



LORD BADEN-POWELL
Founder of Scouting

**How
it all
began**

Lieut.-Col. R. S. S. Baden-Powell served in Africa during the Boer War.

One of his projects was to teach young boys sent to the battles how to survive in the wilderness situations, facing daily dangers, and how to live a military-style life and succeed on their missions.

With memories of these Making Cadets still fresh in his mind he wrote a manual called *Aids To Scouting*.

On his return to England after the war he found many English boys reading and applying the lessons of his booklet, which had been brought home in the knapsacks of soldiers from Africa.

Encouraged by his friend, Sir William Smith, founder of the Boys Brigade, he decided to rewrite the manual and make it suitable for boys in general.

He met many educators across Britain and the United States, among them Madame Montessori, and talked with many youth leaders.

The result was an experimental camp for boys at Brownsea Island and the setting down of his ideas in a booklet called *Scouting For Boys*, published in six fortnightly parts in 1908.

During this initial stage groups of Scouts continued to meet and to camp.

There is still some confusion about who attended the very first Scout camp as there were Scout groups in 1906 and other camps as early as 1907.

Today the movement is world wide and in 1983 Canada will host the 13th World Jamboree in Alberta, with over 15,000 Scouts expected to attend from Canada and the rest of the world.

SCOUTING: *Where it started What it's all about*

The first recorded Scout camp was held by founder Lord Baden-Powell at Brownsea Island in Poole Harbor in Dorset, England July 29 - Aug. 9, 1907.

Brownsea Island is about 30 kilometres west of the Isle of Wight off the south coast of England and is about three kilometres long and one kilometre wide.

It was described as well wooded with healthy clearings towards the centre.

B-P, as the Scouts affectionately call him, sited his camp at the southwest corner near an empty cottage, which held the stores.

The idea of the camp was to see how a mixed company of boys from varying social and economic backgrounds would get on together.

The first group consisted of sons of his own friends and boys chosen by the Boys Brigade officers in Poole and Bournemouth.

The scheme was described under the headings of Woodcraft, Observation, Discipline, Health and Endurance, Chivalry, Lifesaving and Patriotism.

Boys were sent lists of what to take to camp and were asked to learn, before going, to tie a reef knot, a sheet-bend and a clove hitch, from sketches he supplied.

At the first camp straw pallets were used for beds but some boys made mattresses on looms.

Each patrol had its own bell-tent while B-P and Major McLaren had separate tents. There was a marquee tent for a dining room and a meeting place for inclement weather.

The boys wore no uniforms, although they had patrol shoulder-knots of colored tape. Each patrol leader had a patrol flag with a patrol-animal shown on it.

Each boy had a brass fleur-de-lys badge to fasten to his jacket and after passing a few tests was given another to fasten beneath it, a scroll with the words *Be Prepared* on it. All wore khaki scarves.

There were four Patrols and the members were:

Curlew Patrol: - Musgrave C. (Bob) Wroughton, leader; Cedric I. Curtis, John Michael Evans-Lombe, Percy Arthur Medway, Reginald Walter Giles, Simon Rodney.

Raven Patrol: - Thomas Brian Evans-Lombe, leader; Arthur Primmer, Albert Blandford, James A. B. Rodney, Marc Noble.

Wolf Patrol: - George Rodney, leader; Herbert Watts, J. Allan Vivian, Terence Ewart Bonfield, Richard A. Grant.

Bull Patrol: - Herbert Embrey, leader; Eilshert James Tarrant; Herbert Collingbourne, William Rodney, Hesperley B. Noble.

THE PROGRAM

The camp day started at 6 a.m. with rising and string bedding.

Milk and biscuits started the nutrition for the day.

At 6:30 all turned out for exercises and at 7 a.m. notices about the day's activities and demonstrations were read.

At 7:30 the camp was cleaned until 7:55, when scouts gathered for parade, flag break, prayers and breakfast.

From 9 a.m. until noon scouting practices were the order of the day and at 12:30 lunch was made, followed by a rest until 2:15 p.m.

Scouting practices resumed at 2:30 p.m. until tea at 5 p.m.

Camp games took over from 6:15 p.m. then it was time to rub down and change for supper at 8 p.m.

This was accompanied by campfire yarns and short exercises until prayers at 9:15 with bed and lights out at 9:30 to end a full day.

COURT OF HONOR

Throughout the camp Baden-Powell used the court of honor, involving the patrol leaders.

Morning and evening exercises were simple on the lines of those given in *Scouting For Boys*.

Scouting practices included tracking, stalking and observation training, with tracking irons used to lay some trails and situations being set up on sand strips.

The chief officer of the coastguard gave instructions in knotting, life saving and resuscitation, supervised fire-drill practices and talked about the flag, naval customs and traditions. Bathing included water games and the use of two boats.

The evening camp games were mostly for fun with basketball played using an improvised net.

For the evening meal the boys had to be particularly neat and clean and they called this "dressing for dinner".

CAMPFIRE YARNS

The camp fire yarns were mostly of B-P's own adventures, many of which were later incorporated in *Scouting For Boys*.

On one whole day each patrol went off with uncooked rations and had to look after itself, knowing that at

some time it would come under B-P's observation.

They had previous practice in making fires, dampers and so forth and from such small beginnings the great tradition of Scout hiking began.

Baden-Powell introduced individual and patrol competitions and one was a prize for the best collection of leaves with all their names. Others were for observation tests.

TYING KNOTS

B-P conducted timed knot-tying races between boys on the basis of knots, and elimination by pairs.

The losers paired off again for further heats until the slowest knot-tyer was found. Thus the slowest of the boys got the most practice. The incentive was to avoid being

the slowest, which was just as effective as trying to be the fastest.

Demonstrations and lessons in fire-lighting, roasting kabobs on green sticks, cooking meat in wet newspapers, making simple breads and playing camp games, evolved at Brownsea Camp, are all now found in *Scouting For Boys*, still used as the official handbook of the organization.

Other activities included camp fires at which each patrol has to provide the program, tracking, Kim's Game, night exercises, nature practices, nature sketching, star gazing, stalking, chivalry with its admonition to *Do A Good Turn Every Day*, saving life.

AFTER BROWNSEA
The success of the camp

convinced Baden-Powell he was working along the right lines.

Shortly afterwards he drafted his manual, *Scouting For Boys*, and started a series of lectures about the movement.

Dec. 31 1907 he completed the book, which was published in six installments in January 1908, with four reprints ordered that first year.

The idea of the Boy Scouts spread like wildfire, rapidly catching the imagination of the boys of Great Britain.

Soon patrols and troops were being formed all over the country.

As copies of *Scouting For Boys* reached other countries the enthusiasm was repeated and the greatest youth movement the world has ever known spread around the globe.



THIS OLD PICTURE shows the first Scouts on their way to the first ever camp at Brownsea Island. The camp was used by founder Lord Baden-Powell to test his ideas before publishing his handbook *Scouting For Boys*. In 1928 a reunion of the original camp crew was held with Baden-Powell present. (Scouts of Canada Photo).

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