

**The Scouter's Books No. 27**

**IDEAS FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCOUTING**

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International Commissioner

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### Editor's Note:

The reader is reminded that these texts have been written a long time ago. Consequently, they may use some terms or express sentiments which were current at the time, regardless of what we may think of them at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For reasons of historical accuracy they have been preserved in their original form. Any spelling errors have also been retained for historical accuracy.

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## INTRODUCTION

Membership of the Scout Movement imposes both on Scouts and Scouters an obligation of constructive international-mindedness. I believe it is the only Youth Movement, with the Girl Guides that does. This is no doubt one reason why it has spread round the world and now numbers some ten million in almost all the free countries and dependent territories.



One of the best ways to kindle in a boy the spark of enthusiasm for things international is to make a point of including a planned international element in his training, from Cub days onward. The aim of this little book is to help you, the Scouter, to do so.

It provides first of all some general ideas for games and Pack activities. Then come suggestions for use in the Scout Troop at indoor meetings, in camp and by way of Patrol competitions. They are aimed at opening windows on the world, encouraging the Scout to find out things for himself and putting him in touch in various ways with his brother Scouts overseas. These lead on naturally to the more active and adult challenges abroad that International Scouting offers to Senior Scouts and Rovers. Lastly come a few practical "Do's

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and Don'ts" for Scouters and some hints on organising District and County International events.

I make no special claim for the originality of the ideas in this book, though I hope some of them will be new to you and all will prove reasonably useful. A number of Scouters and colleagues of mine have kindly contributed items that they have worked successfully themselves. I acknowledge with special thanks the help of Mrs. Hazel Addis who wrote most of the Cub Section, as well as that of Mr. Bob Thomas and the staff of the International Department and several County International Representatives. Some ideas are fairly standard practice in good Groups with a tradition of International Scouting. All can, of course, be varied as you like and with imagination they can probably be improved on.

But the success or failure of international training in Scouting depends, as does so much else, on you, the Scouter. You have literally got to see visions and dream dreams of what you may be doing for your Scouts, particularly those of more limited education, whose parents find it hard to make ends meet and whose opportunities of widening their horizons are all too few, by putting in their hands a key to international friendship. The fact that I myself had the good fortune as a boy to live abroad changed the whole of my life for good. I can only hope that you may be able to assist some of your Scouts to a similar experience.



They will watch you with an eagle eye and be quick to spot whether or not you really try to practise the fourth Scout Law. If you yourself don't really like foreigners the fact will stick out a mile and you had better not bother to read this book. For what, after all, is a foreigner? Only a perfectly normal sort of chap with hopes and fears, joys and sorrows like your own but who happens to come from a different country. Just as anxious to make friends, just as lonely, sometimes, as you are, he is whether Scout or or Scouter or non-Scout, the chap that you and your Scouts have got to like and live with and with whom the future has to be built. It is in that spirit that I hope you and your Cubs and Scouts, Senior Scouts and Rovers will use - and enjoy using - this little book.

ROBIN GOLD

International Commissioner.

## IDEAS FOR INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING

### IN THE PACK

Although Cubs may have little opportunity to experience Scouting in other lands or to exchange visits with their brothers overseas, theirs is the right age to capture the imagination, to instil the right ideas and to sow seeds which may bear future fruit.

The World Wide Botherhood is mentioned at the Cub Investiture, so it must be explained, however briefly, at the time, and the idea must be subsequently elaborated. and should be developed systematically as the boy grows older. As usual with all Cubbing matters, little talks on the subject have less impact than stories, games, activities and visual impressions, and all Akelas should be aware of the importance of introducing these into the programme from time to time.

**Visual impressions** are most likely to be achieved on a District basis or at a Group function, where a film or slides might be shown of a Jamboree or a Scout Camp overseas. The representative from a Jamboree might entertain Cubs with a shortened version of his adventures. Better still if he brings some trophy which the Cubs can see or handle; a carved woggle, a pennant or any of the scarves or badges which are so liberally swapped.

**Yarns** must be brief and exciting, and as far as possible related to Cubbing; e.g. tales of Packs who live in the real Jungle, of boys 'down under' who ride ponies many miles to attend their Pack Meetings, or the long and perilous canoe journeys by the Cubs in Sarawak. Travellers' tales may be culled from Scout magazines, or other papers, and, better still, accounts of the Chief's journeys, which might be marked on a map of the world with small green or yellow flags inserted wherever Scouts or Cubs are mentioned.

The D.C. who visits Packs should feel it is part of his job to bring a breath of the wider world into the Pack Den, occasionally mentioning County, National or International affairs. If he brings a tangible trophy he will be doubly welcome; if he tells a yarn Cubs will meet him halfway; if he were to bring foreign stamps he would be well-nigh stampeded!

Cub Scouters should be able to find plenty of yarns of a fictional character which have a bearing on Cubs of other countries from their normal sources of supply. **Games, tests and activities** can often be slanted to the International theme, and provide the opportunity for a few - a very few - words on the subject.

The Union Flag (the 'Jack') is flown in many parts of the world, and although every One Star Cub knows the composition of the Flag, he might find himself hard put to it to explain about Scotland and Ireland and their respective Saints, if he suddenly found himself stranded in Fiji or one of the more far-flung dependencies. If the Union Flag is shown or flown in conjunction with the flag of the chosen country the Cub may remember it. Cubs should certainly be able to identify the Flags of the bigger Commonwealth countries.

