



PIONEERING PRINCIPLES

By

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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 21st century. For reasons of historical accuracy they have been preserved in their original form.

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To Bill Campbell,

Deputy Camp Chief attached to Gilwell Park, whose help and encouragement have enabled Gilwell to continue to pioneer.

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INTRODUCTION

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

THERE are few activities which, properly presented, have a greater appeal to the Scout and Senior Scout than Pioneering and ever since the introduction of Wood Badge training, Pioneering has been given a full share in the programme of Scouters' training. In the summer months when Scouters at Gilwell are building bridges, towers, and rafts, and boys are in camp it has been all too common to hear from the boys such remarks as, "I wish we did that in our Troop" or "We never do anything like that".

I said in the opening sentence "properly presented". This book is designed to help you, the Scouter, to plan and present Pioneering in a practical and effective way. The main snags, I think, are: –

- a) Lack of knowledge and the consequent fear on the part of the Scouter,
- b) Lack of equipment,
- c) Lack of a suitable place where Pioneering can be carried out.

I hope that as the book evolves I shall be able to deal with all these problems and, indeed, I propose to return to them from time to time.

Let me say at the outset that Pioneering without preparation is no proposition for Scouting. Preparation always means thought, effort and work. Perhaps some of us forget that one of our continuing tasks is to provide the necessary facilities. Obviously, for some it is very difficult, but it is always possible to try. What I regard as unforgiveable is sitting back and saying, "We have no money; therefore we have no equipment: therefore we cannot do Pioneering."

Why Pioneering? To me the over-riding reason for presenting Pioneering is that boys like it. Some years ago we started providing simple equipment which Troops in camp at Gilwell can use. The demand is insatiable. Year by year we add more, but we never provide enough; because as one Troop sees another using the equipment and building a bridge they want to try it also and the desire to do Pioneering spreads like a contagious disease throughout the camp.

But there are reasons for Pioneering other than the fact that boys like doing it. B.-P. wrote: "I am inclined to suggest to Scouters that in addition to the technical details of knotting, lashing, and anchorages, there is an educative training in Pioneering since it gives elementary training in stresses, etc., and it also develops initiative and resourcefulness to use local material. Additionally, it gives practice in team work and discipline." In other words, Pioneering is

