

Baden-Powell and the Beginnings of the World Scout Movement



A portrait of Baden-Powell from the 1929 painting by David Jagger

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to younger readers, especially the Cub Scouts who might not otherwise be able to learn a little about Lord Baden-Powell and the origins of the Boy Scouts.



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The World Crest is worn on Scout Uniforms through out the world.

What is Scouting and Who are the Boy Scouts?

On page one of the The Boy Scout Handbook, Scouting is defined as “Adventure, learning, challenge, responsibility – the promise of Scouting is all this and more.” Scouting is a program that was started to help boys develop some of the outdoor and leadership skills that they were not learning in school. Over the years Scouting has grown into a program that provides young men and women with opportunities to learn skills and leadership from older and more experienced youths. Boy Scouts is a “boy led” program – the more experience Scouts teach and lead the less experienced ones.

Who the Boy Scouts are has certainly changed over time. At first the Boy Scouts were only older boys about ages twelve to eighteen. Now, youth members of the Boy Scouts are ages seven (first grade) through twenty-one years if they are male, and fourteen through age twenty-one if they are female! A male can join Cub Scouts as a Tiger Cub when they are in the first grade with a parent partner. A female can join Venture or Explorers at age fourteen and continue until age twenty-one. The Venture and Learning for Life programs are co-ed (meaning both males and females can participate in them). However, the best known program is the Boy Scouts. Most Boy Scouts are ages eleven through eighteen.

Who was Lord Baden-Powell?

Lord Baden-Powell was born Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden in 1857. He was born in England to an Oxford University Reverend and his wife. His mother changed the family name to Baden-Powell, when he was three years old (shortly after his father's death). Stephe (as he was called by his family) was one of eight children. He was an athletic, artistic, theatrically talented and “academically challenged” young man.



Despite his dislike for academic subjects (especially mathematics) Baden-Powell grew up to become a famous war hero and role model. His heroic actions at the siege of Mafeking in the Boer War at the end of the 19th century helped him to eventually become a Lieutenant General and be created a British Peer (i.e. he was granted the title Lord of Gilwell by the Queen of England). However, Lieutenant General Lord Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell of Gilwell is best remembered as the founder of the World Scout Movement: the largest youth movement in the world today.