**Knotting** can always be practised in the Jungle, when tropical Cubs may find it imperative to make rope of vines. Stepping stones, walking a plank or carrying a head load can be performed over the Nile or the Zambesi just as well as over an anonymous British stream, and the former have crocodiles to add to the hazard.

**The Compass** becomes much more important when practised in the desert or Jungle, with man-eating animals or antagonistic tribes lurking in the wrong directions.

**Dressing-up and acting** provide obvious opportunities for portraying other countries and people, though there should be some definite project, typical of the country concerned. It's no fun to dress up as a cow-puncher unless there are real cows to punch, or a Chinaman unless you are going to eat a real meal with chopsticks.

**At Special Pack Meetings** or in wide games there are many themes that suggest exciting activities, from the popular 'Magic Carpet' theme, to Space travel, desert islands and explorers. If big game is to be tracked down it might be for purposes of photography rather than killing. The animal to be salvaged might be a Cub Instructor or A.C.M., lurking in some inaccessible place, to be stalked with care knowing that it has a dangerous bite or sting. If the stalkers lie absolutely still the creature will not see the invaders, though it may of course walk on them. It must be caught, anaesthetized with a finger for a hypodermic needle placed only in the small of the back, and then roped with a bowline round each limb and conveyed to a place of safety. If there is a tribe of ignorant natives hunting the animal at the same time for its hide or ivory, it will of course make the game much more exciting, especially if their paper darts are tipped with deadly poison.

**Handcrafts** too may sometimes be turned to making or drawing wigwams, igloos or the ornamental Maori whares. Pictures of these and of varying uniforms may be gleaned from many magazines. These, too, may be made into attractive scrap-books, to which Cubs will enjoy contributing, as a continuing interest.

### **An International Night.**

Each month the Cubs gather material of all kinds from a particular country, such as books, stamps, picture postcards, photographs, souvenirs, ornaments, etc. They also find out what they can about the life and customs of the people, their food, drink, dress, etc.

The last meeting of the month then becomes '*International Night*.' The items collected by the Cubs are set out for exhibition in the Den and the programme includes games, activities or demonstrations from the country chosen. A short story is read featuring an outstanding person of the country. If possible a native of the country or a person who has lived there is invited as a guest of the evening.

The flag of the country is shown to the Cubs as well as some of its Cub badges and illustrated literature. A Cub from the Pack volunteers as a pen-friend and is put in touch with a Cub from the other country.

A large map of the world is prepared and each month a painting of a Cub of the country featured wearing his own National uniform is placed on the appropriate place on the map.

Contact can be made with British Scouts in Western Europe and magazines, letters and badges exchanged with Packs in other countries.

These few ideas suggest that there is a wide variety of activities which can be introduced into the Pack programme from time to time. Their purpose is, as usual, fun and variety, with the additional object of emphasizing that Cubs and Scouts exist in many countries; Cubs throughout the world performing very much the same sorts of tests with the same incentive "to do their Best." It is up to the Cub Scouter to maintain the wider view of Scouting, and help to make big things of small opportunities.

**"YOU ARE NOW A MEMBER OF THE  
WORLD BROTHERHOOD OF SCOUTS"**

Just up from a good Pack or perhaps fresh to Scouting altogether a new Scout stands in front of you, his Scouter with his Patrol Leader at his side. The Camp Fire has just ended, maybe, and the embers glow in the gathering dusk. Or you're in your Group Room, quiet at last for a few moments after a lively meeting. The Troop, in a semicircle around the new recruit watch and listen. Some probably fidget now and then.

You, the Scouter, thinking back, I hope, to your own Investiture, will have planned this moment with care. Another Scout Promise is made. You give the left handshake to another new Scout with the words: "You are now a member of the World-wide Brotherhood of Scouts."

I ask you never to forget to include those words, for with the Promise that boy comes to belong not merely to your Group with its achievements, its excitements and - let's face it - its moments of small mindedness, but to a Movement that spans the globe. Through it, with your inspiration and guidance, he can gain friends without number, find adventure, increase in understanding and come to look beyond insular nationalism to wider fields of work and service.

Good luck to you and him - Scout, Senior Scout or Rover - as you put them into practice.

**AN INTERNATIONAL CORNER**

Start an International corner or would it be wall space in your Troop or Group Room. As a centre piece have a large map of the world and surround it with pictures of Scouting in other lands, foreign envelopes and stamps. Show on the map where the Troop has pen-friends and the countries visited by the Group in past years. Change the display regularly, keeping it topical and alive. Encourage the Scouts to contribute to it obtaining material themselves.

**HELPING HANDICAPPED SCOUTS**

Would you like to help the handicapped Scouts in all parts of the world? You can do so simply by saving postage stamps! The World Scout Bureau in Ottawa collects them for re-sale and the proceeds are devoted to the World Handicapped Scout Fund. Why not suggest to your Troop or Pack that they collect used postage stamps and send them at regular intervals to : - The Boy Scouts World Bureau, Commonwealth Building, 77 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa 4, Ontario, Canada.

**LOG EXCHANGES**

Here's an idea which can, if you wish, be used as a sort of standing international activity for the Scout Troop or Cub Pack.

