

CENTENARY OF SCOUTING (1907 - 2007)

Baden-Powell (1857 - 1941), Military Career

Baden-Powell (see Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4) was the 8th of ten children. His father died when B.-P. was only 3 years old and the family were left none too well off. B.-P. was given his first lessons by his mother and later he gained a scholarship for admittance to Charterhouse School, which was in London when B.-P. first attended but whilst he was there it moved to Godalming, Surrey, a factor which had great influence in his later life. He was always eager to learn new skills. He explored the woods around the school, B.-P. would stalk his Masters as well as catch and cook rabbits. With his brothers he was always in search of adventure. One holiday they made a yachting expedition around the south coast of England. On another, they traced the Thames to its source by canoe. In all this, Baden-Powell was certainly not a good student, as his end of term reports revealed. Nevertheless, he gained second place for cavalry in open examination for the Army and was commissioned straight into the 13th Hussars, and subsequently became their Honorary Colonel for 30 years. His Army career was outstanding from the start. With the 13th Hussars he served in India, Afghanistan and South Africa. In 1899, during the 2nd Boer War, Baden-Powell was besieged in the small town of Mafeking by a much larger Boer army. It became the most notable episode in his outstanding military career. During the siege, by using boys for responsible jobs, he learned the good response youth give to a challenge. During the 217 day siege, B.-P.'s book *Aids to Scouting* was published and reached a far wider readership than was intended. It was not until 1903 that he returned to England as Inspector General of Cavalry and found that his book, *Aids to Scouting* was being used by youth leaders and teachers all over the country. He spoke at meetings and rallies and was asked to work out a scheme for giving greater variety in the training of boys in good citizenship.

The Beginnings of the Movement

B.-P. set to work rewriting *Aids to Scouting*, this time for a younger readership. In 1907 he held an experimental camp on Brownsea Island, Poole, Dorset, to try out his ideas. He brought together 22 boys, and put them into camp under his leadership. *Scouting for Boys* was published in 1908. Boys formed themselves into Scout Patrols to try out ideas. What had been intended as a training aid for existing organisations became the handbook of a new worldwide Movement. Boys began to form Scout Troops all over the country. In Sept. 1908, B.-P. had set up an office to deal with the large number of enquiries concerning the Movement. As Inspector-General of Cavalry, B.-P. had reached the pinnacle of his career. In 1910 at the age of 53, on the advice of King Edward VII, who suggested that he would do more valuable service for his country within the Boy Scout Movement than anyone could hope to do as a soldier! So all his enthusiasm and energy was now directed to the development of Scouting and its sister Movement, Guiding. He travelled to all parts of the world, wherever he was most needed, to encourage their growth and give them the inspiration that he alone could give. In 1912, he married Olave Soames (see Figure 1), who was his constant help and companion in all this work and by whom he had three children. Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, was known throughout the world as World Chief Guide.

CENTENARY OF SCOUTING Clockwise from Left:

(Figure 1) ROBERT BADEN POWELL & WIFE, Photo taken on May 7, 1924..

Issue: Nov. 19, 1982. For: Scouting Year. Cancel: First Day, Jersey.

(Figure 2) LORD BADEN-POWELL. Issue: Aug. 4, 1953.

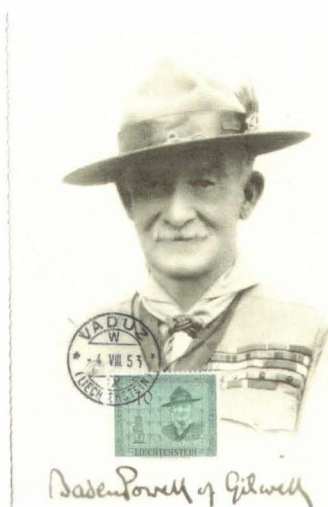
For: International Scout Conference. Cancel: First Day, Vaduz, Liechtenstein.

(Figure 3) LORD BADEN-POWELL. Issue: Aug. 1, 1957.

For: Centenary of Birth. Cancel: First Day, Rio de Janeiro, special illustr. & mention: "LORD BADEN-POWELL, FUNDATOR DO ESCOTISMO".

