

What the Boy Scout Movement Means to the Nation

It teaches the youngsters to be happier and more useful citizens

IN THE past seven years thousands of town and cities in all parts of the United States have used the Boy Scout program as a means of developing their boys into manly men, and the success of their efforts is shown by the fact that today there are over 20,000 Boy Scouts in this country.

The movement has been endorsed by educators, by churches of every denomination, by civic and philanthropic organizations, by the press and by the public generally. It is broad enough to take in every boy who is interested in his own development, and no matter what his social status, creed and education may be, he will find in it a means of attaining his proper ideals.

A Boy Scout begins by joining a troop. The troop may be organized in connection with a church, neighborhood center, a boy's club, a Y. M. C. A., or independently. Three things are necessary—it must have a troop committee of three or more representative men to guide its policies, a scoutmaster who will direct and supervise its activities, and from eight to thirty-two boys. In exceptional cases there may be less than eight or more than thirty-two. The average number is twenty-five.

Eight Scouts make a patrol, one of them being the patrol leader, and the patrol is a unit within the troop.

One thing is kept constantly before every Scout—he is training to become a man. Not a soldier, but a man. Because Scouts wear uniforms which somewhat resemble those worn by soldiers, some people imagine that they are being prepared for "cannon food." All wrong. The uniform was adopted because it was the strongest, most convenient, most serviceable suit which could be bought for the money. From five to ten dollars it costs, at the local store, and when it goes on, mother may settle back in her armchair with a sigh of relief, for there will be no patching to do for a long time.

It is not necessary for a Scout to wear a uniform at all. He can be just as good a Scout without one, but it adds to his pleasure to have it, and it adds to the impression which he creates.

The Scout Law and Oath.
A boy in becoming a Scout takes the following oath:

1. On my honor I will do my best—
1. To do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout law;
2. To help other people at all times;
3. To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

The idea of scouting, its inspiration, is embodied in the Scout law and oath. The Scout law:

1. A Scout is trustworthy. A Scout's honor is to be trusted. If he were to violate his honor by telling a lie, or by cheating, or by not doing exactly a given task, when trusted on his honor, he may be directed to hand over his Scout badge.
2. A Scout is loyal. He is loyal to all to whom loyalty is due; his scoutleader, his home, and parents and country.
3. A Scout is helpful. He must be prepared at any time to save life, help injured persons, and share the home duties. He must do at least one good turn to somebody every day.
4. A Scout is friendly. He is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout.
5. A Scout is courteous. He is polite to all, especially to women, children, old people, and the weak and helpless. He must not take pay for being helpful or courteous.
6. A Scout is kind. He is a friend to animals. He will not kill nor hurt any living creature needlessly, but will strive to save and protect all harmless life.
7. A Scout is obedient. He obeys his parents, scoutmaster, patrol leader, and all other duly constituted authorities.
8. A Scout is cheerful. He smiles whenever he can. His obedience to orders is prompt and cheery. He never shirks nor grumbles at hardships.
9. A Scout is thrifty. He does not wantonly destroy property. He works faithfully, wastes nothing, and makes the best use of his opportunities. He saves his money so that he may pay his own way, be generous to those in need, and helpful to worthy objects. He may work for pay, but must not receive tips for courtesies or good turns.
10. A Scout is brave. He has the courage to face danger in spite of fear, and to stand up for the right against the coaxings of friends or the jeers or threats of enemies, and defeat does not down him.
11. A Scout is clean. He keeps clean in body and thought, stands for clean speech, clean



FIRST AID—BANDAGING A CUT FOOT.

special, clean habits, and travels with a clean crowd. 12. A Scout is reverent. He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties, and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion.

The Movement is Nonsectarian.

While Scouts are given definite ideals and are taught that they must distinguish between right and wrong, the teaching they receive is absolutely nonsectarian. The Boy Scout movement maintains that the recognition of God as the creating and ruling power of the universe, and the grateful acknowledgment of his guidance, is necessary in directing the growing boy toward the best type of American citizenship. It is nonsectarian, however, in its attitude toward religion. Its policy is that the religious organization or institution with which the Boy Scout is connected shall give the needed attention to his spiritual life. If he be a Catholic, the Catholic church should be the agency for his religious training. If he be a Hebrew boy, then the synagogue will teach him the faith of his fathers. If he be a Protestant, the church of which he is an adherent is the proper organization to give him an understanding of the things that pertain to his allegiance to God.

After studying the Scout law, the next step is to learn the history of the Stars and Stripes and the forms of respect due to it. Then comes the tying of knots. A very practical bit of knowledge, for a "granny" may spill the contents of the sugar package. When he has met these requirements he receives the title of "Tenderfoot Scout," and is then entitled to wear the official insignia of his rank.

