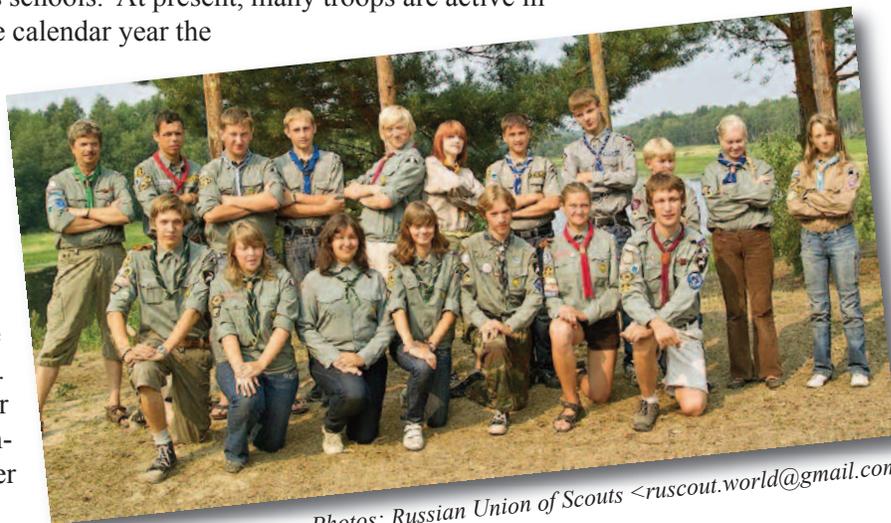
SCOUTING ACROSS 10,000 KILOMETRES

Russia is an incredibly big country. It is the only country in the world that is even larger than Canada. People in Russia are used to travelling over long distances and Scouts too. For example, the Russian National Jamboree 2010 in Veliki Novgorod was visited by Scouts from Kemerovo. The distance from Kemerovo to the Jamboree was more than 4,000km. What's more, Scouts from the Arctic Circle travel 2 days by train to take the *Bethlehem Peace Light* home.

On 30th April, 1909, a young officer by the name of Colonel Oleg Pantyukhov, organised the first ever Russian Scout troop, the "*Beavers*" (BoBr) in Pavlovsk, near St. Petersburg.

The Russian Union of Scouts (RUS) was founded in November 1993 when Igor Bogdanov and Slava Chernykh organised 2 Scout troops in one of Nizhny Novgorod's schools. At present, many troops are active in several other Russian cities. Throughout the calendar year the RUS conducts theoretical and practical courses covering First Aid, survival techniques, hiking, mountaineering, woodcraft and other activities.

Every year the RUS takes part in the international event of "*The Bethlehem Peace Light*". Russian Scouts pick up the Light around the third week of December in time for both Western and Orthodox Christmas. They gather together to collect and deliver "*The Bethlehem Peace Light*" to various congregations and they strive to spread it further afield each year.



Photos: Russian Union of Scouts <ruscout.world@gmail.com>

The main camping event of the year for the RUS is "*Vetluga*". This is an annual international camp which takes place in July. The first camp was held in 1994 with the participation of scouts from Great Britain. So far between 1995 and 2008, Scouts from 13 countries have taken part in "*Vetluga*".

Another traditional event of the Russian Union of Scouts, where distances are involved, is hiking to the Caucasus Mountains to the places of important events in our national history. Every 3 years Scouts from different parts of Russia set out on a long journey by train and on foot through the Caucasus Mountains to lay flowers at the graves of those who sacrificed their lives during World War II.

On the 30th April 2009 Russian Scouting celebrated its 100th birthday. As part of the celebrations, about 3,000 Scouts rallied in Pavlovsk, the place where the first Russian Scouts' parade was held.

So our dear Scouting friends, all that remains to be said, is that we really hope to see you in Russia soon!

Aleksey Aleksandrov (Giraffe)
Anastasia Dobrodiy





Progress through the Pack

One good plan for progress in Star and Proficiency Badge work is a schedule that normally will see the 8 year old through the Tenderpad and First Star tests during their first year, their Second Star tests during their second year and spread the completion of the Proficiency Badges over the remainder of their time with the Pack.