Link each of your Patrols with a Patrol in a different country or Continent. Then make it the winter task of each Patrol to compile a Log book, vividly illustrated, and describing the Scouts' home town, their actual homes and families, the food they eat, the games they play, their schools or jobs and their hobbies, their Group H.Q., their camps. The object being, of course, to give as complete a picture as possible of everyday life and good Scouting in Britain.

Arrange with the Scouter of each Troop abroad that has a Patrol or Patrols linked with yours, for his Patrol(s) to keep similar Log books. Then, once a year, swop Logs between Patrols. The next year each Patrol can exchange a supplement bringing the news up-to-date and adding

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names, photographs and details of new Scouts who have joined the Patrol during the year. Taped messages add extra life to the scheme and Patrols can sometimes change countries (in agreement with their 'opposite numbers'). But don't let them let their linked Patrol down with a sudden lapse into silence; a regular friendly greeting at Christmas or on the other country's National Day will always be appreciated.

"And what about language?" you ask. Well, many overseas Patrols will be quite glad to try a bit of English and your Scouts will have to try to pick up at least a few of the Scouts words in the other Patrol's language. If they get really stuck there's nothing for it but for the Patrol to find some local friend who can speak the right language and get him to do a translation which is then pasted into the Log book.

### THE LINK-UP SCHEME

Link your Group with one in another country and try out some of the following ways of helping your Scouts to make friendships (and to keep them up):-

1. Pen-pal links between individual boys or, better, between Patrols, with Scouts taking it in turns to exchange letters monthly.
2. One or two Patrols from each Group camp each year with the other Group, each Scout paying his camp fee at home before he goes so that the visitors have nothing to pay beyond their fares.
3. A Patrol of members of each Group, or teams of one Scout from each, hike together one year in England, the next in the home country of the other Group, so that as many as possible get to know something of each country.
4. Regular exchanges of home visits. These are most important for there is no better way of building friendships than making visitors really members of the family.
5. Exchange of Group magazines, each one to include news of the other Group.
6. Exchange of photographs of all kinds and colour slides for showing at Troop meetings.

### SCOUTS GUESTS FROM ABROAD

When you invite Scouts from overseas to come to Britain as your guests, be sure to include as many as you can of the following activities in your programme for them:-

1. *Camp*: At least a week if possible. Best of all let them join you for the full period of your annual summer camp. This is probably what they will look forward to most.
2. *Hikes*: for a couple of days or more ideally in teams of one British Scout and one visitor.
3. *Excursions*: to one or two of your local beauty spots or places of interest or to the sea.
4. *A visit to London*: The visitors will all want to see London so help them to do so and perhaps to stay at Baden-Powell House or Roland House.
5. *Home hospitality*: Most important of all. Take a look at page 17 for some tips on organising this.

### "QUICKIES"

1. Is your home town "twinned" with a town abroad? If so it's up to you to make and keep contact with the Scouts there.
2. Have you a tape recorder or can you borrow one? Try International tape exchanges, each Patrol swapping news, yarns, messages and songs with a Patrol in a different country.
3. Can your Scouts make fire with flint and steel? This is fun for the Boy Scout Troop and a fairly standard technique in some countries but it needs practice.



*Make sure that the film is of Scouts in action.*

4. Don't forget the endless possibilities of a cine camera (in the right hands) when on a venture abroad. Assist one of your amateur photographers to become really proficient, let camp funds bear the cost of film. Make sure that the film is of Scouts in action, not merely sampling the local drink, gazing at the scenery or just walking self-consciously past the camera!
5. Try an occasional week-end camp with an international theme. Invite, perhaps through the International Scout Club, Baden-Powell House, an overseas Scouter to take charge and run the camp as nearly as possible as he would do in his home country.
6. There are many American Scout Troops in the United Kingdom mainly at U.S. bases. If you have such a Troop nearby you have endless opportunities for combined activities of all kinds.
7. The nearest Commonwealth territories to Britain are Gibraltar, Malta and Cyprus. How about asking Commonwealth Department at Headquarters to help you arrange a Scout exchange with one of them? Of course if you can get still further afield - to Nigeria for example - so much the better.
8. Obtain some training manuals or proficiency badge booklets from countries abroad and tryout some of the activities and tests you will find in them. We haven't got a monopoly of good ideas!
9. When some of your Scouts go for a family holiday abroad obtain an International Letter of Introduction for them and encourage them to make touch with the local Scouts.
10. When planning Venturer badge incidents include some involving "foreigners" who are lost, injured or in difficulties and can't speak a word of English!

### **'JAMBOREE ON THE AIR'**

Every year, during a week-end in October, a growing number of Scouts and Scouters all over the world make contact with each other by short wave radio. Why not join in? You may already have a radio enthusiast with his own transmitter and licence in your District but if not, your local amateur radio society will probably be only too willing to co-operate. Dates, wave lengths, etc. of the Jamboree on the Air are published each year in "The Scouter."

### **THE INTERNATIONAL SCOUT CLUB**

The International Scout Club meets at Baden-Powell House in London every Tuesday evening. Here Scouts, Guides, Rovers, Scouters and former Scouts from the United Kingdom and all over the world meet and make friends. The weekly programme is a varied one with talks, discussions, films and social events. Week-end activities are arranged for the benefit of overseas visitors. The Venturer section organises adventurous international Scout activities. Why not join? Full details are available from: The Membership Secretary, International Scout Club, Baden-Powell House, London, S.W.7.