After one month's service as a tenderfoot, he may be promoted to second-class Scout as soon as he has learned elementary first aid and bandaging, the semaphore or International Morse code for signaling, how to follow human or animal tracks at the rate of at least half a mile in twenty-five minutes, how to cover a mile in exactly twelve minutes by alternately running and walking without cutting himself or anybody else or damaging his tool or anything else, how to build a fire in the open, using but two matches at the most and no kerosene or anything which he could not pick up in a virgin wilderness; how to cook over an open fire without kitchen utensils; how to earn and save money, at least one dollar; and how to read a compass, naming from memory at least the sixteen principal points.

Having earned his second-class badge, he finds that his trouble—or pleasure, all according to the point of view—have just begun. A first-class Scout must be able to swim fifty yards, earn and deposit in a public bank at least two dollars; send and receive a message at the rate of sixteen letters per minute; make a trip alone or with another Scout to a point at least seven miles away and write an account of the trip; render first aid; cook a variety of palatable dishes over an open fire; draw and read maps; use an ax properly; judge distance, size, number, height and weight within 25 per cent; describe fully from observation trees and plants, especially those which are especially useful or especially harmful; furnish satisfactory evidence that he has put into practice in his daily life the principles of the Scout oath and law; and enlist a boy trained by himself as a tenderfoot.

And that is not all. Having become a first-class Scout, he is eligible to earn merit badges, and there are enough of these to keep him busy until he has grandchildren enough to make a troop by themselves. Each merit badge represents a considerable start in some trade, profession, vocation, or avocation, among them architecture, art, astronomy, beekeeping, blacksmithing, business, camping, electricity, forestry, poultry keeping, and surveying.

The Scout Handbook.

In order to place in the hands of Scouts and Scout workers a concise statement of the ideals of the movement and the activities approved of and encouraged by the movement, a textbook of the organization, the Handbook, has been prepared. This is now in the fifteenth edition. It has been again and again revised and improved.

Our country's most popular juvenile is not, as might be supposed, "Robinson Crusoe" or "Treasure Island," but the "Handbook for Boys," published by the Boy Scouts of America. Within the last two years, there have been published more than 300,000 copies of this book, and it is a good guess that more copies have been sold than have been sold of both "Treasure Island" and "Robinson Crusoe" together during the same period. Indeed,

by James E. West
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It is not too much to say that if the figures were available to make such a comparison possible, it would be shown that there have been published in the last two years more copies of the "Handbook for Boys" than all the standard stories for boys published during the same period.

Such a fact becomes more significant when it is understood that the "Handbook for Boys" is really a book of facts. Scoutcraft; woodcraft, wild life and conservation; campcraft; health and endurance; chivalry, first aid and life-saving; patriotism and citizenship, are the subjects treated. All are presented in a picturesque way that commands the attention of the most red-blooded of boys. That he takes it all seriously is evidenced by the fact that increasingly there is appearing among us a new kind of boy, inured to hardship and the doing of the difficult; enthusiastic in his purpose to keep himself "physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight;" nobly chivalrous in his regard for others; eagerly willing to do his duty as a citizen in his community as often as he has opportunity.

In a word, the "Handbook for Boys" is a book boys live by. In establishing such a book as our country's most popular juvenile, the Boy Scouts of America have developed a power for upbuilding boyhood, as influential for good as in the past the iniquitous thriller has been influential for evil.

Worth-While Reading.

It is the purpose of the Boy Scout movement to give educational value and moral worth to the boy's instinctive equipment, chief of which is the play instinct. Broadly speaking, the boy spends his leisure time either in outdoor diversions, or indoors reading. In one instance, it is the boy in action, expressing himself through his manifold play activities; in the other, a boy's body is at rest, but his mind still goes on under the domination of the play instinct, so that, after all, the boy's recreational reading interests are only another manifestation of the play instinct and should be reckoned with from the same point of view.

In a word, if it is important to give direction to the play instinct in the one instance, it is equally important to give direction to it as regards the other; and it is in proportion as this is done that good is accomplished by directing the boy in his play activities. This is why the movement. In its effort to understand and guide the boy in his hours of leisure, has incorporated in its plans a reading program. And it is the belief of many that in doing this the movement has made as valuable a contribution as that which already makes its leadership the most vitally helpful effort ever organized for guiding the instincts and energies of boys in their early years.

A book is, for the average boy, a good book in proportion as there is "something doing." This demand on the part of the boy for thrill and excitement and "pep," as the boy would say, is quite legitimate. What must be insisted upon is that writers of boys' books be guided in their use of "pep," i. e., that they cut out the red "pep."

The Scout program has developed many heroes. Every month the national court of honor awards letters of commendation and honor medals to Scouts who, in grave emergencies, have saved others at considerable risk to themselves. These cases are reported in Boys' Life, the Boy Scouts' magazine, and serve to inspire many youngsters just awakening to the meaning of altruism.

National headquarters registers every Scout and protects him in the exclusive use of the badges and uniforms which he works so hard to earn. It scrutinizes every application for a scoutmaster's commission and every applicant must prove himself worthy to be a leader of boys.