For youth joining the Pack at 9 or 10 years of age the schedule is shortened so that they may catch up with the programme timetable, then continue in step with the other Timber Wolves of their age.

A Word of Caution

As in the case of First Star, it is often best to start the average Timber Wolf on the harder tests, and keep the easier one as "encouragement" optionally, should he run into difficulties. This also will avoid the possibility of a Timber Wolf finishing all the tests but one, then finding this last one such a problem that he becomes seriously discouraged.

Another wise precaution is maintenance of a schedule of tests that does not permit a Timber Wolf to complete their Second Star before their 10th birthday. With many Timber Wolves it is difficult to spread completion of the Proficiency Badge work over their two last years in the Pack, and it becomes difficult to sustain their interest once all the Proficiency Badges have been acquired. This problem has been a factor in Timber Wolves dropping out "between Pack and Troop."

Third years can also be used as instructors in First Star subjects, the Second Star tests should, states Gilcraft, be taught "to individuals as individuals" — by Akela, with the help of Assistant Leaders and Explorer Instructors. Personal instruction in the physical tests by Akela is advised, as, "If wrongly taught, or taught 'by numbers,' as to a drill squad, they may do the Timber Wolf positive harm physically."

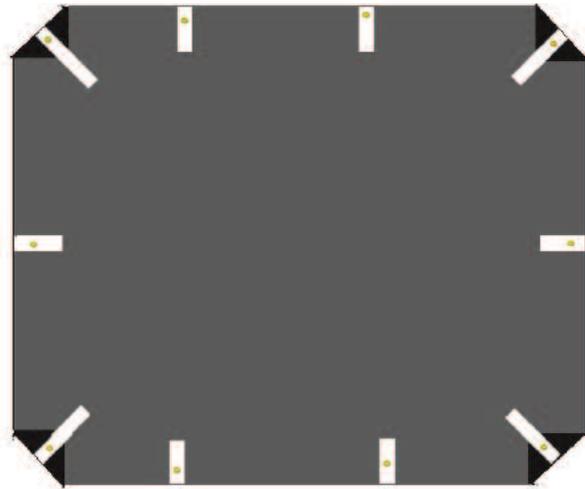
Keeping this in mind when developing your schedule will ensure your Pack stays healthy and the Troop will benefit from well trained Timber Wolves.



NO FUSS, NO BOTHER — LIGHTWEIGHT CAMPING TO THE MAX.

When I first came to BC many years ago, I inherited a Scout Troop that was low in funds and whose members weren't exactly well off. The troop's old tents (which had been donated) were falling apart and we didn't have the funds for any repairs or new tents. At the first Court of Honour meeting, we talked about going camping and what were we to do for tents. One of the PLs suggested that bivouac camping was fun. Another troop in the District always camped this way. I asked my DC and it turned out, he was also the Scoutmaster of that troop and he taught me how to camp cheaply, easily, and much more enjoyably. It's lightweight camping.

We purchased a roll of black 6 mil poly from the local hardware store and cut it into 8 sheets of 10 x 12 ft (3 x 3.6m) dimensions. (There were only 8 Scouts in the troop at that time so it was perfect.) Then we turned over each corner by about 6 inches and secured them with duct tape both sides. We put duct tape in the middle of the short sides and two pieces of duct tape in each of the long sides. We then bought a grommeting kit which came with a punch and punched holes and grommets into each of the tapes. The tarp looked like this:



Then we added 6 ft (2m) of braided twine to each of the corners and one each on the sides (8 pieces). We therefore had one of these for each Scout. When we went camping we would use one tarp for the floor, create a lean-to (or A frame) with a second tarp and this is enough for 3 youth to sleep comfortably with room for gear. The strings already attached made it easy to attach the tarp to trees and tent pegs. The Scouts loved the adventure of this kind of camping – easy to carry, everyone stayed dry. We never went back to tents in the 6 years I was with this troop. Furthermore within 2 years of our first lightweight camp we had 24 Scouts and 4 leaders in the troop because our camping was the most fun.