### **THE LINGUIST & INTERPRETER BADGES**

These are often won far too easily. If a Scout goes about wearing "Parle Francais" on his uniform this surely means that he can understand and make himself understood in reasonably simple French. If he can't he has no right to wear the badge.

Try adopting the following principles:-

- (a) The Scout should if at all possible be tested by a national of the country whose language he is learning. This is really important. A boy who can understand French spoken by an Englishman but has never heard it spoken by a native will almost certainly be all at sea when he does.
- (b) A Senior Scout might well be encouraged to pass or re-pass his test in the country itself, say, during a camp or hike abroad. A good Senior Scout should surely pride himself on doing so.
- (c) Linguist and Interpreter badges should be retested annually and withdrawn if they cannot be re-passed.

### **THE INTERNATIONAL WEEK-END**

This is a national event held each year in early June at Gilwell Park. Its object is threefold, to provide ideas for ventures abroad, information on other countries and good fun and good camping in international company.

The week-end is open to Senior Scouts, Rovers and Scouters and is usually attended by good numbers of overseas Scouts. For the date of next year's week-end and for details regarding it consult the Gilwell Diary and "The Scouter."

### **TRAVELLERS' FRIENDS.**

If you live in London or another large city you will often have seen on a Saturday or Sunday, and particularly in the summer, a number of overseas visitors arriving at the main line Railway Stations. Many of them speak very little English. A few smart Senior Scouts or Rovers on duty in uniform at the station, ready to assist them in finding their way to their destination, suggesting the best methods of transport, helping them change their money, etc., could be of very real help.

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This form of international service can sometimes be carried out in conjunction with the International Travellers' Aid Society which has an office or kiosk at some main line stations.

A supply of bus, underground, train timetables, town plans, etc., will be needed and those who speak even a smattering of a foreign language can put it to good use.

First impressions are terribly important as we all know. A friendly welcome of this kind will probably be remembered always.

The permission and co-operation of the Stationmaster need to be obtained of course.

### ARE YOU IN TOUCH.....?

WITH

1. *The Boy Scouts World Bureau* for your copy of "World Scouting" the quarterly magazine with news of what is going on in the World Brotherhood of Scouts?
2. Your local branch of *Rotary or Round Table* for practical co-operation of all kinds in your international activities?
3. The *United Nations Association* for information on what is being done through the United Nations and its various agencies to keep the peace, improve health, develop agriculture, spread education, combat disease and want in the world?
4. The *International Friendship League* in its work to make foreigners welcome and at home in Britain?
5. A local *Camera Club* for help and training in photography and cine work?
6. The *Guides*? With careful planning on both sides a party of Seniors and Rangers might pay a visit to a country where they have mixed Scout and Guide Associations (e.g. Sweden, France, Israel). Or at home by joining forces in arranging home hospitality and entertainment for overseas Guide or Scout guests.
7. Any coloured immigrant boy and his family in your area?
8. A local *amateur radio enthusiast* to co-operate in "Jamboree on the Air."
9. Your *County International Representative* for advice regarding your own international plans and for news of opportunities that are open to your Scouts?
10. The British Association of the *Experiment in International Living* (address: "Otesaga," Upper Wyche, Malvern, Worcestershire)? This organisation sponsors wonderfully imaginative schemes to "build international understanding the practical way by offering the opportunity to see the world through the eyes of a family abroad" and to "rediscover the importance of people."

### DID YOU KNOW ..... ?

THAT by taking full advantage of party fares for travel and with careful planning, a fortnight's camp in a nearby country can be as cheap as an average holiday here?

THAT every year a number of European countries hold international camps to which British Scouts are invited? No? Well watch the Headquarters Notices in "The Scouter" or ask your C.I.R. for details.

THAT the Boy Scouts of America produce a really splendid set of 68 *colour photographs of Scouts of the World* in their national uniforms? They are well worth the price of 20s.0d. and can be obtained through the International Department at Headquarters.

THAT you can buy both full-size and miniature flags of any country in the world from the Scout Shop? It is doubtful if flags can be hired but occasionally the Embassy of a country will lend you its national flag for a special event.

THAT a keen young Rover or Scouter wishing to study Scouting abroad or take a training course in another country can apply to the Boy Scouts World Bureau for a " *B.P. Memorial Grant*" up to \$500 via the International Department.

THAT there are *Scout Port Liaison Officers* at most of the principal United Kingdom sea ports and airports? You can get their names and addresses from your C.I.R. or from the International Department. The Scout Port Liaison Officers are there to help you on your way in an emergency and to welcome and advise overseas Scouts coming to visit your Group. They also have a duty to report to the International Commissioner any Scout party whose turn-out or behaviour lets British Scouting down. They have the right to ask to see your International Letter of Introduction and, if a party going abroad seems really unworthy, to withdraw it.

THAT by far the cheapest way to get your Scouts to a more distant country by air is to travel by charter aircraft? It takes a lot of arranging, but the International Department has had quite a bit of experience at it and will be glad to advise. Another possibility is "group-travel." Air fares for Groups exceeding 25 in number are in many cases quite a lot less than normal rates.