Locally, the close supervision of the work is delegated to a local council, provided there are three or more troops, this council being composed of ten or more men who represent every civic, religious and educational element in the community.

The Scout program is adaptable to all sorts of conditions, and it fills those hours which are often wasted, and worse than wasted, by boys who lack nothing but proper leadership. It teaches them to serve their community. Many an unsightly dump has been turned into a garden spot, many a mosquito incubator drained and destroyed, many a public occasion been made brighter and better by the Boy Scouts.

Economically, educationally, morally, the organization of the boys of a town into troops of Boy Scouts pays big returns.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

FIGHTS WASTE IN INFANT LIFE



For the last quarter of a century Uncle Sam has been saying much and doing much for the conservation of the nation's resources. But it has only been in recent years that the American baby has come to be considered one of these resources.

Now we have a children's bureau, the purpose of which is to look after the nation's little folks, its chief problem being infant mortality.

The chief of the children's bureau is Miss Julia C. Lathrop, and she has as collaborators several experts, who head the various divisions of the office. The head of the division of hygiene is Dr. Grace L. Meigs, a very capable young woman, a graduate of Bryn Mawr college and of Rush Medical college, University of Chicago, who has also done post-graduate work in Berlin, Vienna and Budapest before accepting her post in Washington.

"American people are now alive to the fact that there is an enormous waste in infant life," said Doctor Meigs, in talking of her work. "The census tells us that in 1915 one in ten of all of the babies born in the United States died before it had completed twelve months of life." She called attention to a recent report from the United States bureau of the census.

This report shows that of 100,000 native white boys born alive, 4,975, or almost 5 per cent, died during the first month, and 12,002, or 12 per cent, died within one year. A somewhat startling comparison is made to the effect that the child at birth has just the same chance to live a month as has the native white man of one hundred and two years of age or the native white woman of ninety-nine.

LONG FOE OF AUTOCRACY

With some reason the reigning governments of Europe for the last fifty years have regarded Prince Peter Alexievitch Kropotkin as one of the most dangerous foes to their established institutions.

Yet since his melodramatic escape from a Russian prison in 1876, this rebel of the Russian aristocracy has never been an avenger, but always a martyr. Expelled from Switzerland, imprisoned in France, he finally found refuge in a London suburb. From there he has scattered over the world by peaceful methods the propaganda of anarchy, writing numerous books and pamphlets, editing a paper called Freedom, and by his personal life proving his sincerity in all he taught.

Never has Prince Peter imposed sacrifices upon others, but he has made them himself. None has been more disinterested, none has loved mankind more. Always he has lived on his slender income, refusing the temptation to garner wealth. For most of his books he took nothing, for one, "The Conquest of Bread," he received fifteen dollars.

"One of the two great Russians who think for the Russian people, and whose thoughts belong to mankind," someone has written of him, classing him with Tolstoy. From his refuge in England he has favored every movement toward making Russia a republic. Is it not possible that the Russians in those great days will be guided by his teachings?



WOULD SPEED UP SENATE



Senator Newlands is the statesman who inaugurated a campaign for speeding things up, and the institution of modern practices for customs that have outlived their usefulness. He introduced a resolution that would direct the rules committee "to investigate the question as to superfluous committees of the senate" and report its recommendations regarding them as well as the allowances for clerical aid that should be granted.

The senator made it plain at once that he was not striking at the pay roll of minority committees and chairman. He declared that he did not think the standard of pay which is now allowed was sufficient. Every minority senator, he contended, should have a clerk at \$2,400, another at \$2,000 and another at \$1,500. Minority members, he said, had just as important public duties to perform as majority senators. The evil he was aiming at, he announced, was the multiplicity of useless committees that prevented full attendance and prompt action upon the public business before those committees where the business of the country really was handled.

"It must be evident," said Senator Newlands, "that present methods employed for the consideration of public business are not such as to secure economy of time. It must be perfectly evident that this body should apply itself to the study of the rules of efficiency which are now being applied to almost every vocation.

STEEL COMPANY'S HUGE PROFITS

The unprecedented prosperity attending the operation of the United States Steel corporation for 1916 are set forth in the annual report.

Total earnings of \$342,967,092 exceeded those of 1915 by no less than \$202,747,026; net income of \$294,030,565 showed an increase of \$196,058,602, and surplus net income for the year aggregated \$201,835,585, as compared with \$44,260,374 in the previous year. This last item is the more remarkable from the fact that it includes regular and extra dividends of \$44,476,469 on the common stock, as against only \$6,353,781 disbursed in 1915.

Expenditure during 1916 for maintenance, renewals and extraordinary replacements totaled \$69,392,627, an increase of 60.01 per cent over 1915.

The average number of employees in the service of all the subordinate companies during 1916 was 252,968, as against 191,126 in 1915, with total salaries and wages of \$263,385,502, an increase of \$86,584,638.

The undivided surplus of the corporation and its subsidiaries, including the \$25,000,000 cash provided in organization, amounts to \$381,860,913.