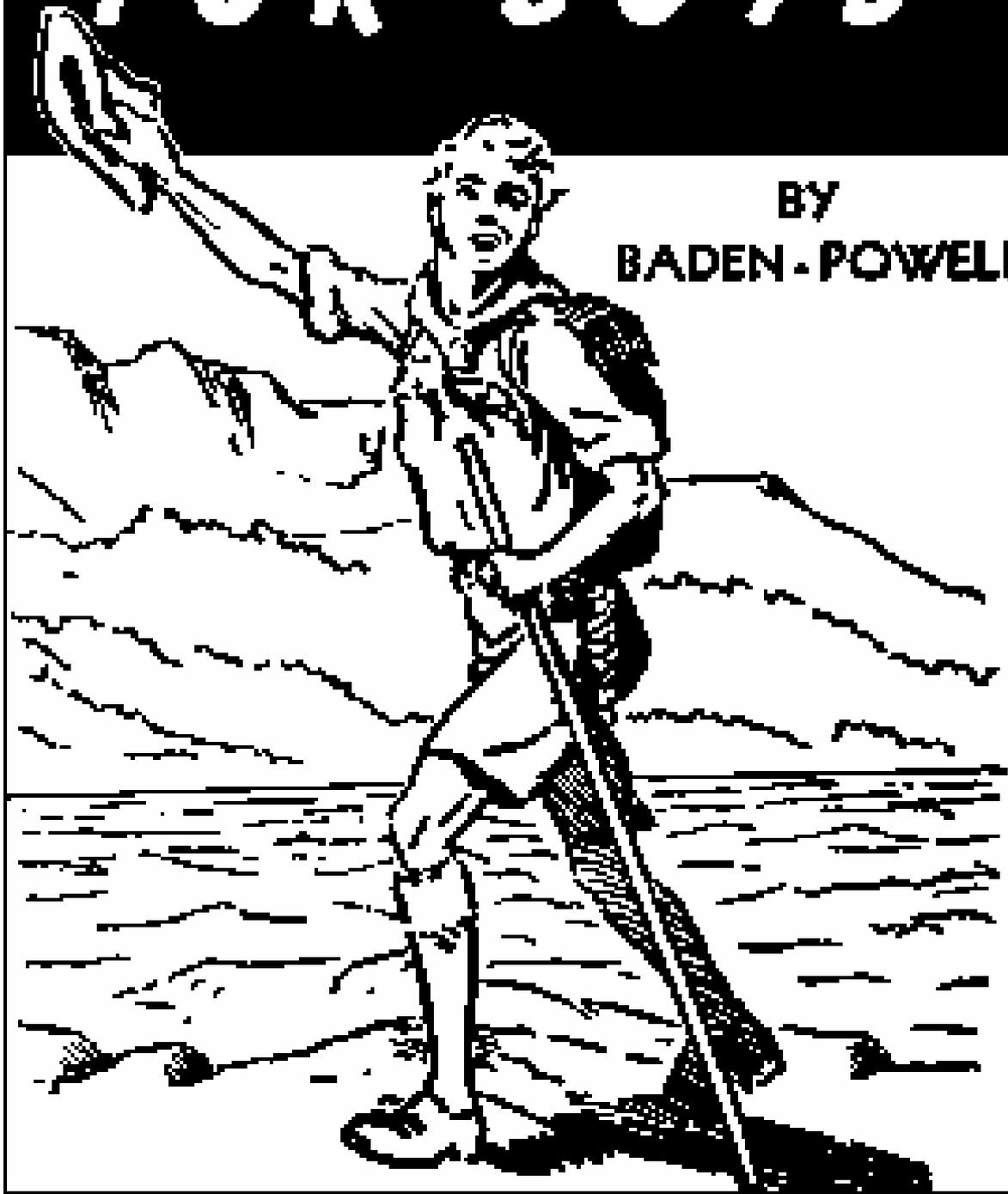
Why did Baden-Powell Start Boy Scouts?

When Baden-Powell was a British Army officer he discovered that many of his young troops did not have leadership or scouting skills. He said, "... (T)hey had never been taught to be men, how to look after themselves, how to take responsibility, and so on." Baden-Powell also realized that they had learned to read and write in school, but little else. They had no idea of how to find their way using the stars at night, read a map, perform emergency first aid, notice tracks and understand what they meant, etc. Baden-Powell wrote that he wanted them to "... (F)eel they were a match for any enemy... to be an efficient, all-round, reliable individual." So by 1899, Major Baden-Powell's efforts to help young soldiers led him to write a book called Aids to Scouting for N.C.O.s and Men (note: N.C. O. s means Non-Commissioned Officers and "Men" refers to the soldiers).

Within a couple of years, Aids to Scouting was being used as a textbook at Charlotte Mason's College for Teachers. The college had adopted its use for training teachers in how to better educate the "whole child". In 1907, when General Baden-Powell was inspecting 7,000 members of the Boys' Brigade at Glasgow (an early boys' youth group), Sir William Smith (the founder) asked Baden-Powell if he had ever considered rewriting the book so that it would appeal to boys. Sir Smith thought that if the boys read the book themselves it could help "... (M)ake them into real men and good citizens." Baden-Powell wanted to "test out" the idea before rewriting the book.

SCOUTING FOR BOYS

BY
BADEN-POWELL



Where and When Did Boy Scouting Begin?

The first “Boy Scout camp” (which Baden-Powell organized and lead himself) was held in 1907, on Brownsea Island off England’s South coast. There were 22 boys at Baden-Powell’s first “Boy Scout” camp out. This camp was Baden-Powell’s experiment to test his ideas for Scouting. The whole world knows the results of that camp: his “experiment” proved that his ideas for Scouting would work with all sorts of different boys.