THAT if you want to correspond for any reason with a Scout Headquarters abroad your first letter MUST be sent via your C.I.R. and/or the International Department? This is not just a bit of petty bureaucracy but a procedure decided on by international agreement to ensure that requests are bona fide and for good Scout purposes.

### SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE

We British seem to expect that every overseas visitor who comes here and everyone we meet abroad should be able to speak English. In fact, since English is a world language many learn it and are glad of the chance to try to speak it. It can, however, easily mean lost friends-or friends that are never made which is the same thing.

So you can do your Scouts a good turn for which some may bless you for always if you help them to learn something of a foreign language.

### TO SET THEM THINKING - AND TALKING

Here are a few suggestions for discussion at a Senior Scout or Crew meeting:-

1. How can the coloured immigrants into the United Kingdom be most happily integrated into British life? What are the problems and how can Scouting help?

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2. Some countries have no badges; Second Class and First Class as well as proficiency tests are merely entered, as passed, in a special 'progress book.' Is this a good idea?
3. Should Britain join the Common Market?
4. The possibilities of Esperanto as an international language.
5. What, in your view would be the list of tests for the ideal World Friendship Badge?
6. What contacts (if any) should Scouting have with the youth of Communist countries? (Brief yourself fully on the history of Scouting under Communism before tackling this one.)
7. Should Britain adopt the decimal system of currency, weights and measures?
8. The pros and cons of inter-racial courtship and marriages.
9. Do we really want a Channel Tunnel?
10. If you were given £1,000 to help alleviate human suffering in the world how best would you use it?



*Do we really want a Channel Tunnel?*

### SO YOU'RE GOING ABROAD

#### 1. Court of Honour.

Begin at the beginning by expecting all ideas, plans and programmes to be discussed and decided by the Court of Honour. This way has the obvious and distinct advantages of the training it offers, the active interest of our budding leaders and of their participation and support.

#### 2. Visit the Site.

"Camping Standards" says "Visit the site and get information". This is just as important when going abroad yet far too many Scouters do nothing about it. A reconnaissance can save much trouble and worry later on.

#### 3. Correspondence.

Type or write very clearly. Avoid difficult slang phrases. Answer letters as soon as possible. Send an addressed envelope for reply. If you know the postage put on a stamp bought at a stamp dealers. Or send an International Reply Coupon which can be bought at the Post Office, as can also an International Reply Card. The reply half will come back with a foreign post mark on the British stamp!

### 4. Passports, Travel arrangements, Currency, etc.

Seniors and Rovers should be able to cope with all these themselves. The more they do individually the more satisfied they will be when their venture has proved a success.

### 5. Duty to God.

Far too many Scouters make no contact with foreign clergy until they arrive at their church. It is much better to give them a chance to make you really welcome by seeing they are prepared for you.



### 6. Language (yet another reminder).

It really is worth-while learning some of the language of the country you are visiting. In any case do learn the pronunciation and numbers, and a few well chosen words.

### 7. Contacts.

A Camp or Hike overseas without contacts with the Scouts and/or Guides of the countries visited will have missed a great opportunity.

### 8. Turnout.

Turnout during the journey and out of camp should always be impeccable. The Scouters must set the standard and see that it is maintained.

### 9. Smoking.

In some countries no Scout or Scouter smokes in uniform out of camp. Find out the custom in the country you are visiting and follow it scrupulously.

### 10. Drinking.

It is very necessary and also only fair to our Senior Scouts and Rovers to warn them about the potency of most continental alcoholic drinks. Make sure that you do not forget this one.

### 11. Your country.

Your country will be judged abroad by your behaviour, friendliness and discipline. Let these be of the very best.

### 12. Singing.

Make sure you and your Scouts can recognise the national anthem of the country where you are to camp. If you can sing it, so much the better. If you can also learn a local song or two, better still.



**13. Souvenirs.**

Take a few small gifts to show you have appreciated the many kindnesses you will receive. Those most treasured by folk overseas are things with badges or pictures of your town or of your Group - something typically British, in fact.

**14. Customs.**

A Scouts honour is trusted! Scouters and boys should be quite clear about this when re - entering this country, and make sure that everything bought abroad is declared.

**15. Thanks.**

When you leave for home of course, to everyone who has befriended or helped you. Back at home, let no Scout forget to write to friends or hosts who have been good to him.

**16. The Drill.**

Inevitably, some official paper work is involved in organising your camp. For a summary of the procedure turn to page 20.

**USE YOUR C.I.R.**

Assistant County Commissioners (International) or County International Representatives are appointed in most Counties and are there to help you in all matters concerning international Scouting. They have special links with the International Department at H.Q. which keeps them fully informed of international Scout news.

If you want:-

a camp site abroad

help with planning your camp

ideas for ventures

details of international camps in other  
countries to which British Scouts are  
invited

Ask your C.I.R.

advice on travel

information as to insurance

your International Letter of Introduction  
friendly personal assistance on any inter-  
national Scout matters.

**A special word to District Commissioners.**

Do please keep in close touch with your A.C.C. (International) or C.I.R. when you are asked to approve plans for camps or for international activities of any kind abroad. You will find him of great assistance and his help and advice will lighten your load. Ask him to speak sometimes at your Local Association Annual General Meeting.