It would be possible to use a lighter weight plastic, but we doubt it would take the abuse that Scouts render to their equipment. By the way, any rips, tears, or holes in the tarp were quickly repaired with duct tape. We would tie the strings to trees whenever possible. If we need tent pegs, we would use whatever sticks we could find around the campsite or break dead wood from the lower branches of trees. Bamboo or wooden chopsticks make great recyclable tent pegs and they last for several camps.

Now we have our shelter for the camp. Here's how the rest of the equipment works:

Each Explorer's cook kit consists of an 8inch non-stick fry pan, nylon cutlery and a plastic mug. Everyone cooks his own meal in the fry pan and eats directly out of it. A patrol may opt to have one Explorer carry a billy pot to boil water but that is not necessary once you learn to boil water in a fry pan.

Dry food is easier to carry – porridge, pasta, muesli, jerky, dried fruit, and so on – no cans no liquids. Just about everything is prepared at home and carried in a ziplok bag. Each Explorer carries his own food. A typical menu would be something like this:



Breakfast: Oatmeal with brown sugar and raisins (no milk), toast and jam, water or tea. Melba toast or Ryevita are best – no cooking. Also, jam can be bought in restaurant packs so we don't carry a jar.



Mid-morning snack: Trail mix.



Lunch: Triscuits with cheese, an apple, water.



Afternoon snack: dried fruit.



Supper: Rotini pasta with peas, carrots, & corn and seasonings (most important). Pudding for desert. Water or tea to drink.



Mug-up: Hot chocolate and cookies.

This is just a typical menu – creativity makes it fun so experiment with different foods. The idea is to make the menu very light to carry and easy to cook, especially in a fry pan. (We have successfully made and cooked pancakes in a fry pan}. The advantage of cooking in a fry pan and using it as a bowl is that food can be reheated if it gets cold. After eating, the pan is cleaned by wiping it with a paper towel. (That’s why we recommend non-stick and nylon tools). If you can’t burn it, the paper towel can be stored in the empty ziplok bag and carried out.

Quite often these days, we can’t have open fires at camp. In this case propane stoves are needed. We used to use single burner Coleman stoves. One stove per two campers. One carries the stove; the other carries the fuel in a one litre metal bottle. They take turns cooking for themselves. (One stove per three is possible except for the wait time for the third Explorer). You really don’t need an axe. If you are allowed campfires, use squaw wood or wind downed branches which can be cut with a knife. Box cutters are very lightweight knives if the Explorer is mature enough not to cut himself.

Watch your weight – my rule was 26 lbs (12 kg) per pack or 1/3 your weight whichever is lighter. It sure eliminated excess unneeded stuff on a weekend camp. Adults are allowed some leeway. Staffs (or staves) are necessary equipment. Not only do they aid in the hike, they have multiple uses in camp.

I used to ask my troop to bring their packs all ready to go to the meeting before the camp. We would then inspect the packs and weigh them (on a bathroom scale). Unnecessary stuff was eliminated. The troop was then required (on their honour) not to change the pack before camp. It was necessary in many cases to warn parents not to add stuff they thought should be brought to camp. By the way, the camp menu was the same for all including leaders. This avoided the problem of imagination getting in the way of practicality. The menu was decided by the Court of Honour.

Camp equipment list: sleeping bag, tarp, frypan, cutlery, food in ziplok bags, stove or fuel, one change of underwear, one complete change of outer wear, sweater, two extra pairs of socks, towel, toothbrush, running shoes. Wear a brimmed hat, a raincoat (draped over the pack if not needed), windbreaker, uniform shirt and necker, long pants (wool is best), hiking boots, staff. It is amazing how much fun we had when we didn’t haul a lot of stuff to camp. KISS.

My home in the woods:



Yours in Traditional Scouting,

Terry Blaker,
Training Commissioner, BPSA British Columbia



In the previous edition, we have introduced you to Scouter Roland Philipps and his *Letters to a Patrol Leader*. . In this letter, Scouter Roland discusses the 1st Scout Law. He explains not only its importance to the Game of Scouting but also how it is to be interpreted.