Baden-Powell drew many of the illustrations for his books.

In 1908, he adapted the book Aids of Scouting for the use of younger boys and published his new book called Scouting for Boys. Two years later he retired from the army and was advised by his majesty King Edward III to continue the World Scout Movement. After he wrote the first Scouting books his ideas became very popular and Scouting spread from England to almost everywhere. Germany, Holland, France, Denmark and many other countries developed Scouting movements.

What is Scouting Like Today?

Today (in the United States), Scouting has been expanded into several groups. These groups are Cub Scouts which are for boys from ages 7 to 11 ½, Boy Scouts which is for boys from ages 11 ½ to 18, and Venture Scouts which is for boys and girls ages 14 to 21. Each of these Scouting program have their own ranks (advancement or promotion) system. The Cub Scout ranks are Tiger, Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos. These ranks are named after animals that live in dens. Thus, “dens” are what the smaller groups that meet separately are called. All the dens together form a “Pack”, and these dens meet as an entire Pack at least once a month. The big gatherings are called “Pack Meetings”.



With Boy Scouts the ranks are Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star, Life, and the highest rank in U.S. Scouting is called Eagle. In the Boy Scouts the patrol is what the smaller group that meets separately is called, and the troop is made up of all the patrols and troop's leaders. The troop usually meets the altogether once a week, and then (after initial part of the troop meeting) the scouts "break out" into their patrols. Sometimes the patrols have extra meetings and outings to do things that interest their group.

The leadership in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts is very different. In Cub Scouts the leaders are adult volunteers, and some lucky dens have a Boy Scout leader (helper) called a Den Chief. However, in a Boy Scout Troop, the boys elect their leaders for troop and individual patrols. The adult leaders in Boy Scouts are there for support and assistance, but not to lead: *Boy Scouts is Boy Led*. Baden-Powell believed that a person learned best by doing.

The purpose of Cub Scouts is for boys to develop basic skills with the guidance of adults, and Boy Scouts is designed for the boys to start taking more responsibility and developing their leadership skills. Some of the world's greatest leaders were once Boy Scouts. Many of these men have said that the skills taught in Boy Scouts were important to their later success. Our own government respects Scouting -- if you make Eagle and join the military you will be awarded two stripes right away. This is because having earned your Eagle Rank demonstrates that you

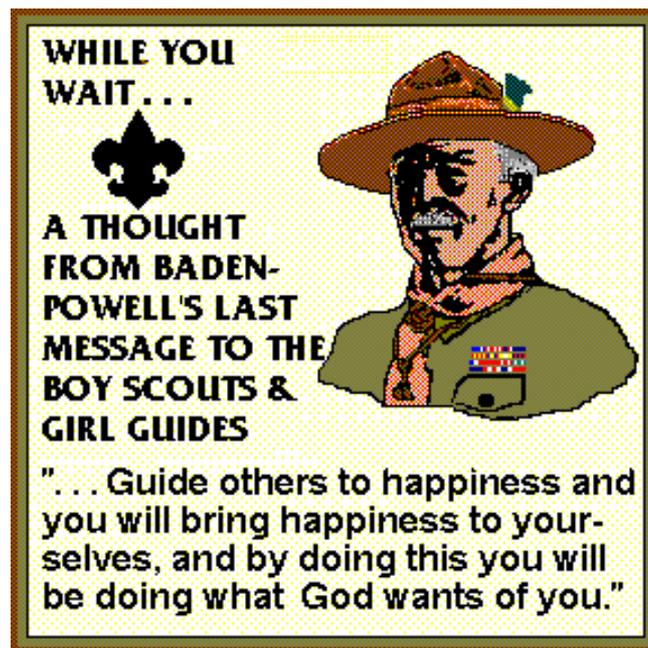
have leadership experience. One important thing to remember is “once an Eagle, you are always an Eagle”.