**INTERNATIONAL LETTER OF INTRODUCTION**

This is supplied in standard form by the Boy Scouts World Bureau but signed by your International Commissioner and issued in U.K. via the A.C.C. (International) or County International Representative. It recommends the bearer "to the kind consideration or all

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members of the Brotherhood of Scouts in full assurance that he will receive a Scout's welcome." It is recognised by all Scouts Associations throughout the world and no Scout travelling in a foreign country can claim to be recognised as a Scout unless he carries such a letter. It does not entitle the bearer to expect hospitality, though he will almost certainly receive it abundantly.

To obtain a Letter of Introduction, you must have your D.C.'s approval and, if travelling as a Scout, you must be covered by insurance for travel abroad. In the case of parties travelling in charge of a Scouter or Scouters, only the leader(s) need carry a Letter of Introduction.

### KANDERSTEG

The International Scout Chalet at Kandersteg, Switzerland, offers you :-

Membership of the **Scout Alpine Club**.

**Ski Courses** for beginners and more advanced skiers.

usually round about Easter.

**Climbing Courses** under experienced Swiss instructors.

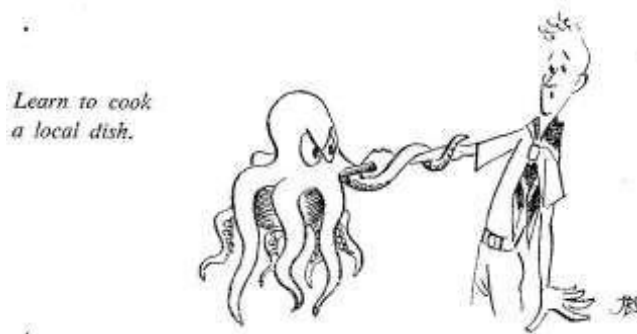
**Camping grounds** for your summer camp.

**Hostel accommodation** in the Chalet itself.

Particulars of all the above may be obtained from your County International Representative or from the International Department at Headquarters.

### THE EXPLORER BELT

This is a scheme to enable Senior Scouts and Rovers to gain really first-hand practical knowledge of another country and its people. It involves a longish hike usually in teams of two over a route chosen by the team. A number of different projects have to be tackled involving a lot of friendly curiosity. Teams are expected to meet all the people they can, visiting them in their homes, at school and at work, enquiring, discussing and above all making friends. They may be expected to climb a mountain, learn to cook a local dish, join in a Scout camp or help with the harvest.



The Scheme is in two forms:-

(a) Under arrangements made by the International Department at Headquarters or by individual Counties, all teams who have entered travel together to a base camp abroad. There they are issued with log books containing instructions and projects printed in English and the local language. Each team then carries out a ten-day hike on its own and tackles the projects, all meeting up again at the final camp site probably about 100 miles away. There the logs are read and all teams interviewed by an international panel of judges.

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(b) In the Independent Scheme teams of two experienced Senior Scouts or Rovers plan their expedition themselves and submit suggested projects to the Explorer Belt Committee who may add to them, modify them or 'hot them up.' Travel and the hike are then carried out entirely independently and log books posted to the Explorer Belt Committee immediately the team returns to England. The Independent Scheme can take place at any time of the year. Some grant aid is available, where needed, from H.Q. for specially worth-while ventures provided that they already have some financial support from the team's local Group, District or County.

Explorer Belts are hard to earn and the standard required is very high indeed. To win one, teams must give positive evidence of having explored widely into many aspects of a country's life. Those who hold the Belt, however, will confirm that this Scheme offers unique opportunities for getting to know a wider world in an exciting and unusual way.

Anyone interested should write to the Secretary, Explorer Belt Committee, c/o The International Department.

### **YOUTH HOSTELLING**

Your Senior Troop or Crew are planning a hike abroad, have to keep expenses down and want to travel light. So let them try Youth Hostelling. The journey to a starting off point in Europe is made as a Group to obtain the reduced party fares of travel. Once there you split up into 'twos' and 'threes' and go your different ways, hiking or cycling (motor cycles and cars will debar you from Hostel accommodation) from one Youth Hostel to another. The whole party then meets up again at a pre-arranged point for the journey home.

There is a vast chain of Youth Hostels all over Europe. Many of them are sited in some of the most magnificent spots imaginable. In them you will meet young people of many nationalities. you can join in cooking local dishes and in singing and dancing that takes place of an evening. The Wardens are helpful in advising as to interesting local expeditions and will arrange a booking at the next Youth Hostel. And this way, of course, you are not weighed down with a heavy rucksack containing tent and groundsheet and bedding. All you need is a sheet sleeping bag. (blankets are provided at the Hostels), perhaps a cooking pot or two for a meal by the roadside. Food can be bought at the Hostels and the charge for a bed is about 3/6d. per night.

To join the International Youth Hostels Association you should write to: Y.H.A National Office, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, and enclose a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

### **ADVENTURE**

Here are some of the ventures undertaken by Senior Scouts and Rovers in recent years:-

Surveying and mapping above the Arctic Circle in Norway.

Exploring on horseback in Iceland.

Goodwill Scout missions to Nigeria, Niger Republic,

Togo, Libya, Morocco, Turkey.