We believe that Scouter Roland's letters explaining the Scout Laws are important reading not only for the new Scouts or Tenderfoots, but for all of us, Scouts and Scouters. We all make the same Promise, we all have the same duty to obey the Scout Laws.



SCOUT LAW No. 1

A SCOUT'S HONOUR IS TO BE TRUSTED.

My dear Jim,

Your Scoutmaster is quite right to tell you that you can do without a Second for the first month. He is going to carry out the Chief's wishes by letting his Leaders choose their own Seconds, and until you have got to know your Scouts very well you would not be certain as to which was the best boy to assist you. It will help you afterwards to have had a month before making your choice.

This week you are going to make a start by telling them about the first Scout Law.

One of your brother Scouts may raise the question as to why the Law is not put in the form of other laws.

A law is usually put in the form of a command, and instead of "A Scout's Honour is to be Trusted" and "A Scout is Loyal to the King," one might expect to find "A Scout must always speak the Truth" and "A Scout must be Loyal to the King."

The difference between Scout Laws and ordinary laws is this:

A Briton will still remain a Briton even if he is continually breaking the laws of his country; but a Scout who continually breaks his Laws will not remain a Scout. This is a very important point to remember.

When the Chief says, "A Scout's Honour is to be Trusted," he means that, unless a boy's honour is to be trusted, the fact of his wearing Scout uniform and of carrying out Scout practices will not in itself make him into a Scout. The ten Laws are worded as facts.

The Chief tells you what a Scout is. A Scout is a boy who is honourable, loyal, useful, a friend both to human beings and to dumb animals, courteous, obedient, cheery, thrifty, and clean.

A boy who is not trying to be these things is not a Scout, however many badges he may wear on his arm. This should be made clear to every boy in the Movement, and I know that you can be trusted to make it clear to your patrol.

When the Chief wrote the first Scout Law, he had a vision of a world filled with a new race of boys and men who had got no secret schemes hidden away, no secret thoughts kept in the background, no secret sins unknown.

Everything would be open and straight and clear as the day, for the brotherhood of men would be a brotherhood of Scouts, and a Scout's Honour is to be Trusted.

You will read about brave men and brave women who have sacrificed their pleasures, their comfort, even their lives, for honour's sake, and Scouts will try to Be Prepared to do the same if ever called upon.

A boy will tell you that he is working at a hosier's shop. A customer comes in and asks for socks, and he finds that he has not got the size required. His boss expects him to take the nearest size in stock, and to tell the customer that they will fit, even if he knows this to be untrue.

If a Scout is asked to say this, what is he to do? The answer is that “A Scout’s Honour is to be Trusted wherever he is.”

It is the same thing in a fruit shop, where a boy is told that when questioned by a customer about any fruit, he is to say that it is “fresh in” that morning.

In many different kinds of employment a boy is expected to be not quite honest; but if a chap is a Scout, he is ready to be sacked rather than tell a lie.

It wants some pluck to tell the truth when it means the prospect of losing a well-paid job, but it is worth losing one’s job if one is winning a fight that will help one’s brother Scouts.

I told you that a Scout is always on his honour — not only when somebody is there to say, “I trust you on your Honour,” but also at every moment of his daily life, when the voices of thousands of Scouts all over the country and all over the world seem to be whispering into his ears, “We trust you on your Honour to be a real Scout.”

And when I find a boy trying to get chocolate out of a slot machine by putting in things which are not pennies; or when I see a boy hastily getting off a tram in order to complete a halfpenny journey before the conductor has had time to collect a half-penny fare; or when I see a boy or a man getting through the fence of a football ground to avoid paying to enter at the gate; or when I hear of a man who gave the wrong ages of some boys whom he is taking into camp in order to get them through with half-tickets — when I come across these things, I only wish that instead of 200,000 Scouts in the Country we had got 2,000,000, in order that the ideals of a Scout might drive away every bit of meanness and every small dishonesty which takes place today.

You will tell your Scouts that if a boy is working in an office and he makes use of his employer’s notepaper or pencils without permission, he is not keeping the first Scout Law.