(Figure 4) LORD BADEN-POWELL. Issue: July 29, 1957.

For: Centenary of Birth.. Cancel: First Day, Brussels.



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Chief Scout of the World

The first international Scout Jamboree took place at Olympia, London in 1920. B.-P. was unanimously acclaimed as Chief Scout of the World (see Figures 2, 3 and 4). Successive international gatherings, proved that this was not an honorary title, but that he was truly regarded by them all as their Chief. The shouts that heralded his arrival, and the silence that fell when he raised his hand, proved beyond any doubt that he had captured the hearts and imaginations of his followers. At the 3rd World Jamboree, held in Arrowe Park, Birkenhead, to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the publication of *Scouting for Boys*, the Prince of Wales announced that B.-P. had been created a Peer. He took the title of Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell - Gilwell Park being the International Training Centre for Scout Leaders.

B.-P. wrote no less than 32 books, the earning from which helped to pay for his Scouting travels. As with all his successors, he received no salary as Chief Scout. He received honorary degrees from Edinburgh, Toronto, Montreal, Oxford, Liverpool and Cambridge Universities. In addition, 28 Foreign Orders and decorations and 19 Foreign Scout Awards were bestowed upon him. In 1938, suffering from ill-health, B.-P. returned to Africa, which had meant so much in his life, to live in semi-retirement in Nyeri, Kenya. On January 8, 1941, Baden-Powell died. He was 83 years of age. He is buried in a simple grave at Nyeri within sight of Mount Kenya. On his headstone are the words, 'Robert Baden-Powell, Chief Scout of the World'.

Principles of Scouting

The name "Scouting" seems to have been inspired by the important and romantic role played by military scouts performing reconnaissance in the wars of the time. "Duty to God" is a principle of Scouting, though it is applied differently in various countries. Scouting is described as "...a voluntary nonpolitical educational movement for young people open to all without distinction of origin, race or creed, in accordance with the purpose, principles and method conceived by the Founder..." It is the goal of Scouting "to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities."

Scout Uniform

The original uniform consisted of a khaki button-up shirt, a neckerchief, shorts and a broad-brimmed campaign hat. Baden-Powell also wore shorts (see Figure 1), because he believed that being dressed like a Scout helped to reduce the age distance between adult and youth. Uniforms are now frequently blue, orange, red or green, and shorts are replaced by long trousers in winter. Distinctive uniform insignia include the Fleur-de-Lis for Boy Scouts and the Trefoil for Girl Guides & Girl Scouts (see Figures 3, 5 and 9); as well as merit badges and other patches.

Scout Leadership positions

Scout units are operated by adult volunteers. Scout Leadership positions are often divided into 'uniform' and 'lay' positions. A unit has uniformed positions—such as the Scoutmaster. Above the unit are further uniformed positions, called Commissioners, at levels such as district, county or province. In the UK the national Scout organization appoints the Chief Scout, the most senior uniformed member.

CENTENARY OF SCOUTING Clockwise from Left:

(Figure 5) SCOUT EMBLEM 'FLEUR-DE-LIS' & DOUBLE CARRICK BEND.

Issue: Aug. 2, 1947. For: 6th World Boy Scout Jamboree held at Moisson, France, Aug. 9 -18, 1947. Cancel: First Day, special mention: "JAMBOREE DE LA PAIX".

(Figure 6) BOY SCOUT WAVING. Issue: Aug. 2, 1954.

For: International Boy Scout Encampment, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Cancel: First Day, Sao Paulo, concordant illustration and special mention: "ACAPAMENTO INTERNACIONAL DE PATRULHAS".

(Figure 7) EMBLEM OF THE CANADIAN BOY SCOUTS. Issue: Aug. 20, 1955. For: 8th World Scout Jamboree was held at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada.

Cancel: First Day, Ottawa Ontario, Canada.

(Figure 8) SCOUT TAKING OATH (on Stamp), CROWN PRINCE CONSTANTINE OF GREECE SALUTING (on Card). Issue: Apr. 23, 1960. For: 50th Anniversary of Greek Boy Scout Organization. Cancel: July 9, 1960, Athens.