Sailing round the Portuguese coast.

Canoeing, hiking, fishing in Northern Sweden with the

'Blue Hike' team.

Motorcycling in Yugoslavia and camping on the

Dalmatian Islands.

Climbing and exploring in the Pyrenees and Andorra.

Hiking in Corsica.

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Wide ranging journey of discovery in the United Arab Republic (Egypt).  
Goodwill mission by specially equipped coach through Europe, Yugoslavia, and Turkey to Teheran (Rovers and Rangers).  
Work as "Camp Counsellors" at Scout Camps in U.S.A  
Working Party at International Scout Chalet, Kandersteg. Clearing new sites and general work of maintenance.  
Hikes in Finnish Lapland.

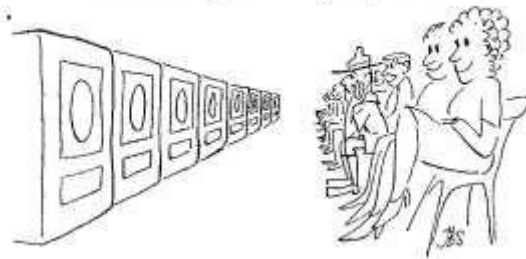
### HOME HOSPITALITY

Here are a few important points to bear in mind when inviting an overseas Scout to stay in a British home.

1. Try not to place him in a home where both Mum and Dad are out at work.
2. Make sure he is going to be fully accepted as a member of the family and included in all their doings.
3. It is not enough merely to provide bed and breakfast and leave the visitor to his own devices for much of the day.
4. Place him in a home with a Scout of about his own age, who should, ideally, make touch with him by correspondence before he comes. Better still, if he camps with the Troop for the first part of his visit let him choose the British Scout he has made friends with and spend the last week of his stay at his home.
5. Remember he will not be accustomed to British ways and may not want to drink tea with every meal, eat porridge or kippers for breakfast or rice pudding for supper. Don't be hurt or surprised at this but try letting him make you a cup of coffee in his own way or prepare a dish such as his Mother makes at home. Then eat it with good grace!



*Allow him to join in the family chores.*



6. Allow him to join in the family chores of shopping, washing-up, gardening, etc., as well as the social rounds of visits to relatives and friends, concerts, sports clubs, etc. These will all help him to feel that he "belongs" and give him a truer picture of English life.

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7. Don't hesitate to enlist a few hours' occasional help from relatives, friends and neighbours and by so doing "spread the load" and the pleasure of entertaining your guest. He also will be glad of the chance of meeting other people of your acquaintance.
8. In short-treat him as an ordinary member of the family and not as a V.I.P.



### SCOUT MIX

This is a Swedish idea in which British Scouts have participated with great success. Try it on a District or County basis.

Invite parties of up to half a dozen Scouts of Senior age from, say, six countries. Attach to each party one or two good British Seniors or Rovers. Appoint a leader and assistant. Then set out to give them a really representative picture of a typical part of Britain. Activities might include:-

1. A reception by the mayor or chairman of your Town Council and attendance at a meeting of your Local Council or County Council.
2. A conducted tour of a factory making a typical British product.
3. Attendance at a debate in the House of Commons and a visit to a main G.P.O. sorting office or a large fire station.
4. Visits to some of the following:-  
To a typical Public. Grammar. Secondary Modern or Primary School. University, Technical College.
5. A stay in a Scout home.
6. A spell at a Scout Camp or on a hike.

There are, of course, many varieties of programme that can be devised. The object, however, is always to enable the visitors to see all they can of British institutions, to ask all the questions they like, to have fun, to make friends and to go home realising that there may be some method in British madness!

### GRANTS

Perhaps you have an idea for a really effective international good-turn: or your Group wants to invite a Scout guest from abroad; or some of your Seniors or Rovers have planned an imaginative venture of Scouting or Service overseas. You have raised all the funds you can but ends don't quite meet. Maybe Headquarters can help. Try and see.

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There are funds, the International Friendship Fund in particular, which exist to bridge gaps like these. So ask for a form of application from the International Department. Money is not limitless and of necessity grants are only made to the most deserving and worth-while projects. You must show that you and your Scouts have taken all possible steps to 'raise the money' yourselves.

### THE WORLD SCOUT FRIENDSHIP FUND

This is a fund to which all Scouts everywhere have the opportunity of contributing a coin once a year (and of course at other times as well) to help the spread of Scouting in areas of special need or with exceptional problems. To start with, the Fund is being used by the World Committee to assist Scouting in Africa, but in the future it will no doubt be used to help Scouts in other parts of the world too.

Scouters are asked to encourage all members of their Groups to support this Fund: contributions in 1964 are being spent on the following developments in Africa:-

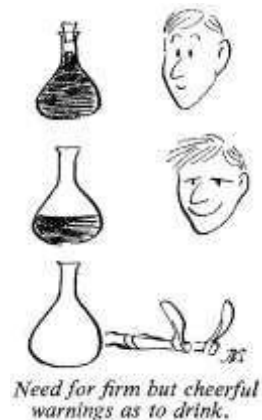
1. Purchasing, developing and equipping Training Centres.
2. Providing financial assistance for African Scouters to attend Training Courses. (Distances are great and salaries generally small in Africa.)
3. Providing transport for Field Scouters (e.g. Tanganyika has two such Scouters working in an area of more than 362,000 square miles. Compare this with our own country where fourteen Field Commissioners cover a mere 93,000 square miles I)
4. Providing Scout literature in the local language. (There are forty main languages in the four Commonwealth countries of West Africa alone.)