You will tell them, too, that the Law is being broken by a Leader who writes out patrol notices during office hours, not necessarily because he is taking his employer’s notepaper, but because he is taking his employer’s time.

To take somebody else’s time is in many cases every bit as dishonest as to take their stamps or their money.

Some people tell you that all this is an impossible ideal, that such a high standard can never be more than a dream.

But a Scout will not mind about what people say so much as what he himself is trying to do.

If there is not a very high standard of honour in business now, he knows that it is worth while being a Scout to try to raise the standard.

If there is a great deal that is dishonest and unfair and underhand, he is going to try to be one of those who bring about a glorious change.

So every day the Kangaroos will go gladly to their work, realising that a Scout must never in any circumstances tell a lie, and knowing that for them, at any rate, there can be no tampering with honour or with truth.

*Your sincere brother Scout,
Roland B. Phillipps*



photo: Scouter Wendy

QUESNEL'S GOLD RUSH TRAIL DOG SLED MAIL RUN

During the Cariboo Gold Rush in the 1860s, the Bloody Edward's Pinegrove Roadhouse was full of gold seekers, getting ready for another day on the trail to Barkerville. This Sunday however it wasn't gold miners but at least 25 bleary-eyed dog mushers, getting ready to hit the trail once again. These mushers were participating in the 19th Annual Gold Rush Trail Dog Sled Mail Run, which had started two days earlier in Quesnel.

Before starting their trip on Friday, all of the mail mushers for the 2011 Mail Run along 85 km Gold Rush Trail were sworn in as official Canada Post mail carriers. Each dutifully promised to keep the mail in their care over the three day journey and to deliver it safely to its final destination in Barkerville. Over 2300 envelopes destined for over 25 different countries would be carried on the dog sleds by 20 different mushers. These specially designed envelopes will have been hand cancelled in Quesnel, Wells and Barkerville and stamped "Carried By Dogteam". They no-doubt contained special messages and all envelopes included a beautiful insert that explains the Mail Run, with specific reference to the history associated with the delivery of mail by dog team.



Everyone made the 40 km Day 1 trip from Umiti Pit to Cottonwood with minimal difficulty, with only a few teams arriving after darkness had settled in.

Friday night, everyone enjoyed a potluck barbeque in Café Delmar, an exclusive tarp-covered bistro that had been erected especially for this event. Everyone was hungry, it had been a long day. These folks would travel and share Mail Run experiences over the three days of travel over the Gold Rush Trail. In addition to locals, participants had journeyed from throughout British Columbia and from as far away as Washington State and in addition to the 50 Quesnel volunteers, additional supporters

came from Vancouver and even Oklahoma. Several spectators also journeyed from outside the local area just to be part of this special event which has gained wide-spread interest. Amongst the volunteers were also The Explorers of the 14th Dragon Lake BPSA Scouting group. Participation in the Dog Sled Mail Run has become a tradition of the Group.



Saturday morning started with a pancake breakfast. Dog teams hit the trail beginning at 11:00 a.m., today's destination was Troll Resort. There had been a bit of fresh snow overnight but the trail was well groomed and well marked. This 25 km section of trail features a long steep climb up the back side of Pinegrove mountain with a thrilling 5 km descent down the face of the mountain right into the heart of the ski resort.

The Saturday Night banquet was attended by just over 100 people and included an awards ceremony followed by the fund raising auction.

On Sunday morning, mushers drove their teams around a shortened version of the Sugar Creek Loop, using the Coronado and Cornish Mountain Roads for a seventeen km run. In the afternoon it was time for the infamous Barkerville Dash, over 30 participants left Wells in a thrilling Le Mans start and hundreds of spectators in both Wells and Barkerville watched as teams made their way over the 10 km trail. Dog teams were brought to a stop in front of the Barkerville Post Office and the mail was turned over to Canada Post where it was returned to the regular mail system for delivery throughout the world. Another Mail Run had come to an end.



Send us news from your Group. We would like to tell everyone what your members have achieved and what interesting things you have done lately. Let us know what you would like to see in the Gazette – you could even write a story for us! gazette.bpsa@gmail.com

Don't be shy – drop us a line!