Conclusion

The World Scouting Movement founded by Lord Baden-Powell grew rapidly, and by 1910 (only three years after its formal beginning) there were over 100,000 registered Boy Scouts in Great Britain alone. Today, throughout the world there are more than 28 million Scouts, youth and adults, boys and girls, in 216 countries and territories. In the United States there are over 300 councils (divisions within a country). In 2005, in the Transatlantic Council alone (a United States’ overseas council which covers Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey) there were 5,281 Cub Scouts in 113 packs, 2,742 Boy Scouts in 117 troops, 305 Venturers in 31 crews, and 1,245 students in school-based career education programs.

In 2007, World Scouting will celebrate 100 years of Scouting with the 21st World Jamboree in Great Britain. World Scout Jamborees are held every four years in different countries all over the world. The 21st World Scout Jamboree will be held at Hylands Park, Chelmsford, Essex, from 27 July to 8 August 2007. Over 40,000 Scouts and Scouters (scout adult leaders) are expected to participate in this

event. There will be other celebrations besides the World Jamboree, and one of these will be held where it all began: on Brownsea Island there will be a Sunrise Ceremony August 1, 2007.



Lord Baden-Powell's numerous contributions to the World Scout Movement: as an inspirational leader, his thirty-two books, and personal financial sacrifices (he never accepted a salary for his service as Chief Scout) are immeasurable. When he was forced to retire due to ill health in 1938, he returned to his beloved Kenya. He died there on January 8, 1941, secure in the knowledge that his Scouting Movement had a life of its own and his work to "build better boys" would not die with him.

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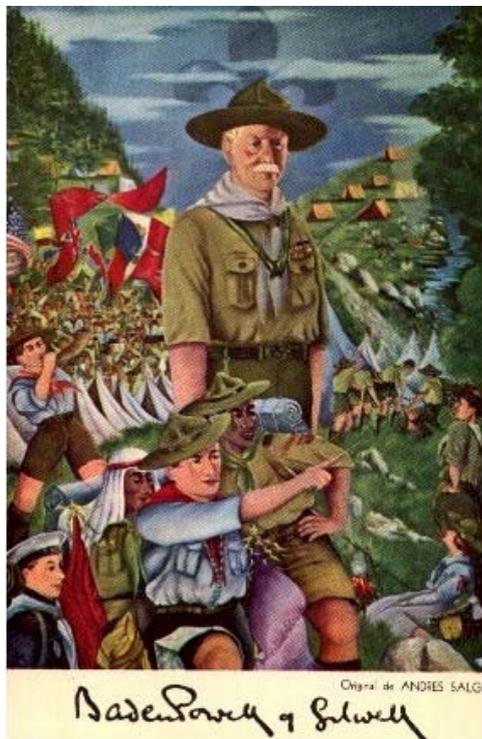
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About the Author



Clyburne, Bryce was born in Syracuse, New York on May 15, 1991. He lived in England from 1994 to 1996, where he went to both Beachborough and Winchester House schools. He then lived in Germany from 1996 to 2003, where he first joined Cub Scouts with Pack 243 (Landstuhl Army Post). In 1999, while living in Germany, Bryce acquired a younger sister, Julianne, who is already planning to be a Venture Crew member one day. Today, Bryce lives in England and is a Life Scout with Troop 245 at RAF Alconbury. His parents, Melissa and Doug, are “Scouters” – Doug is an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 245 and Melissa is the Advancements and Membership Committee Member. Bryce attended Landstuhl Elementary and Middle School from the first grade through the sixth, and is now in the eighth grade at Alconbury Middle and High School. Bryce is a very active scout, and has served as an assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Scribe and is now the Troop’s Librarian. This was Bryce’s sixth Young Authors’ book, and he chose to write it because when he wanted to read a book about Baden-Powell for “Biographies Alive” he could not find one written for young readers – so, he wrote one.