### A "GOING ABROAD" CONFERENCE

Some Counties have found it extremely helpful to hold, during the winter, a briefing conference for all those planning to go abroad the following summer. Such a conference would normally be run by the A.C.C. (International) or C.I.R. and could last for a full week-end or just for a Saturday or Sunday.

The following are some of the topics that should be dealt with by Scouters or others with good experience of foreign travel:-

1. *The Purpose*. There must be a good Scout reason for the venture. It must never be just a tourist jaunt in uniform.
2. *The planning* - by the Court of Honour, of course, with Scouts finding out and doing as much as possible themselves.
3. *Travel* - routes, party rates, type of transport, travel discipline.
4. *The Programme* - planned on Scout involving contacts and activities with local Scouts.
5. *Insurance* - the cover required; the procedure and the cost.
6. *Food and drink* - essential supplies to take with you; local prices; ideas as to local eating; need for firm but cheerful warnings as to drink.
7. *Money* - explanation of national currency and rate of exchange.



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8. *Hiking and climbing* - strict warnings as to need and reasons for discipline, particularly in the mountains.
9. *The language* - what to try to learn and how to set about it.
10. *Open Sessions* - questions by anyone to anyone.

After the conference it is useful to give those wishing to obtain information about a particular country an opportunity to meet and question others who have already camped there.

### **CAMPING ABROAD - THE DRILL**

Here are the steps you must take in order that your plans for a camp abroad may be completed as quickly as possible:-

(1) Having first sown the seed with your Court of Honour and got their support make touch with your District Commissioner, for his suggestions and approval of the visit.

(2) Contact your County International Representative if you have one, if not, the International Department at Headquarters. They are in a position to help with ideas and will send you the necessary forms and information.

(3) If you require a contact or camp site or want to camp with a foreign Troop, complete the buff enquiry form and send it to your C.I.R. or Headquarters. When this is returned to you, write direct to the contact you have been given.

(4) When your numbers and dates are definite, complete the Insurance form extending the Personal Accident and Medical Benefits Insurance Policy, to cover risks abroad. Then send it with the required remittance to your C.I.R. or to Headquarters.

(If you belong to a County which does not subscribe to the Policy arranged by Headquarters, you will need to make special touch with your C.I.R. about your County Policy.)

(5) As soon as your arrangements are completed, fill in the white PC (abroad) form and send it to your C.I.R. or Headquarters. This will inform the foreign Headquarters of your presence in their country and will give them the opportunity of arranging an inspection of your camp as in Great Britain.

(6) When your C.I.R. or Headquarters are satisfied that all is fully in order you will be issued with an International Letter of Introduction. Don't go without this. It is proof that you are a bona fide Scout party. The Passport Office will also require to see it if you apply for a Collective Passport.

(7) We do urge you to start your plans in good time. This will make things much easier for you and for all those trying to help you.

Note - It is preferable that (4) and (5) are dealt with together.

### **AND JUST A FEW 'DONT'S'**

When organising a camp abroad DON'T, please don't regard it as an abnormal or difficult or hazardous or specially meritorious operation. It should be regarded as a normal part of the older Scout's training.

DON'T try to do too much of the planning and organising yourself. Any Senior Scout should be perfectly able to obtain his own passport and foreign currency and should be encouraged to

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do so. You can also quite probably leave the travel arrangements in the hands of a capable Senior or Rover while you stand by to advise if necessary.

DON'T take a party of 'over and under fifteens' abroad unless you have really adequate leadership for each section and have planned a separate programme of appropriate activities for each group.

### TRY READING THESE

The following publications dealing with International Scouting can be obtained from the Scout Shop.

*"Scouting Round the World"* by Colonel J. S. Wilson, price 18/6d., postage 1/2d.

*"Uniforms and Badges of the World"* (Patrol Book No. 18) price 1/-, postage 3d.

*"Fundamentals of the Scout Method"* (Boy Scouts World Bureau) price 9d., postage 3d.

*"The World Scouting Quiz Book"* (Scouter Series No. 22) price 1/-, postage 3d.

The following publications of the Boy Scouts World Bureau may be obtained from the International Department at H.Q.

*"Facts on World Scouting"* (an outline of the organisation of the World Scout Movement, with short presentations to 36 Scout countries) price 3/6d. postage 5d.

*"Purpose, Aim, Basis, Fundamentals, Membership of World Scouting"* free, postage 2½d.

*Foreign Maps* can be obtained from:-

The Youth Hostels Association (Sales Department), 29 John Adam Street, London, W.C.2-recommended for large scale maps suitable for hikes abroad.

John Bartholomew & Son Ltd., 12 Duncan Street, Edinburgh 9.

Foldex Ltd., Premier House, 150 Southampton Road, London, W.C.1.

Geographers' Map Co. Ltd., 28 Grays Inn Road, London, W.C.2.

Edward Stanford Ltd., 12 Long Acre, London, W.C.2.

*Films.* The Publicity Department at Headquarters has a good library of Scout films which can be hired.