SIXIEME JAMBOREE
MUNDIAL - VOISSON



ACAMPAMENTO INTERNACIONAL
de PATRULHAS



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Scouting Activities

Scouting and Guiding movements are generally divided into sections by age, allowing activities to be tailored to the maturity of the group's members.

7 to 10 Cub Scout; Brownie Guide

11 to 17 Boy Scout; Girl Guide or Girl Scout

18 and up Rover Scout; Ranger Guide

In some countries a highlight of the year for Scouts is spending at least a week in the summer engaging in an outdoor activity. This can be a camping, hiking, sailing, or other trip with the unit. Summer camps can operate specialty programs for older Scouts, such as sailing, backpacking, canoeing and whitewater, caving, and fishing.

World Scout Jamborees

Jamborees are large international events held every 4 years, during which thousands of Scouts camp together for one or two weeks. Activities at these events will include games, scoutcraft competitions, badge, pin or patch trading, aquatics, woodcarving, archery and activities related to the theme of the event. The 1st World Scout Jamboree was held in 1920 in [the Olympia halls](#) in [Kensington, London](#). 8,000 Scouts from 34 countries attended. The 2nd World Scout Jamboree was held in 1924 in Ermelunden, Denmark. The 3rd World Scout Jamboree was held in 1929 in Birkenhead, U.K. Thereafter, a Jamboree has been held every 4 years. There are two exceptions: no Jamboree was held between 1937 and 1947 because of WW2, and the 1979 Jamboree in [Iran](#), was cancelled due to the political upheaval. The Jamboree has been held in different countries around the world. The first seven Jamborees were held in Europe. In 1947, the 6th World Scout Jamboree was held in Moisson, France with the theme '*Jamboree of Peace*' and an attendance of over 24,000 (see Figure 5). In 1955, the 8th World Scout Jamboree was held at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada with the theme '*New Horizons*' and an attendance of over 11,000 (see Figure 7). With this 8th World Jamboree began the tradition of moving the Jamboree among the different Continents. In 1963, the 11th World Scout Jamboree was held at Marathon, Greece with the theme '*Higher and Wider*' and an attendance of over 14,000 (see Figures 8 and 10). In 1995, the 18th World Scout Jamboree was held at Flevoland, Netherlands with the theme '*Future is Now*' and an attendance of 29,000 (see Figure 12).

Smaller Jamboree Events

There are up to 10 smaller Jamboree events held each year around the world. This includes [Regional](#) Jamborees, which are held every three years in their areas of the world (see Figures 6, 9 and 11). Scouts from outside these regions are invited, but attendance is generally lower. National associations, and sub-national groups, also organise a number of events, such as the [WINGS](#) event.

Scouting Centenary

The 2007 Jamboree coincided with the Scouting Centenary celebrations. Because of this, the honour of hosting the event was again bestowed upon the United Kingdom, as the birthplace of Scouting. The 21st World Scout Jamboree was held at Hylands Park in [Chelmsford, Essex](#), with the theme '*One World, One Promise*' and an attendance of over 40,000. Hundreds of thousands of day visitors attended events in the south-east of England as part of the Jamboree.

CENTENARY OF SCOUTING Clockwise from Left:

(Figure 9) ARGENTINE BOY SCOUT EMBLEM. Issue: Jan. 17, 1961.

For: Encampment of Boy Scouts. Cancel: First Day, Buenos Aires, concordant illustration (triple).

(Figure 10) SCOUTS READING MAP IN FRONT OF TENT. Issue: Apr. 23, 1960.

For: 50th anniver. of Greek Boy Scout Organization. Cancel: Oct. 22, 1960, Athens.

(Figure 11) BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.

Issue: Feb. 8, 1960. For: 50th Anniversary of Boy Scouts of America. Cancel: Feb. 15, 1991, Murra KY..

(Figure 12) DUTCH BOY SCOUT.

Issue: June 6, 1995. For: 18th World Scout Jamboree. Cancel: Aug. 1-11, 1995, Dronden, Netherlands, special mention: "18th WORLD JAMBOREE, HOLLAND".

